Plotting Success

Website: www.SarasotaFictionWriters.com

August 2, 2016

General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium 1331 First St., Sarasota 6 pm

Guest Speaker Tony Lenzo: Writer, director, producer and film teacher Anthony J. Lenzo will speak at the August 2 meeting of the Sarasota Fiction Writers.

Lenzo will present "Stop Making Excuses! The Six (and Only Six) Things You Need to Write a Great Story." Too many writing gurus and books can complicate the writing process so much that a writer can get lost. Lenzo promises to deliver the last seminar you'll need if you want to be published or have your screenplay produced.

Lenzo has been making films since the days of bell-bottoms, when his dad first put an 8mm camera in his hand. He has written and directed several short films and served as director of photography for an independent feature film.



After living in the Chicago area for 17 years, Lenzo moved back to Sarasota to produce and teach film. He has taught public speaking, film and mass communication at Ringling College of Art + Design; State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota; Purdue University; Moraine Valley Community College and The Chicago Wisdom Project.

Lenzo has a bachelor's degree from New College of Florida in philosophy and physics and a master's degree in communication from Purdue University. He's received additional master's-level film production training at Governors State University.

He's also trained in improvisational performance at Chicago's Second City and trained in writing at The Writers' Loft. He is a past member of Chicago Filmmakers and the Chicago Screenwriting Network, and he currently serves as a member of the Sarasota Film Commissioners Council. Lenzo is developing South Shore Story Productions, a company that produces high-end autobiographical documentaries.

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting

6:30 pm, Wednesday, August 17th, 2016, 2016 Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall Bring 5 pages of work to read, At least ten copies, double-spaced, 12 font.

Overdue or New Members: Please mail dues to: Sarasota Fiction Writers Bob Spitzer 2450 Harbourside Drive, Apt 213 Longboat Key, FL 34228

Current SFW Officers:

President: Jerry Keane — <u>destiny716@comcast.net</u>

Co-Vice Presidents: Fred Weiss — fweiss@binghamton.edu

Critique Monitor: Pat Gray – <u>patrickgray1@msn.com</u>

Co-Secretary Publicity: Grier Ferguson

Co-Secretary Newsletter: Dona Lee Gould – DGould497@aol.com

Treasurer: Bob Spitzer mbspitzer@gmail.com

Blogmaster Extraordinaire: Natalie Brown—ngbrown.us@gmail.com

Members can send a one- or two-sentence synopsis of their published works and a link to their book on Amazon or Barnes and Noble to Natalie. She will grab the cover art to post on the Member Titles pages.

The Rules of Writing

- 1: Write Crappy First Drafts. 2: Words Don't Bleed. Cut Them.
- 3: Write Now. Edit Later.
- 4: There Are NO Mistakes, Only Creative Opportunities. 5: Don't Think. Just Write.
- 6: Rules? There Are Rules?

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BITS & PIECES

This is our announcement section of happenings and events in the lives of our members. If you have any info you want to share from the sale of a short story, publication of your book, a book signing, entering a contest, especially winning, or if you have a birth, wedding, or other event in your family you just want to share with your fellow members.... For your announcements, please email me at Dgould497@aol.com or at sfwnewsletter@hotmail.com and I will include your announcement in the letters. If you know of any upcoming contests, workshops, or conferences you plan to attend, or just want to inform the rest of us about one you like, please let me know. I would also like to know about other local writing groups. Sharing information always helps everyone.

Please consider purchasing books written by your fellow members and support their efforts. Soon it will be your turn! Also, if the books are available on Amazon, write a four or five star review. (If you feel a member's book is lower than a four of five star, please just pass on the review. Amazon considers a three-star and lower as a bad review.)

Good Reviews help sell books on Amazon.

New Member Jack Massa writes fantasy and science fiction. His epic fantasy novel, *Cloak of the Two Winds*, is now available in print and e-book from Amazon. - http://tinyurl.com/h2wyb6e. This is his first published novel since 1979. His website is http://triskelionbooks.com/



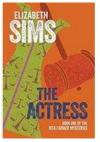
Member Elizabeth Sims, will also be presenting two workshops at the FWA conference this fall: "Fearless Writing" and "How to Write Dialogue Like a Pro." She will present "How to Write a Dynamite Mystery or Thriller that SELLS" on Saturday, October 8 in Venice, Fla. during a one-day intensive mini-con event for writers called "Sleuthfest on Saturday", put on by the Florida chapter of Mystery Writers of America. Elizabeth says she's honored to be in the company of such name brands as Elaine Viets, Neil Plakcy, and Lisa Black. Special thanks to Randy Rawls (who will also be a presenter) for putting this act together! Link: http://mwaflorida.org/events/special-events/.

Her blog keeps going, as well as articles for Writer's Digest magazine. "Power Tools" was in the January issue. Currently she's writing one for them called "The Little Things," pointing out small things that are easy for writers to overlook but can make a huge difference in the quality of your work.

Her work also appears in *Crafting Dynamic Dialogue: The Complete Guide to Speaking, Conversing, Arguing, and Thinking in Fiction* (Writer's Digest Books, June 2016). She was honored to be asked to write an original chapter on internal dialogue. Also, they'll be using some material from her book, *You've Got a Book in You.*"

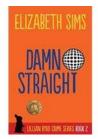






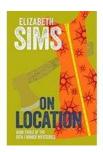


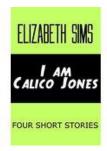












Member Bohdan O. Szuprowicz announces: Editors, publishers, TV and Radio producers, and agents can download immediately copies of an E-Book which is available free on a particular day. There are at least a dozen E-Titles available and every few days, one is free for 24 hours at a time.

When you click on the link below you will see an Amazon list of all E-Titles that are currently available. The page shows book covers, their prices, plot details, reviews, and author biography. The E-Book which is free on a particular day shows a price of \$0.00. You can download it to your device free of charge when you click on the link below.

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=node%3D154606011&field-keywords=Szuprowicz



June's Speaker, Lisa Unger, a New York Times Best-selling author of thirteen novels, won Creative Loafing's 2015 Best of the Bay Award for **BEST LOCAL FICTION WRITER!**



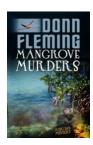
Congratulations, Lisa! And thank you for a terrific workshop.

