

What is Creative Writing?

Creative writing is a form of writing where creativity is at the forefront of its purpose through using imagination, creativity, and innovation in order to tell a story through strong written visuals with an emotional impact, like in poetry writing, short story writing, novel writing, and more.

It's often seen as the opposite of journalistic or academic writing.

Creative writing uses senses and emotions in order to create a strong visual in the reader's mind whereas other forms of writing typically only leave the reader with facts and information instead of emotional intrigue.

What are the Elements of Creative Writing?

In order to get better at creative writing, you have to understand the elements of what makes writing a book great.

You can't build a car engine without understanding how each part plays a role, right...?

That's the same case with writing.

Unique Plot

Most creative writers create their own plot formed by their own unique ideas. Without having a plot, there's no story.

And without a story, you're really just writing facts on paper, much like a journalist.

Character development

... can be defined as the uncovering of who a character is and how they change throughout the duration of your story. From start to end, readers should be able to understand your main characters deeply.

Underlying theme

Creative writing needs that theme or message in order to be complete.

That's part of the beauty of this form of art. By telling a story, you can also teach lessons.

Visual descriptions

... are largely saved for creative writing.

You need them in order to help the reader understand what the surroundings of the characters look like.

This pulls readers in and allows them to imagine themselves in the characters' shoes – which is the reason people read.

Point of view

There are a few points of views you can write in. That being said, the two that are most common in creative writing are first person and third person.

- First Person – In this point of view, the narrator is actually the main character. This means that you will read passages including, “I” and understand that it is the main character narrating the story.
- Second Person – Most often, this point of view isn’t used in creative writing, but rather instructional writing – like this blog post. When you see the word “you” and the narrator is speaking directly to you, it’s second person point of view.
- Third Person – Within this point of view are a few different variations. You have third person limited, third person multiple, and third person omniscient. The first is what you typically find.
 - Third person limited’s narrator uses “he/she/they” when speaking about the character you’re following. They know that character’s inner thoughts and feelings but nobody else’s. It’s much like first person, but instead of the character telling the story, a narrator takes their place.
 - Third person multiple is the same as limited except that the narrator now knows the inner thoughts and feelings of several characters.
 - The last, third person omniscient, is when the narrator still uses “he/she/they” but has all of the knowledge. They know everything about everyone.

Dialogue

Creative writing requires dialogue to support the story. Your characters should interact with one another in order to further the plot and development each other more.

Imaginative language

Part of what makes creative writing creative is the way you choose to craft the vision in your mind.

And that means creative writing uses more anecdotes, metaphors, similes, figures of speech, and other comparisons in order to paint a vivid image in the reader's mind.

Emotional appeal

All writing can have emotional appeal. However, it's the entire goal of creative writing. Your job as a writer is to make people feel how you want them to by telling them a story.

Creative Writing Exercises to Improve Your Writing

Writing is just like any other skill. You have to work at it in order to get better.

It's also much like other skills because the more you do it, the stronger you become in it. That's why exercising your creative writing skills is so important.

#1 – Describe your day with creative writing

#2 – Description Depiction

#3 – Edit your old writing

#4 – Voice Variations

#5 – Single Senses

#6 – Dialogue Destruction

#7 – Tell the origin story of the Tooth Fairy

#8 – Thematic Attic

#9 – Break Language Barriers