

NORTH WEST LITERARY ARTS

Volume 1 / Issue 2

SUPPORTERS TABLE

Thank you to Inés, Katherine, Kevin, Waterstones King Street, and Lancaster University-Grad College for helping us continue creating engaging, live literature events, writer development opportunities, podcasts and publications!

THE VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

In August, The Storey's Print Room Café hosted Stories at the Storey for the first time. With the dim lights, intimate setting, plush couches, and bar, the atmosphere was even better than we could have hoped.

The theme was "family". Beneath the neon Print Room sign, fourteen readers shared stories and poems about life, death, birth, identity, relationships, food, clothes, music and everything in between. There were pieces about cobbling family over shared experiences, searching for and finding bits of ourselves, the ways family defines us, and the times we have to let go.

As an audience, we laughed, reflected and rejoiced.

It was something special, drawing us even closer, one story at a time.

WHAT'S NEW?

We love creating engaging events. We've been doing a lot of thinking about what we do, why we do it and who we do it for. Thinking strategically and creatively has allowed us to identify our Unique Selling Point (USP). Our USP is you, the community we serve.

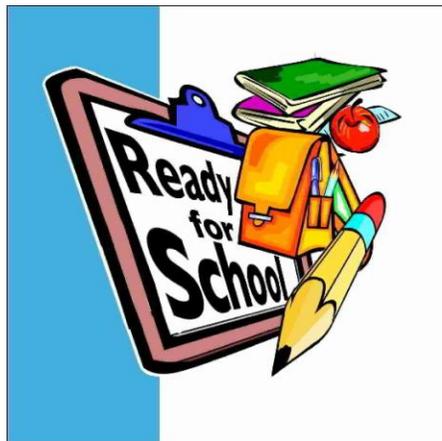
While we are applying for funding, we are inviting our community to get involved.

How can you get involved?

Send us your words, your stories, poems, etc... engage with us online and in person. If you or someone you know is great at marketing, fundraising, writing funding applications, filming, audio/video editing, or accounting, get in touch. If you have other skills and want to help, get in touch.

Tips and Prompts

It's true that writing creative nonfiction can be therapeutic but it's also true that it can be painful. Writing allows us to be reflective. It forces us to consider our actions and reactions, to relive the things we say and the silences we keep.



Back to School, memories that is

Writing can be useful when considering our impact and experiences. Just because it's useful, doesn't mean it has to be hard. In this month's interview, Naomi Kruger will share insights into her writing life. In the meantime, here are some writing tips I find useful.

1. **Brainstorm:** sometimes I create word clouds and outlines. Other times I write random words, sentences and feelings and see what develops. I write in my head and out loud before I put anything on the page. Whether I'm in the shower, walking, sipping coffee or grocery shopping, I spend a lot of time plotting and taking mental notes. This brainstorming helps me reflect and to revise.
2. **Talk About it:** I'm particularly chatty. I often have an idea of how I want my piece to sound and the best way for me to do this is for me to think out loud. Thinking out loud also reminds me that there is a reader or target audience. It allows me to consider how much of myself or my story I'm comfortable revealing.
3. **Put it on the Page:** No matter how much of the story I have mentally prepared, if I don't put it to page I'm going to forget it. Writing helps me balance, shape, and reshape the story. It also helps me prod my memory. Memory is a tricky thing. When I am writing nonfiction I try to be true to the story, characters, setting and tone of the event(s). This truth writing often means reflecting and considering my reactions and perceptions. Just as importantly, I have to consider the other people within my story. We can explore that in another chat.
4. **Read it out loud:** After I have written and rewritten my piece, I read it out loud. Reading out loud helps me to catch grammatical errors and missing words. It also helps me consider where I need to add details, expand the story and consider what is better left deleted.

I'm stuck, what do I do?

If you're stuck, I recommend creating an outline or story tree. When I do it I start with myself as the main character. From there I make a line from me to each of the central characters in my life (or story). I write out their motivations. Then I go back and write mine. Doing it this way reminds me that everyone wants or needs something and sometimes, their needs are different from mine. And that's okay. September's theme is "school memories" (loosely interpreted). Want to sign up for an open mic slot? Email storiesatthestorey@gmail.com and let us know.

Building Community, One Story at a Time

GET IN TOUCH

Have news to share? Let us know and we will share it either via Twitter, Facebook or email.

Twitter: @NWLitSalon

Facebook: North West Literary Salon

Email: northwestliterarysalon@gmail.com

Thanks for reading,

Yvonne and Naomi, North West Literary Arts