Member Susan Klaus would like those who purchased her, e-book or print book *Shark Fin Soup* to please remember to write a review.

Synopsis: Christian Roberts, a handsome, young Floridian, has retired from horse racing and sets off with his wife, Allie, to cruise the Caribbean on his new sloop. Tragedy strikes, ending the dream vacation, and Christian becomes the prime suspect in a murder. Shattered and guilt ridden, Christian believes his actions caused the death, and suicide lurks in his thoughts, a way to end his pain, but he can't act on the impulse, at least not yet. He must honor a dying request, *Save the sharks*. Do it for me. Every year, one-hundred million sharks are killed for their fins that are used in a Chinese soup, a symbol of wealth in Asia. Within the next ten years, one-third of all shark species will be extinct, and without these ocean predators, the reefs will decline. Christian embraces the impossible task of stopping the shark slaughter. Under the alias of Captain Nemo, he becomes an eco-terrorist, while a suspicious FBI agent dogs his every move. Will Christian be caught and imprisoned? Will the fin traders kill him? Could despair win out, causing him to take his own life? Or will Christian succeed and save the sharks?



Member Donn Fleming announced he currently has two books out and available on Amazon and Kindle. He recently attended a book fair and was pleased with the results.







Great covers, Donn.

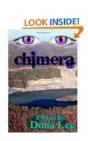
And....

*** Member Dona Lee is back at work:

She and Al are partners in a video production company. DNA Productions, LLC produces book trailers, music videos, workshops, small business commercials, and even a political parody serial for Youtube. Filming has begun on *Redneck White House 2016*. If you need a video for your business, your book, your website, or any reason, commercial or personal contact her for more information. (No weddings, the insurance is too pricey;-)) They have registered commercial drones and can provide 4K and HD aerial videos when desired. You can see DNA Videos on Youtube at Al Musitano or Dona's Redneck White House Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphTzpNdHdWoe44C50yPDyw

Her literary business, Plotting Success (named after our newsletter), is the canopy for many of the numerous projects she manages. Her Author Services company offers editing, manuscript evaluations, and coaching on all aspects of writing. Plotting Success also offers publishing services; formatting your manuscript for both e-book and tree book (paper) publication, including custom-created covers, children's picture books, and help with the uploads. After it's published, she offers coaching to help you focus your marketing plan directly to your readers. All at a price far below subsidy and independent publishers. And when you are done, you receive ALL royalties directly from Amazon's Createspace and Kindle divisions.

Plotting Success released two environmental thrillers, The Shoo-Fly Man and Chimera, and is working on the marketing plan for both. It's Raining Mangoes is her cookbook filled with Mango recipes for every course. Only available at Village Voices Book Gallery. Village Voices & Eclectic Art Emporium in the Village of the Arts, Bradenton is a Florida Author's Only bookstore. If you have published books, contact Dona Lee to discuss placement in the gallery.







Dona hosts a weekly show on Radioearnetwork.com every Thursday at 2 pm called *Culture Coast*, interviewing musicians and artists of every venue. Check it out online at www.radioearnetwork.com Please tell your friends and neighbors to listen in and discover what our Culture Coast has to offer. If you know any artists, authors, or musicians in the local area who might be interested in talking about their music or art, have them contact DGould497@aol.com for an interview. Now that the Author's Connection is no longer taking new interviews, please contact her for your new releases and general book interviews.

If you have finished or are close to finishing your manuscript, it would behoove you to buy a copy of *Published! A Complete Guide to Nontraditional Publishing.*" The book helps

writers at every level decide whether to follow the path to traditional publishing, use a subsidy, or self-publish; and if the decision is subsidy or self-publishing, how to choose the best option for <u>your</u> manuscript. It includes sections on editing, formatting, and marketing as well. Foreword by best-seller Dan Poynter.



For more information on any of the above feel free to contact Dona Lee at <u>DGould497@aol.com</u> or call 941-748-6865.

We now create live action & computer slide show book trailers.

Al Musitano has completed the live action book trailer for the YA novel, Gothmares. Check it out on youtube.com, here's the **CORRECTED** link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iklBBPlP_8I

If you wish to inquire on having your own book trailer, contact Al Musitano at eye2eye@inbox.com. He creates both live action trailers, computer graphics to text and music like Andrew's, or green screne scenarios like Dave's.

We are featuring **Member Dave Pierce's** new website: http://davidmpearce.wix.com/author Dave is planning on a traditional path to publication so he has information on what he is working on and excerpts from his first book as well as a book trailer.

This is Andrew's Book Trailer:

<u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7jGQdjWw51</u> Please give it a thumbs up. Ivan helped him create it but has asked Plotting Success to take over any future requests for these trailers. If you want us to create a book trailer, please contact me at <u>DGould497@aol.com</u>.

Andrew would appreciate any comments you might have about the trailer.

Contact Andrew Parker at andycp1999@yahoo.com

Want to advertise your published book? Your company? Your services? If you would like to place an ad in our newsletter or know someone else who might like to place an ad, let me know. The cost is \$5.00 a month or \$50.00 a year for three to five lines of text. Pictures will be extra.

Send requests to <u>Dgould497@aol.com</u> write SFW Ad Query in the subject line

Paid Advertising (Place your Ad here - \$5.00 a month)



Florida Author's Book Gallery



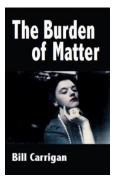
International Online Weekly Radio Show for Creatives Literary, painting, musical, culinary, healing, brew masters, and more.



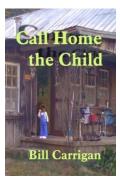
Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more. Reasonable rates, local references.

Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan. All

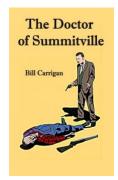
editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



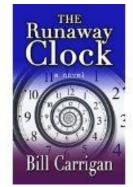
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down.



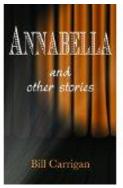
An Oregon doctor and wife solve gruesome murders.



