

# MENTORING WRITERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 2021

## POETRY

### WHAT IS POETRY?

This month we discuss  
the types of styles of  
poetry

## KNOW HOW

Here we offer you tips  
and ideas to help you  
improve your writing.

Check out our feature -  
POEM OF THE MONTH

# MENTORING WRITERS

## STARTING 2021 OFF ON A HIGH NOTE

Well what a year we've all had but at least we have started 2021 off on a high note with the announcement of the new Covid Vaccine. Being the old girl that I am, my hubby and I finally had our first jabs last week-end and so far no side-effects. I am keeping my fingers crossed for all you others out there, who haven't yet joined our merry band, that yours comes soon.

In the meantime I am delighted to announce that I am, at long last in the thro's of publishing the Mentoring Writers 2020 Short Story Competition Winners Book. It is titled 'The Mystical Treehouse & Other Fun Stories' and consists of a select few stories which the independent judges felt were really good.

Producing the book has also sent me down a new pathway as I have been honing my talents in the publishing world. Boy, did I forget what a pain formatting can be, but hey ho the final proof is due any day now and once that passes muster we are good to go. At £5.99 it will make a super little gift for any child.

I have also done my first 'In Conversation With... Interview' which was a great learning curve and has taught me to make sure that the person you interview closes their curtains. Especially when they live in sunny Spain. Boy was I jealous of her that day as it was really cold here on the Bay.

There is lots more happening here at Mentoring Writers which I will report on as they happen. In the meantime keep writing everyone and stay safe.

*Ann Brady*





## **WHAT IS POETRY?**

**Poetry is a type of literature that conveys a thought, describes a scene or tells a story in a concentrated, lyrical arrangement of words. Poems can be structured, with rhyming lines and meter, the rhythm and emphasis of a line based on syllabic beats. Poems can also be freeform, which follows no formal structure.**

**The basic building block of a poem is a verse known as a stanza. A stanza is a grouping of lines related to the same thought or topic, similar to a paragraph in prose. A stanza can be subdivided based on the number of lines it contains. For example, a couplet is a stanza with two lines.**

**On the page, poetry is visibly unique: a narrow column of words with recurring breaks between stanzas. Lines of a poem may be indented or lengthened with extra spacing between words. The white space that frames a poem is an aesthetic guide for how a poem is read.**

# POEM OF THE MONTH

This month's Poem is titled 'Say Goodbye' and comes from 'Can You Hear Me' by Yami Gray

It's hard to say goodbye  
When you're the only one  
Chasing that dream  
While the world turns to ash

Remember a time  
A place to meet  
Wanting what is no longer ours  
I will keep fighting

For your ever-cold lips  
Hoping, needing once more  
Say goodbye and wish me to die  
Roses for a dying love

A wish to keep fighting  
For what we had  
This never-ending parade  
It's time for our feelings to fade

To leave with smiles on our faces  
As we say our painful goodbyes



Yami Gray's poems were written while a young girl. They are dark, deep and meaningful. In the book some of the poems have images which were drawn by Yami and highlighted by an illustrator to show them at their best. Yami was mentored by and her book published under the Kids4Kids.org.uk banner.

## LIS'S POETRY PLACE

Interested in learning or writing poetry? Then why not try out 'Lis's Poetry Place.' It's a monthly group who meet up to hear poetry, create poetry and share all things poetic. Group members range from beginners to people who regularly write poetry. They have fun with words, and would love you to join them.

Obviously the meetings are currently held online via Zoom which is an easy link to use. They meet on the last Saturday of each month from 2 to 3pm.

It only costs £10 to join in but this money will be put towards a poetry anthology book of the groups poems. Go on give it a go - there's no airs and graces and it will be great fun.

For more details contact Lis at [lismcdermott1@gmail.com](mailto:lismcdermott1@gmail.com) placing Poetry Place in the subject box.

Having a quiet read helps rejuvenate your spirits and refresh your thought processes. Choose wisely where you do it?

---

# "KNOW HOW"

## ANSWERING THOSE WRITING QUESTIONS?

### Today we look at how TV scripts can affect the business world?

We think of writers having an effect on TV but don't often find that this works in reverse. Yes we know TV scripts have been created by writers but, when they set out their ideas it isn't to influence the world of business. And yet that can happen. Which goes to show what influential people we writers can be. For example...

Recently, whilst finishing breakfast, I was watching an episode of Columbo on TV. In the scene Columbo was chatting to the guilty party, knowing he had committed the murder but being unable at that point to prove it. After much chit chat the killer told Columbo how the victim, an artist, being creative had often gone from great heights to feelings of great sadness, so suicide wasn't to be unexpected. Columbo insisted that he was sure she had been murdered and while the killer commiserated he



insisted Columbo was wrong before driving away feeling, no doubt, quite smug he had got one over on the great detective.

What impressed me most at this point was the following scene. As the camera watched the car drive away it then panned back towards Columbo. He was watching the car, having his tongue clearly stuck in his cheek, eyes slightly downwards. As he turned towards the camera, without actually looking at it, tongue still in cheek he did a small smile, nodded his head ever so slightly and had a look on his face which said – I know you did it and I am going to prove it.

Whoever wrote that scene knew exactly what was needed. No words were spoken. But then they weren't needed as due to the quality of the actor, Peter Falk, his facial and bodily expressions did all the talking for him. We viewers got the message loud and clear. It was this scene which got me wondering, while the message the script writer wanted us to get was so obviously

showing on the screen, how do we writers take the same scene and write it in such a way that our readers are able to see within their minds eye the same message?

