

On Writing - Stephen King

- 1) *Writing is telepathy, which is creating and transference of thought suspended in time forever.*
- 2) *Write a story for yourself and edited for the reader.*
- 3) *A good story comes literally from nowhere, right out of the empty sky: two previously unrelated ideas come together and make something new. Your job is to recognize them when they show up.*
- 4) *When you write a story, you are telling yourself the story. When you rewrite it, you are taking out all the things that are not the story. Make the reader welcome and then tell a story to make the reader forget that they reading a story at all. Writing is paying attention to how real people around you behave and then telling the true about you see.*
- 5) *To be a good writer you need to be a good reader of books. As you read so you write. **Read** a lot and write a lot. Read because you like to read. Good reading teaches the writer about style, grateful narration, plot development, the creation of believable characters and truth telling. Reading gives the writer a measuring stick of the good and great writers. Reading is the creative center of a writer's life. Always carry a book with you to read and read while you drive with audio-book tapes. Constant reading will put you in a mind-set where you can write eagerly and without self-consciousness.*
- 6) **Writing Tool Box:** ***Vocabulary**-simple and to the point using the first word that comes to your mind, if is appropriate and colorful; **Grammar**-principles come from one's native language in conversation and in reading or one does not have them. Good grammar produces good sentences. No group of words can be a sentence without a subject (**noun**-words that name) and a predicate (**verb**-words that act) starting with a capital letter and end with a period combining to make a complete thought which starts in the writer's head and then leaps to the reader's. The subject of the sentence is doing something (active verb) or something is being done to the subject of the sentence (passive verb). **Perfect sentences** are simple sentences. A much simpler thought is broken up into two thoughts or two sentences. **Adverbs** are not your friends; they are the dandelions of your sentence and they multiple. To write with adverbs is human; to write without them is divine. **Paragraphs** are maps of intent and are just as important as they look and as what they say. Easy books content a lot of short simple paragraphs, which are the basic units of writing. The more you read and write the more you will find your paragraphs forming on their own. Words create sentences; sentences create paragraphs and paragraphs begin to breathe (become alive). **Description** makes the reader a sensory participant in the story. Description begins with visualization of what it is you want the reader to experience. Its ends with your translating what you see in your mind into words on the page causing your reader to prickle with recognition. Thin description leaves the reader feeling bewildered and nearsighted. Over description buries the reader in details and images. It is important to know what to descript and what not to and get on and your story. Description begins in the writer's imagination with clear seeing, but should finish in the reader's with clear writing employing fresh images and simple words. **Dialogue** is a skill best learned by people who enjoy talking and listening to others picking up accents, rhythms, dialect and slang of others. **Theme** is what the story is about and is it coherent; and what you can do to make it clearer. Always look for **resonance** something that will linger in the reader mind and heart after the reader closes the book and put it on the shelf. **Ideal Reader** is the person you are writing to and they give you the feedback for corrections and changes after first and second drafts. You need to listen to your Ideal Reader on what they did not understand for the second draft. **Pace** is the speed at which your story unfolds and each story should unfold at its own pace but not too slow or fast. **Length** of the story is second draft equals first draft minus ten percent.*
- 7) **Book-Buyers** *are not attracted by the literary merits of a book; book-buyers want a good story that they can connect with their behaviors, their surroundings and their talk.*
- 8) **Literary Agents:** *You should have an agent, and if your work is salable, you will have only a moderate amount of trouble finding one. So buy a copy of **Writer's Market**.*
- 9) **Writing is not life, but can be a way back to life.** *Writing is not about making money, getting famous or making friends. In the end, it is about enriching the lives of those who will read your work, and enriching your life as well. It's about getting up, getting well and getting over. Getting happy. **Writing is magic, as much the water of life, so drink. Drink and be filled.***