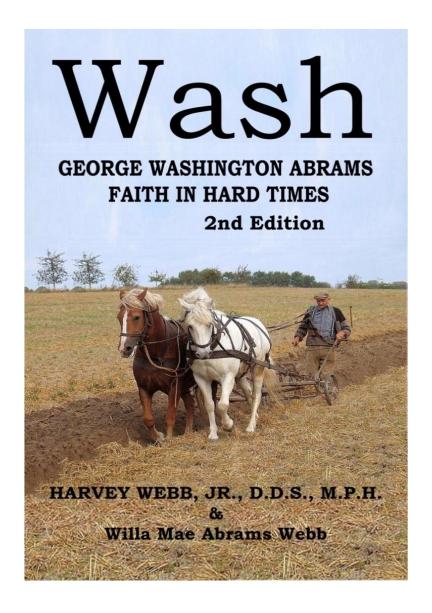
Murders surround Aunt Esterleen at her mansion, Seldom Go By.



A scientist falls victim to premature aging after proving its cause.



A varied palette of tales and a translation of Poe's "Ulalume."



Wash, born a slave in Georgia, is Harvey's maternal grandfather. His life story begins around 1854, during slavery, followed by the hardships, trials, and achievements attained through his beliefs and determination to succeed during the Jim Crow era.

Harvey spent over thirty years researching Wash's experiences in the development of this novel describing the challenges facing a black man's efforts to make a livelihood in the rural south of the 1800's.

<u>Wash</u> may be purchased in hard cover, soft cover, and e-book on amazon.com or ordered at book signings, or any bookstore. Currently autographed copies may be obtained at a reduced price from Harvey for the special price of: \$35.00 - Hard cover; \$25.00 - soft cover; Plus \$5.00 for packaging and postage; you may anticipate a two week turnaround. The Second Edition is Available on Amazon for \$24.99 and on Kindle for \$9.99.

Other Voices, Other Rooms

Local area critique groups and meetings

An online writing blog for Sarasota and Manatee Writers includes all the vast resources available to local writers. The web address has been changed:

www.FloridaWritersAssociationManatee.com

I hope you check it out and find it useful. If you know of any other resources please feel free to add them or forward the information to me and I will add them.

There is a similar blog for Pinellas and Hillsborough writing events at: http://www.marylouihess.com/enews.html

Florida Writer's Association Manatee

Critique group, bring six to eight copies of up to ten pages double-spaced. Fiction and Nonfiction, shorts, articles, novellas, memoirs, & Novels

First & third Thursdays, at 6:00 pm August 4th, 2016 and August 18th, 2016 First & Third Saturdays, at 4 pm August 6th, 2016 and August 20th, 2016

All meetings are held at **Village Voices & Eclectic Art Emporium**, 1010 10th Ave West, Bradenton. For more information call Dona Lee at 748-6865 or email to <u>Dgould497@aol.com</u>

Florida Writers Association, Sarasota Branch

FWA-Sarasota Chapter

FWA Sarasota meets two evenings each month: on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday. The training room of the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department is located at the corner of US41 and Pavonia Road. Pavonia Road is the street that has the flashing emergency lights on US 41 south of Matthews-Currie Ford. Pavonia is about a quarter mile south of Albee Road.

The FIRST meeting of the month is dedicated to subgroups of various genres, will be August 3rd, 2016. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month August 17th, 2016 is the general meeting. A few members read to the entire group and then receive comments and suggestions from the group. The rest of the general meeting is dedicated to questions, discussions, progress reports, and general information about writing, publishing and marketing.

A half hour of socializing is encouraged for attendees arriving at 6:00. The regular meetings begin promptly at 6:30 and last until about 9:00. Come join us on the FIRST and/or THIRD Wednesday

For questions you may email Ernie Ovitz at egovitz@gmail.com

ALL NEW! Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime



Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime is on hiatus until their October 1st meeting at Gulf Gate Library.

Great Logo, Sisters! Contact the founder *Wendy Dingwall* for more information. www.wendydingwall.com wendyldwriter@comcast.net

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FICTION WRITER'S FORUM

Critique group

6:30 pm Second Thursday of the month August 11th, 2016 Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, August 25th, 2016 Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Bring ten to fifteen copies of up to ten pages of your fiction. Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Sarasota Authors Connection

Marketing & Publishing for Writers

When: On Summer Break Until October 17, 2016

Where: Fruitville Library,

100 Coburn Rd. (half mile east of I-75 on the corner of Fruitville and Coburn Rd).

Manasota Films Group

August 17th, 2016

A group of local film/video members meet once a month at the Parkwood Theatre the third Wednesday of every month to network with those who are interested in creating films—shorts, documentaries, series, even feature films as well as viewing each other's completed work. Writers, Actors, Actresses, Film Crew, Extras, Directors, Producers, Set Designers, Make-up pros, Costume designers, and anyone else with a desire to be part of our growing film industry is welcome. To join just go to Facebook and search Manasota Films. Request to join and Mark Troy, the founder, will sign you up. It is **free** and currently there are around 1100 members. Donations are welcome to pay for the use of the theatre. Quite a few members have been winning awards at film festivals and there is a new feature film that is true genius. When you get the chance, don't miss "Catching Junior Tate" produced by Karl & Rhonda Wilson. I suggest this group to all writers. Screenplays and scripts are the future. Internet web videos need content. Youtube, as well as many of the other outlets online, need series, shorts, features, and so much more. Join the wave of the future. Our Culture Coast is rapidly coming of age in the film industry.

Free admission to theatre #5, Manasota Film Indie shorts. Donations accepted.

Screen Writer's Circle

The Screen Writer's Circle will meet on August 16, 2016, 2016 at Selby Library 5:30 to 7:30 pm. in the second floor conference room.

They have changed the format and it is working quite well. Table readings must be scheduled with the moderator, Laurie Stoner. She has a group of producers, directors, actors, and actresses to perform the table readings. They schedule 3 readings running approx. 40 minutes each. There is more information on Facebook: Sarasota Screenwriters.

A LOT OF INTERESTING INFORMATION AS WELL.

Please let Laurie know if you are planning on attending as they are outgrowing the room and only have seats for 30. They are creating a website: www.sarasotascreenwriters.com. A LOT of good feedback is coming in due to these professional table readings.