The question is you have to think long and hard, choosing the right words that will open up your readers minds so they feel, see and experience, all the scenes, emotions, etc, that your characters do. Being able to use the right words when writing is all important. Making your readers enter a world that exists in their minds only is what makes us writers differ from script writers, even though we are both in effect doing the same type of job.

I do like Columbo, and so does my husband who told me about how the way Columbo interviews his suspects became part of a salesman's training. Now, unless you are, or know, a well-trained salesman you may never have heard about this, and surprisingly, I don't think the script writers ever intended it to become part of a training programme either. However, it appears Columbo's habit of asking questions of the guilty person, then starting to leave the scene only to stop and say, "Oh, one more thing" was picked up as a way of 'nailing' that extra sale.

Here is an example: Let's say you are trying to sell breakfast cereal. According to my husband when a salesman goes to make a sale, the buyer becomes defensive, being determined to only buy the absolute minimum of product. The salesman asks what about ordering some Porridge Oats? Buyer says no, he doesn't need them. Salesman lets it go and continues fulfilling the rest of his order sheet. Finished, he heads for the door. But stopping he turns to the buyer, who has now relaxed because he thinks he's done his ordering, and the salesman says, "With the sudden change in the weather (it's turned cold) Porridge Oats are going to be in high demand. Are you sure I shouldn't put you down for a couple of boxes?" Remember, the Buyer has relaxed. Without thinking, he turns and agrees to the addition to the order.

Salesman one - buyer nil.

This is called the Columbo Close, because that is what he does when he's trying to catch the guilty party out on some small snippet of information. In a past life my husband worked for Maxwell House Coffee - an American firm, which is where he learnt the Columbo Close. It's also apparently in every sales technique manual. Which just goes to show that we writers can have a great affect on the world around us, one way or another.

Don't forget, what you write affects how your story is read. The way you describe someone, something, a scene, an event etc., will benefit your readers experience, and thus their enjoyment of your book, making them faithful followers and fans.



# PODCAST NEWS

## In Conversation With...



**Paula Sheridan - Award-winning Author  
&  
CEO of the Page Turners Awards**

In January we began a new podcast project titled 'In Conversation With...!' Through this new development we will be bringing our listeners audio and visual interviews with different interesting people associated with the writing world in one way or another.

We have begun with Paula as she has just opened the doors for the 2021 Page Turners Awards Competitions. If you are a writer of any description then you really should check these awards out. The number and quality of prizes is amazing and the judges involved include the likes of Paul Michael Glaser and yours truly on behalf of Mentoring Writers who are once again offering a special Mentoring Prize.

Here is the link: <https://pageturnerawards.com/>



## YOUTUBE CHANNEL



The 'In Conversation With...!' video with Paula Sheridan can be found on the Mentoring Writers YouTube Channel by following link.

[Mentoring Writers Resource Box](#)



**THE MENTORING WRITERS PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE  
TO LISTEN TO ON ALL LEADING PODCAST SERVICE  
PROVIDERS SUCH AS SPOTIFY, APPLE, AMAZON,  
GOOGLE, ETC  
AND ALSO HERE AT THESE LINKS:**

[www.mentoringwriters.co.uk](http://www.mentoringwriters.co.uk)



[mentoringwriters.libsyn.com/website](http://mentoringwriters.libsyn.com/website)



# Q&A WITH ANN BRADY



Ann Brady - award winning author and mentor with over 30 years experience.

---

If you have a question that you would like answering then please drop us an email and we will respond accordingly. We may also use the question in future editions of the Mentoring Writers Newsletter.

---

## CONTACT US

[contact@mentoringwriters.co.uk](mailto:contact@mentoringwriters.co.uk)  
[contact@kids4kids.org.uk](mailto:contact@kids4kids.org.uk)  
[contact@ann-brady.co.uk](mailto:contact@ann-brady.co.uk)

Phone: Skype 0161 4080136

Q: Should I make my book into an Audio Book?

A: Indie authors often start their self-publishing careers with ebooks and paperback formats. It seems however that the growth in aBooks (audio) could give a compelling reason for an Indie author to look at expanding the range of formats offered. Apparently abooks were something trade-publishers and indie authors couldn't or wouldn't undertake due to the high production costs of creating the tapes/CDs. Added to this was the storage and shipping costs. And according to The Bookseller, only 7% of books have a corresponding aBook. However, if you haven't tried it yet, the extract I discovered in, How Authors Sell Publishing Rights, might help you into deciding to have a go. Check out the full blog on this subject on our website - Should You Publish Abooks?

[www.mentoringwriters.co.uk/audiobooks.html](http://www.mentoringwriters.co.uk/audiobooks.html)

Q: Should I design my own Book Cover?

A: To be honest unless you are an excellent illustrator and know your stuff then the answer has to be NO. Nothing makes an Indie Publisher stand out than a book cover which doesn't look professionally done. If you want help in finding a good reasonably priced illustrator then contact us and we will do our best to assist you in your search.

Q: I have a youngster who wants to write. Can you help?

A: Of course we can, Mentoring Writers has an under 18's arm to their bow. We have mentored, worked with and published a number of young writers under the banner Kids4Kids.org.uk and currently have three young mentees working with us. If you have a young writer who needs help then contact us and we will help them.

