

## **Kurt Vonnegut: 8 Basics of Creative Writing**

Kurt Vonnegut created some of the most outrageously memorable novels of our time, such as *Cat's Cradle*, *Breakfast of Champions*, and *Slaughterhouse Five*. His work is a mesh of contradictions: science fiction and literary, dark and funny, classic and counter-culture, warm-blooded and very cool. And it's all completely unique. With his customary wisdom and wit, Vonnegut put forth 8 basics of what he calls Creative Writing:

1. Use the time of a total stranger in such a way that he or she will not feel the time was wasted.
2. Give the reader at least one character he or she can root for.
3. Every character should want something, even if it is only a glass of water.
4. Every sentence must do one of two things—reveal character or advance the action.
5. Start as close to the end as possible.
6. Be a sadist. No matter how sweet and innocent your leading characters, make awful things happen to them—in order that the reader may see what they are made of.
7. Write to please just one person. If you open a window and make love to the world, so to speak, your story will get pneumonia.
8. Give your readers as much information as possible as soon as possible. To heck with suspense. Readers should have such complete understanding of what is going on, where and why, that they could finish the story themselves, should cockroaches eat the last few pages.

## **Corita Kent: Ten Rules for Students and Teachers**

Corita Kent was a brilliant whirlwind of many talents: artist, teacher, social justice advocate, a sister in the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She did groundbreaking, even radical, work in each of these fields.

1. Find a place you trust, and then try trusting it for awhile.
2. General duties of a student: pull everything out of your teacher; pull everything out of your fellow students.

3. General duties of a teacher: pull everything out of your students.
4. Consider everything an experiment.
5. Be self-disciplined: this means finding someone wise or smart and choosing to follow them. To be disciplined is to follow in a good way. To be self-disciplined is to follow in a better way.
6. Nothing is a mistake. There's no win and no fail, there's only make.
7. The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It's the people who do all of the work all of the time who eventually catch on to things.
8. Don't try to create and analyze at the same time. They're different processes.
9. Be happy whenever you can manage it. Enjoy yourself. It's lighter than you think.
10. We are breaking all the rules. And how do we do that?

### **Suggestions**

Always be around. Come or go to everything. Always go to classes. Read anything you can get your hands on. Look at movies carefully, often. Save everything; it might come in handy later. \*Gender discrimination in society, \*the life of farmers, \*Automation in industry, \* the life pie, \*the philosophy of war, \*the philosophy of cold war.

### **Sample Creative Writing**

In the "Much Ado About Nothing" play, I acted as Beatrice I believed I was strong-willed, independent woman. Despite being strong-willed, as well as independent woman I faced several challenges that limited my ability. The Act Four, Scene One was done in a church setting, where there was much drama, and it was the climax of the play. I used my cleverness and quick wit to hide my real feelings, and that though I was independent to a certain degree, I was conscious about limitations because of my gender, where my character was revelling in my single status. In fact, I was tricked, and subsequently I admit my reciprocal love that I viewed marriage in a more favourable light than I had previously believed. In fact, while in the church wedding I was of a different opinion regarding marriage in which I believed that it

was a bogus thing. Whether I gave in to the social construct demanded by the patriarchal society, where I lived was questionable. The character that had the opposite character of mine was Hero, who was meek, obedient, as well as completely dominated by the male in her life. She is the ideal foil for me, her willingness to please further promoting my character.

It was apparent from the start that Act Four scene One I was not an “acceptable version of feminine” because in most instances. It was evident during the church wedding that it is evident during the church wedding that, which was the climax of the play that it was so out of the character for Claudio. Claudio at this point was kind of wimpy-he does not stand up for himself when Benedict teases him for being whipped, he does not have the guts to tell her that he loves her, and at the same time he does not even fight for Hero who seems to be too submissive and fragile. Furthermore, during this time he does not fight for Hero when he thinks he is lost to Don Pedro. Claudio’s rejection of Hero in the play was meant to inflict as much pain as possible, and Leonato and Hero’s reactions to it appear to make things worse. Few accusations from the male could cause a woman more harm in this society that the male-dominated, where Claudio employs intentionally theatrical language to demean Hero, in front of family and friends in the church setting. During the church wedding, elicits the question on the relationship between Don Pedro and Claudio.

In the Act Four, Scene One, the other characters, especially male never listened to Hero, which was unfair because they regarded her as weak and did not deserve any attention. I contrast my character with that of Hero, where Hero is happy to conform to the “gender” role expected by the society. Nearly all actions by Hero are because of male influence, for instance, she accused of meeting certain whom she says that he did not know him, and she says if anybody proves that she entertained a man, and then she was “willing to be tortured”. This shows that she is weak, and she cannot defend herself on the accusations levelled against her. On the other hand, I was not easily influenced by male in any way because I was determined. Hero’s uncle tells her that she be ruled by her father’s in issues like finding a husband. This appears to be a language that Hero understands where he has accepted to be ruled by a male in the society. Even in a situation where she does succumb to the idea of marriage, it is on her terms. Hero has feelings for Claudio, yet she accepts to a match with Don Pedro, where she even goes as far as feigning her death to win back Claudio after he rejects her at the altar. Hero ultimate role in the play is to be married, and she goes through hell to get at that point. On the other hand, my confidence and outspoken manner, coupled with quick tongue was major strengths that made me reject any form of oppression from the male in this society. It was evident in the church as a woman I was able to rush and help Hero

who was overwhelmed and sunk to the ground. During this wedding, I believe that it was a disappointing day for Hero, which shows that all the actions were influenced by the male dominance in the society. This was because of rejection that the society has on women in the society. In my relationship with Benedict, I clearly demonstrated my desire to be a man so that I can revenge for men that had continued to oppress female in the society. It was true that we had avant-garde thoughts, though influenced by feudal society. During the church wedding, it was two of us that rushed to the stage to help Hero. Therefore, the society undermined woman, where they believed that they do not deserve respect in the society, which was propagated by men. I did not conform to the social expectation of finding a good husband, and I railed against it on more than one occasion. I was happy to be without a husband because the feeling of hatred has occupied. The moment that I started hating men was during the Hero's marriage in which he rejected in the altar. Claudio rejected Hero on the basis of a rumour that she lost her virginity. He was angry about Hero and started to hate her. In this society, men placed women on the high moral ground. The men asked for women chastity, as well as loyalty, but could not keep these for them. Man can have many women in their life, but women could only give her virginity to one male, as well as be loyal to him forever. Woman's virginity was attached too much importance in life. I believe that the gender equality has been narrowed down highly these days. During the play, I found that women were degraded by men and that they were sex objects. I refused to be undermined by men, and I understood that I can perform the same roles as men. After the chaos in wedding, Beatrice asked Benedict to kill Claudio for her cousin. This was purely driven by revenge because I felt that it was unfair to reject Hero on the basis of a rumour that she has lost her virginity to unknown persons. The rumour was perpetuated by the same male that rejected her. Therefore, I was much determined to revenge through killing, and I had to do through Benedict. This was not fair to reject a woman based on hearsay and men must respect women in the society.