For more information contact Laurie Stoner at mlstoner52@gmail.com

New Screen Writing Group

SARASOTA'S SCREENWRITERS, STORYTELLERS AND CREATIVES

New screenwriting group, also covers storytelling

Richard Keehn, an award winning screenwriter as well as the producer on the upcoming *Screenplay Show* by Rick Ramage invites you to his writing group no matter your skill level. Just bring your imaginative, curiosity and discipline. The major focus is on the art, craft and – my favorite – the business of screenwriting, but we also will delve into storytelling in general as the need warrants. So welcome. Everyone has a story to tell. It's time to tell yours.

For More Information Contact Richard @ richard@thescreenplayshow.com

The Sarasota Creative Writers

The Sarasota Creative Writers Meetup Group

Tuesdays @ 6:30 PM Sarasota Alliance Church 7221 Bee Ridge Rd Sarasota, FL



http://www.meetup.com/The-Sarasota-Creative-Writers-Meetup-Group/events/231753288/? af=event& af eid=231753288&https=off

Please do not bring work with graphic sex, violence, or heavy useage of gratuitous profanity.

FINALLY – A Writer's Group in Lakewood Ranch

Scribes Club

A writers group! It will be fun! Exercise the mind and develop the cranial muscle. Enjoy the "Smorgasbord for the mind" a potluck that all participants bring. This is the place for camaraderie and exchange of ideas. This offers an opportunity for honing your skills, as a writer. If you can pick up a pen you can write! So give yourself a chance to expand your horizons. Experienced writers please join and help others learn the skills you have acquired. The club will be meeting at Town Hall on the first and third Saturday of every month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. To join email AChaddha@aol.com, Aroon Chaddha.

Continuing this summer!

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## And a Poetry group! (Not in Lakewood Ranch)

# **Selby Poets**

Selby Poets meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month 10:00 AM – noon. August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (10 am to noon) meeting of **Selby Poets** at the **Banyan Cafe** - located on the grounds of the **Ringling Museum**. 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota.(941) 359-3183 <a href="http://www.urbanspoon.com/r/30/1282677/restaurant/Tampa-Bay/Banyan-Cafe-Sarasota">http://www.urbanspoon.com/r/30/1282677/restaurant/Tampa-Bay/Banyan-Cafe-Sarasota</a> Purchase of a drink (coffee, tea, soda) is expected. It is an informal group that gathers to encourage and 'gently' critique each other's work. Park across the street – no entry fee to go to Cafe – walk or ride shuttle from entrance.

Everyone is welcome.

Bring 8 - 10 copies of one or two original poems to read aloud. Open to the Public / Free

Contact: Gail Ghai GGhai@ArtPoetica.com

Also there is a Poetry mini-conference featuring Florida Poet Laureate, Peter Meinke, (see conferences—FWA)

### **AMI Gulf Coast Writers**

Meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of each month, at 12:45pm at the library in Holmes Beach. This month that will be August 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information contact Alice Moerk at <a href="mailto:amoerk@tampabay.rr.com">amoerk@tampabay.rr.com</a> or contact the library. 5701 Marina Dr, Holmes Beach, FL 34217 Phone: (941) 778-6341

Florida Writers Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit formed to promote literacy, as well as enhancing the writing skills of children, youth, and adults is stretching out for members and volunteers across the state. Their volunteers and partners have already started to make a difference by visiting elementary schools for reading days, sponsoring poetry contests, donating books to under-priviledged schools, and contributing funds to middle school contests.

They have a new chairman, Tom Schwartz, who is working on fundraising including bringing in a nationally known bestselling author for the October Celebrity Workshop. They are establishing \$500.00 scholarships for students enrolled in a Florida College writing program.

Please go to their website for more information, www.floridawritersfoundation.org

### **NEW Memoir Group**

A memoir writing group meets at the Braden River Library on SR 70 the fourth Tuesday from 1 pm - 2:30 pm. This month that will be August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. There is no fee.

Call 941 727-6079 for more information.

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ABC - Artisans of Books



ABC is sponsoring a writing contest. See Contests below for more information.

General Meetings: Our members meeting moved to the Selby Library. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 1p - 3p.

They now accept authors of adult books as well as our children's authors

The membership fee is a flat \$25

The main focus is still on marketing and having some great speakers coming to share their information.

Contact Brenda Spalding:

www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com

www.brendamspalding.com or Nancy Buscher for more information:

nancybuscher@yahoo.com

Applications are on the website:

ABCBooks4Children.com

#209 1532 US 41 Highway BP S

Venice FL 34293-1032

ABC-Artisans of Books is made up of book authors & illustrators, and mainstream authors. Our mission is to form a networking alliance of independently published, self-marketing, and aspiring artisans to exchange knowledge, share experiences, assist in marketing, and promote literacy wherever possible.

For our writers to the north...

The SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writer's & Illustrator's), critique group is led by Karen Hamade, (a FWA affiliated group). They are just in the process of setting up their meeting day & location. Any interested parties may contact her at www.brandonwriters.com and she will be happy to email the next meeting information. They are a children's book author critique group in Brandon, Florida, who primarily critique Picture and Chapter Books, Middle Grade, and YA. For meeting information, please use online 'contact' form at: www.brandonwriters.com

For those writers to our south....

Peace River Writers (a FWA affiliated group)

Group Leader: Douglas Houck
Type: Critique and Discussion
Meets: First Saturday of every Month at 9:00 am
New Location: Wyvern Hotel
101 E. Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, Florida

Events



FLORIDA CHAPTER OF MYSTERY WRITERS AMERICA



Sos for Your Success

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8, 2016, in Venice, Florida. We've put together a crackerjack team that'll launch your career into orbit. (Jupiter? Mars? The sky's the limit!) But hurry because space is limited by our venue.

Where: Ramada Venice Hotel Venezia, 425 US Highway 41 Bypass N, Venice, FL 34285 (Room reservations 844-211-5710. Tell them you're with MWA and get our special rate of \$89.)

What: Fifteen powerful sessions designed to accelerate your career as an author. (Schedule is coming soon.) Lunch and mid-afternoon snack are included in your SOS registration fee. Book signing to follow the event. (Consignments will be accepted. Sales will be handled by Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore.)

When: Check-in begins at 8 AM/ Sessions start at 8:30 AM/Final session ends at 6 PM/ Book signing ends at 6:30 PM

How much: \$125 for members/\$135 for non-members.

