

Scribbles and Jots



August 2019 Issue 8

Your Mission:

Over the past few years, I have noticed that the feeling of August has been changing.

When I was young, August always felt like the End of Summer. The temperatures rose as if trying to squeeze every last ounce of heat into the season. August was for watermelon juice running down your arms cutting rivers through the dust of playing outside. It was for ice cream during pool breaks - and then watching the clock count down those thirty terrible minutes that someone told you were necessary after eating so you wouldn't die of cramps the second you touched the water again. August was for lemonade, and Popsicles, and riding your bike as fast as you could so the wind would dry the sweat under your hair.

As I grew older, August was the time for ensuring that summer tan that lied to everyone saying you had spent your vacation doing amazing things in even more amazing places. It was a time for school shopping and maybe just a little bit of obsession about the first day outfit that would somehow magically transform even the most invisible of us into the year's most popular person. August was a time for enjoying the last weeks, then days, then moments with your summer friends before they went away or were swallowed up by the school year's dynamics.

August was bittersweet in that way of truly satisfying endings.

These days, August has changed its look. Instead of wearing the crown of the End of Summer, it has become the In Between Summer and Fall Month. Nearly all schools start in August now giving summer fun a premature death. People discuss winter plans while fanning themselves and drinking iced tea. And August somehow seems smaller and shabbier for it.

So, in this issue, let's steal it back. While we might lose a few seconds or minutes or days, we can still claim all of the rest and give them their rightful glory as summer's finish line. What do you say? Do you want to save August from the hum-drum? I say, " YES!"



Be
creative

A Night with the Stars!

Make something using only:

- Old Sock
- Buttons
- Glue

Here's a Challenge: There are 5 Fridays and Saturdays this August. Can you pick one of them each week to spend a night with the stars? Even better, can you make each night completely different than the others? I'll give you some ideas that you can build from. See how many more you can come up with on your own.

Rename the Constellations!

Build a spaceship to visit your favorite star system!

Sleep under the stars and dream as big as the universe!

Star in your own play!

Dance Beneath the Stars!

STAR GAZING PARTY
(don't forget the star themed snacks!)

Sing Draw the creatures that live in another star's light.

Watch a movie under the stars.

Prompt:

There was an octopus in every drop of rain.

Your Writing Vacation

If I asked for a show of hands of how many of you have been taking a vacation *from* writing this summer, mine would have to be one of the first in the air. Summer is a BUSY time of year! My writing life has suffered under projects that can only be done now. To be honest, I even had to step out of an anthology due to time constraints. How sad is that?

But, what if I asked you if you have given your writing a vacation? What do I mean? Well, simple. Have you taken your writing anywhere new? That could mean: Did you physically write in a different location. It could also mean: Did you write something out of your ordinary? If you haven't, maybe it's time to add one to your schedule.

Vacation is a time to try new things and dive into new experiences. Your writing life deserves that, too. The benefits might prove well worth the time and effort of this investment. Shaking things up can bring all new life to the same old thing.

So, carve out some precious time this August to take your writing life someplace new. Feed your muse different sights and give her different locations to drink in. Use her inspiration to write that story that was always a little too silly, or scary, or shocking to write before. Expand the universe inside of you and then poke around in it for all the ideas that were hidden before.

What are you

exploring
with your writing?

Opinion Time

Breakfast

Lunch

Dinner

Snack



rite a story about the snow.

It Came from My Brain!!!

Meet the
"New Baby"!

Kickstarts! Is an 18 week writing workshop for all ages captured inside the pages of a handy book. Who's it for? Everybody! Kickstarts! was written for reluctant and blocked writers, and for those just looking to put the FUN back into the creative writing process.

We all have those times when the words don't flow or they do but they are heading down the same old river with the same old scenery. Whether you are a student who can think of about a million other things that you would rather be doing than writing that English assignment, or a veteran author who has spent the last chunk of time staring at a blank page where words should be, this workshop is for you!

Broken into 18 fun and easy ways to tackle writing from new perspectives, Kickstarts! is a great way to shake off the dust and find a variety of ways to boost your writing to the next level. Enjoy it on your own or use each lesson as a group challenge. The choice is yours! Just make sure that you focus on the joy of the creative writing process.



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