Schedule: To be announced.

Are you in? Then join like-minded writers who want to feel the success of being an author! Sign up today at www.regonline.com/SleuthFest-on-Saturday-2016

Conferences

15th Annual Florida Writers Conference

- CARPE DIEM: Conquer the World, One Book at a Time
- October 20 23, 2016 in Altamonte Springs, Florida

Florida Writers Association (FWA) members all over the globe look forward to the Florida Writers Conference year after year.

Whether you're an aspiring writer or a seasoned professional, you'll benefit from all the conference has to offer you this year.

Rub elbows with acquisition editors, publishers, film producers, editors, designers, book marketers and writers, into the wee hours. Connect with old friends and make new ones.

Fun and informative, your conference days will be packed from early morning until late at night with plenty to keep you busy.

10 Reasons You Should Come to the Florida Writers Conference

- 1. 70+ workshops and panels with stellar faculty
- 2. Keynote Speaker, John Gilstrap, New York Times Bestselling Author
- 3. Network with writers and publishing industry professionals
- 4. Pitch to agents and publishers
- 5. Fabulous cuisine included in the cost of the conference
- 6. Sell your book at the conference bookstore and hold a book signing
- 7. Celebrate the winners at the Royal Palm Literary Awards Banquet
- 8. Bid on silent auction items and benefit literacy programs sponsored by the Florida Writers Foundation
- 9. One-to one meetings with conference faculty
- 10. Door prizes, open mic, and more!

Our motto, "Writers Helping Writers," is truer than ever before!

For more information on presenters, agents, workshops, and Early Bird Specials and Registration go to www.floridawriters.net

Contests



Step 1: You've written a book.

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- Meet with Chuck Sambuchino, author of Create Your Writer Platform, for a 30-minute platform & marketing consultation
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EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: August 6, 2016

Regular Deadline: September 1

Lone Star Contest

Northwest Houston RWA© is proud to announce
The 23nd Annual Lone Star Writing Competition 2016
We'll begin accepting entries on April 1, 2016, so be sure to check the website.

A place to find a few more Book Contests

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BOOK AWARDS CENTRAL

IF YOU HAVE NEWLY PUBLISHED TITLES TO PROMOTE, WE HAVE AN AWARDS CONTEST FOR YOU









Independent Publisher Book Awards - Axiom Business Book Awards - Living
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Do you have an Award-worthy book that deserves more attention? Book Awards are an efficient, affordable marketing tool that can make a huge impact on your marketing campaign. Each year, medals go to both established mid-sized publishers and first-time self-publishers. We reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing. This spirit and expertise comes from publishers of all sizes and budgets, and books are judged with that in mind.

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Need entry information about any of these book awards contests? See details and links about each contest below, or email me to request guidelines or to deliver questions or comments: **Jim Barnes, Awards Director** - **jimb@bookpublishing.com**

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Midlife Collage sponsors a weekly contest of midlife short stories. U.S. citizens and legal residents age 40 and older may enter. The Editor selects five stories for publication on their website each week. Readers leave comments and Facebook thumbs-up likes urging the panel of Judges to choose a contest winner. Readers also send the Judges their opinion of the best story on our Closing Arguments page. The contest period is Monday through Sunday noon PT. The first-place story enters the Winner's Circle and receives a cash prize of \$50. Winners of a \$50 cash prize are eligible for a \$100 contest, which we run quarterly. ANYONE, worldwide, age 18 or older can comment on the stories in a contest.

Updated web site address for submissions: You should be able to post a submission at the following link: <a href="http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/update-my-contest/?id=6863&title=Midlife%20Collage%20Contests">http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/update-my-contest/?id=6863&title=Midlife%20Collage%20Contests</a>

### www.MidlifeCollage.com

\*yes, the spelling is collage not college.

# Of Writing Interest

### **Writers Brunch**

We meet monthly on the third Sunday of the month to enjoy the company of others with a common interest in writing while we relax, mingle, network, and brunch. It is open to any writers and aspiring writers who want to just chat. Nothing to join, we just meet at Pier 22 at 11:30 on the patio, usually around the fire pit, if it is available. We have coffee, mimosas, bloody marys, and a lite snack or brunch or lunch, separate checks. Bring your S.O. if you like, and join us as we chat about anything we have in common, advice we've picked up, and suggestions all amid the beautiful surroundings of Manatee River, yachts, good food, and good company. If you are thinking of joining us, please shoot me a short email so I can try to get a large enough area (from 6 to 20 so far). DGould497@aol.com This month it will be on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

FWA member, Wendy Dingwall, also a member of the national **Sisters in Crime** organization, has agreed to start a Florida Gulf Coast chapter. **Sisters in Crime** has 3600 members' worldwide, offering support to women crime writers. Members consist of authors, readers, librarians, publishers, booksellers and agents. **Sisters in Crime** was founded by Sara Paretsky and a group of women at the 1986 Bouchercon in Baltimore. Their mission is to promote the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers. Wendy is actively seeking members for the new chapter. If you are interested, please contact her at <a href="wendyldwriter@comcast.net">wendyldwriter@comcast.net</a>. They are on Summer Break until October BUT many of them will be at The Florida Mystery Writers upcoming event.

Wordier Than Thou

Open Mic for Writers of Prose
Short fiction read to other writers in the back room of Sarasota Brewing Company.
No critique, just sign up at the front around 6:30.
Starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available for purchase.
Usually the third Wednesday of each month.
Check Facebook for verification

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NEW A new rich source for poets has been recommended by Pat Gray. For those of you who enjoy reading and writing poetry, please enjoy:

https://archive.org/details/naropa?&sort=-downloads&page=2

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# **Paid Publishing Opportunity.**

Authors accepted for publication are paid. Thank you so much.

- The first issue of *Today & Yesterday*, an online international literary journal published by Laughing Fire Press, is available at todayandyesterday.co. (.co NOT .com)
- Featured in this issue are short stories, poems, a memoir, and an author interview from contributors either living in or from the US, Germany, Nigeria, Turkey, the Philippines, and Iran.
- Laughing Fire Press invites submissions for the next issue of the journal. Short stories, poems, essays, interviews, memoirs, and photographs that examine contemporary or historical socially-relevant subject matter are desired. Areas of interest include the arts, politics, popular culture, economics, science and technology, human rights, psychology, philosophy, and the environment.

Jed Lewis
Publisher and Editor-In-Chief
Laughing Fire Press
www.laughingfire.com
www.facebook.com/LaughingFirePress
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### Romance Wanted!

Do you love writing romance as much as you love reading it? If you've written a full-length romance, Crimson Romance wants to consider it for publication! We're looking for romances in all the popular categories (contemporary, historical, romantic suspense and more!) Have an idea for a romance collection? Drop us a line and we'll consider it. Please submit your full story to <a href="mailto:editorcrimson@gmail.com">editorcrimson@gmail.com</a> with "Short Story Submission – [intended collection]" in the subject line. If we get enough submissions to publish more than one title in each category, we will.

- See more at:

http://www.crimsonromance.com/submissions/?et\_mid=624366&rid=235541304#sthash.x3f1PFYf.dpuf

### Agents

## A recommended source for finding literary agents: http://www.ebookcrossroads.com/agents.html

\* \* \* \* \*

Local author and publisher E. P. "Ned" Burke is hosting a Web site, **Sarasota Authors Showcase**, <u>Sarasota.Authors.Showcase@gmail.com</u>, on which local authors can post info about their books. The service is free. Send bio information along with the title of your book (s) and the book's URL sales page address on Amazon.com or another location to authorepburke@gmail.com.

Burke also invites submissions and free subscriptions to his online magazines: www.theperspiringwriter.comand www.yesterdaysmagazette.com. See guidelines on site.

\* \* \* \* \*

Leodegraunce (http://www.leodegraunce.com), founded in 2010, is a site for quality flash fiction funded entirely by its owner, author and editor Jolie du Pre. Every author is paid for their work. Jolie also has an associate editor on staff who she pays once a month. Jolie is hoping to keep Leodegraunce online for 2013. All donations are greatly appreciated to keep Jolie's labor of love up and running for 2013!

\* \* \* \* \*

## New Imprint Seeking Romance Stories with Heat

Untreed Reads is pleased to announce a brand-new imprint to expand our catalog of offerings. Untreed After Dark is our new line for romance stories that take the heat level up a few notches from our sweet stories. Even though there is a lot of romance on the market today, we feel that there are still niches to fill. That's the ultimate goal of our new line.

We do have some rules for this new line:

- 1. Every sexual orientation is welcome.
- 2. We would especially love to see romance stories about people of various ethnic backgrounds, people in their fifties or older, people with disabilities, 19th and 20th century historical (1800-2000), etc.

If you have looked around and said, "I don't see another story out there remotely like mine," you're probably what we're looking for.

- 3. Works need to be believable and real. No genies, werewolves, vampires, body-switchers, witches, aliens, etc. Need real people in real relationships/situations.
- 4. Sorry, but no works that take place before 1800. We feel that market has plenty of material already.
- 5. Only works 25,000 words or more will be considered. Short story collections, however, would be fine
- 6. Cross-genre stories are especially welcome (romantic mysteries, for example).
- 7. As we are not specifically looking for erotica, the heat level is currently limited to "NC-17." Sex doesn't have to be in the story, but if it's appropriate for the work, that's fine.
- 8. The overall story is infinitely more important to us than a couple of hot scenes. We prefer to think of this as "literary romance/literary erotica." We want engaging characters with real romantic struggles and successes.
- 9. HEA (Happily Ever After) is NOT a requirement. Sometimes romance doesn't end with the two people ending up together, and that's perfectly OK. That's real.
- 10. Absolutely, positively NO: rape, bestiality, sex with underage people, or all the other things you would expect to be forbidden.
- 11. Previously published works are definitely acceptable, providing electronic rights have reverted to the author.
- 12. Works that have been published through a self-publishing venture (i.e.: Smashwords, Kindle Direct/Kindle Prime) will not be accepted.
- 13. Agents and current Untreed Reads authors may submit directly to: Jay Hartman.

All others need to send works to submissions@untreedreads.com

14. All submissions need to be sent in their entirety in RTF, DOC or ODP formats, Times New Roman, 12 pt. This rule does not necessarily apply to current Untreed Reads authors or agents. If you are unsure if a work would be appropriate for us, please do feel free to query Jay Hartman at jhartman@untreedreads.com.

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# Saw Palm – A Literary Magazine published by USF Tampa

Saw Palm is a literary magazine devoted exclusively to creative work from and about Florida. For more information, please see our website: <a href="http://www.sawpalm.org/">http://www.sawpalm.org/</a>

# Prepare Your Submissions for Saw Palm 2014, submissions are accepted between July 1 and October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Saw Palm is a Florida-themed journal, however we welcome writers and artists from across the country and the globe as long as the work is connected to Florida (via images, people, themes, et cetera). We also welcome creative works from Floridians that are not obviously about someplace else. Please check out past issues, available for download as free PDFs. We publish one issue per year in the spring.

Saw Palm does not accept work that was previously published either online or in print. We welcome simultaneous submissions as long as you immediately notify Saw Palm of acceptance elsewhere. Response time varies between 1 to 6 months. Our general reading period is between July 1st and October 1st, however submissions for Places to Stand in Florida are accepted year-round.

All submissions must be made electronically through our online submissions manager. Please upload prose and poetry files in .doc or .docx formats only. Art, photography, and comics should be uploaded in .jpeg / .jpg format only. Paper submissions sent via snail mail will be recycled unread. Click here to submit.

### **Poetry**

We accept up to five poems per submission period at a maximum of 10 pages. Please send all poems in one document.

### **Fiction**

We ask that fiction submissions be no longer than 6000 words. Please send only one story per reading period.

#### **Flash Fiction**

We accept up to three works of flash fiction (750 words or less) per submission period. Please send all stories in one document.

### **Creative Nonfiction**

We ask that submissions of memoir and essays be no longer than 6000 words. Please send only one piece per reading period.

### **Art & Photography**

We accept up to five submissions of art or photography per reading period. Please send files in .jpeg / .jpg format only. You may also include a URL if a portfolio of your work is online.

### **Comics**

We welcome submissions of graphic fiction and nonfiction of up to seven pages, whether in black & white, greyscale, or full color. Submit in .jpeg / .jpg format only. Keep in mind that the journal's dimensions are smaller (5"x7") than the average literary journal and so comics with small panels filled with intricate art are not well-suited.

### **Interviews**

We are especially interested in interviews of Florida writers and artists, although we're open to almost any Florida-related subject. Please query us about the interview subject first, via email.

### **Reviews** (appear on sawpalm.org)

We are interested in reviews of any Florida-related subject: author, book, film, tourist attraction, CD, website, beach, park, toll roads, snack stands, local landmarks—anything! These reviews will appear on www.sawpalm.org. Unlike submissions of creative work, current or recent USF students and faculty are welcome to submit reviews. Size limit: 6000 words.

### **Places to Stand in Florida** (appears on sawpalm.org)

Please tell us what it's like to stand at a specific place in Florida at a specific time of day in 500 words or less. While we enjoy the unusual, locations should be public and accessible (so not your bathroom!) Please include GPS coordinates.

Unlike other categories, current or recent USF students and faculty are welcome to submit pieces for the Places to Stand series.

Poems submitted as part of the Places to Stand series are welcome but should be justified left and otherwise not have complex formatting and spacing. This is due to technical limitations in Google Earth.

### Update March 2016:

Sawpalm just released their 10th Anniversary Issue with the special theme—Florida-Cuba Connection.

They plan to return to the Florida theme for future issues. While submissions for the journal won't open until July 1st, they take submissions for the online literary map, "Places to Stand," year round. For this category, they accept short (500 word max) submissions of nonfiction and poetry that show what it's like to stand at a particular spot in Florida at a particular moment in time.

# Words of Wisdom

This month I am providing you with an article recommended by our honorary chairman, Pat Gray.

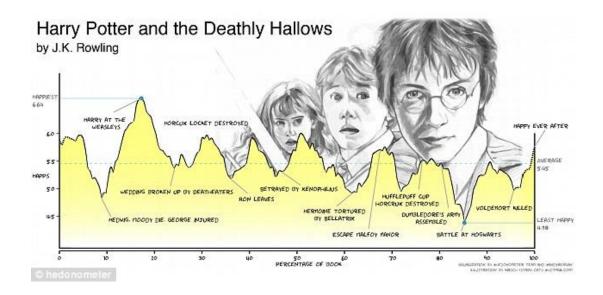
# **Just Six Plots**

There are just SIX plots in every film, book and TV show ever made: Researchers reveal the 'building blocks' of storytelling

- Prior to this study it was believed there were 3 to more than 30 plots
- Used fictional stories that have been downloaded over 150 times
- Most popular stories follow the 'fall-rise-fall' and 'rise-fall' arcs
  By STACY LIBERATORE FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
  PUBLISHED: 14:56 EST, 8 July 2016 | UPDATED: 20:01 EST, 8 July 2016

From Harry Potter and Romeo and Juliet to the stories of Oedipus and Icarus, almost every tale told conforms to one of just six plots, researchers have claimed. A major new analysis of over 1,700 stories identified the core plots 'which form the building blocks of complex narratives'.

Researchers used complex data-mining to locate words linked to positive or negative emotion in each story to reveal the set of arcs.



A major new analysis of over 1,700 stories identified the core plots 'which form the building blocks of complex narratives'. Shown, the plot of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, which researchers found has the 'rise, fall rise' plot.

### WHAT ARE THE SIX ARCS?

**Fall-rise-fall:** 'Oedipus Rex', 'The Wonder Book of Bible Stories', 'A Hero of Our Time' and 'The Serpent River'.

**Rise-fall:** 'Stories from Hans Andersen', 'The Rome Express', 'How to Read Human Nature' and 'The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali'.

**Fall-rise:** 'The Magic of Oz', 'Teddy Bears', 'The Autobiography of St. Ignatius' and 'Typhoon'.

**Steady fall:** 'Romeo and Juliet', 'The House of the Vampire', 'Savrola' and 'The Dance'.

**Steady rise:** 'Alice's Adventures Underground', 'Dream', 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' and 'The Human Comedy'.

**Rise-fall-rise:** 'Cinderella', 'A Christmas Carol', 'Sophist' and 'The Consolation of Philosophy'.

The most popular stories have been found to follow the 'fall-rise-fall' and 'rise-fall' arcs.

An emotional arc is similar to a plot building block that tells a story by generating an emotional response from the reader, reports **MIT Review**.

For example, 'man falls into hole, man gets out of hole' or one of the most well-know, 'boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl'.

And prior to Computational Story lab at the University of Vermont's study most believed there was anywhere from three to more than thirty different arcs.

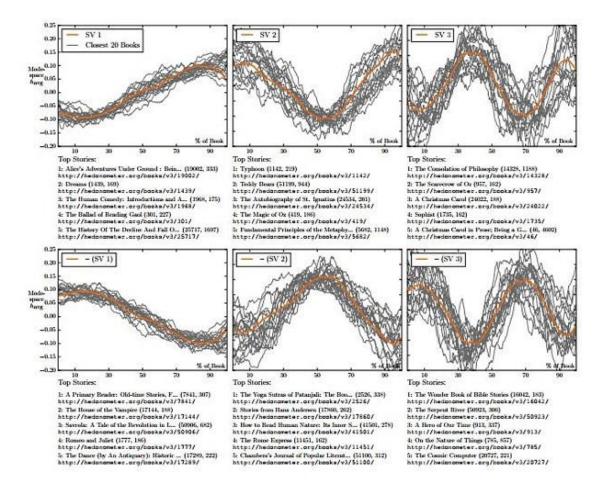
To conduct the study, researchers used sentiment analysis, which is the idea that words have both positive and emotional impacts, to map the emotional arcs.

Words can be measured of the emotional valence of text and how it changes from moment to moment.

The team then analyzed the emotional polarity of 'word windows' and slid these windows through the text to create a picture of how the emotional valence changes. This task was performed on fictional works taken from the Project Gutenberg website that had been downloaded more than 150 times each.

And finally, the data-mining technique led the team to the six main emotional arcs: Fall-rise-fall, like Oedipus Rex; Rise and then a fall, such as stories from Hans Andersen; Fall and then a rise, like The Magic of Oz; Steady fall, like in Romeo and Juliet; Steady rise, like in a rags-to-riches story such as Alice's Adventures Underground; Rise-fall-rise, like that of Cinderella.

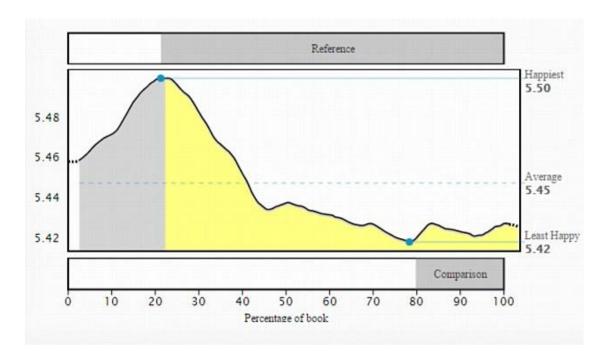
'We strengthen our findings by separately applying optimization, linear decomposition, supervised learning, and unsupervised learning,' reads the study published in the journal arXiv.



From Cinderella and Romeo and Juliet to the stories of Oedipus and Icarus, almost every story conforms to one of just six plots, researchers have claimed. The six in order: Rise, Fall-rise, Rise-fall-rise, Fall, Rise-fall-rise, Fall-rise-fall 'For each of these six core emotional arcs, we examine the closest characteristic stories in publication today and find that particular emotional arcs enjoy greater success, as measured by downloads.'

The team also dove into the seven book series of Harry Potter, as it may seem these stories would have multiple plots.

But, the entire series can be classified as 'Rag to riches' and 'Kill the monster' story.



Researchers scanned over 1,700 stories into a computer and used data-mining to find words that convey positive or negative emotion in order to reveal the most commonly used plots. Shown in the graph is one of the 6 plots, 'Steady fall' and results when the team analyzed Romeo and Juliet There are also many sub plots and connections between them that complicate the emotional arc of each individual book.

And feeding the story into the computer, it clearly revealed all of the low parts in the stories that many fans know too well.

Following the discovery of the set of six arcs, the team dug deeper into the link between emotional arc and the number of story downloads in order to find which types of arcs are most popular.



### CINDERELLA:

OR,

THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

There was, many years ago, a gentleman who had a charming lady for his wife. They had one daughter only, who was very dutiful to her parents. But while she was still very young, her mamma died, to the grief of her husband and daughter. After a time, the little girl's papa married another lady. Now this lady was proud and haughty, and had two grown-up daughters as disagreeable as herself; so the poor girl found everything at home changed for the worse.

But she bore all her troubles with patience, not even complaining to her father, and, in spite of her hard toil, she grew more lovely in face and figure every year.

Now the King's son gave a grand ball, and all persons of quality were invited to it. Our two young ladies were not overlooked. Nothing was now talked of but the rich dresses they were to wear.

At last the happy day arrived. The two proud sisters set off in high spirits. Cinderella followed them with her eyes until the coach was out of sight. She then began to cry bitterly. While she was sobbing, her godmother, who was a Fairy, appeared before her.

G. Routledge and Sons

This task was performed on fictional works taken from the Project Gutenberg website that had been downloaded more than 150 times each. Researchers found that the most popular are those that involved two sequential man-in-hole arcs and a Cinderella arc followed by a tragedy

### HOLLYWOOD IS INSPIRED BY ANCIENT STORYTELLERS

A team of scientists at the Centre for Language Studies at Radboud University in the Netherlands found that stories tend to be retold using the most recent versions of them.

By examining more than 200 different versions of the story Red Riding Hood from the past 200 years, the researchers found there was a strong 'lopsidedness' in how they were retold.



Many of the story structures depicted in William Shakespeare's tragedies like Romeo and Juliet can fall under the a 'Fall' arc category

They found that re-tellings tended to reply upon more recent versions of the story rather than using older material.

The findings might help to explain why common story-telling threads can be found thought out literature, theater and cinema.

For example many of the story structures depicted in William Shakespeare's tragedies like Romeo and Juliet can be found repeating in later stories.

Indeed, his own story of star crossed lovers appears remarkably similar to the legend of Tristan and Iseult, according to some experts.

But the findings also explain why remakes in the film industry can often seem to fail to take the story in a new direction.

The researchers also found that a small percentage of early texts – which they call pre-texts – spawn most of the re-tellings.

This means that some versions can have far more influence over the way a story is told than others.

In the case of Little Red Riding Hood, the researchers say the story can trace its beginnings back to 1697 when the first literary version of the tale Le petit Chaperon rouge, was written by Charles Perrault.

They point to two striking changes made later by the Brothers Grimm – the rescue of the child by a hunter and the emphasis on obedience or good behavior – that have become pervasive in subsequent re-tellings.

They constructed what are known as story networks by crating computational word models that classify relationships between texts.

The researchers said: 'Re-tellings of Red Riding Hood preferentially link to a small number of stories that are pre-texts of many other re-tellings.'

The most popular are those that follow Icarus (rise-fall) and Oedipus (fall-rise-fall) arcs and stories that follow more complex arcs, which use the basic building blocks in sequence. Researchers also say that the most popular arcs are those that involved two sequential man-in-hole arcs and a Cinderella arc followed by a tragedy.

There are two stories that really support the 'Rags to riches plot mode, which are Alice's Under Ground' and 'Dreams'.

And among the most categorical tragedies, the plot that is a steady fall, are 'Man in a hole', Romeo and Juliet and The House of the Vampire.

The team also found that the 'Cinderella", 'Oedipus", two sequential Man in a hole" arcs and 'Cinderella" with a tragic ending are the most successful emotional arcs.



Following the discovery of the set, the team dug deeper into the link between emotional arc and the number of story downloads in order to find which types of arcs are most popular. The most popular are those that follow Icarus (rise-fall) and Oedipus (pictured) (fall-rise-fall) arcs

 $\underline{\text{http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3679510/There-just-SIX-plots-film-book-TV-Researchers-reveal-building-blocks-storytelling.html}$ 

That's all for this month. Hope you enjoyed it.

Dona Lee "Plotting Success"