

WRITING EXERCISE:

SETTING: 1. CONVEYING *NARRATIVE* INFORMATION

An author can show and develop character (and plot) through dialogue and action, but also through *setting*.

Pick ONE of the following characters:

- A. A young man or woman who is failing at college; or
- B. An actor or actress who is no longer famous and doesn't know it; or
- C. A scientist whose marriage has begun to unravel.

In a paragraph of 150 words MINIMUM, **describe your character's bedroom**. Be sure to focus on **objects** in the room that reveal and deepen your reader's understanding of your chosen character.

WRITING EXERCISE:

OBJECTS

All our lives we exist surrounded by a swirl of objects. The nature of those specific objects we have around us in life reveals a good deal about the sort of person we are. An author frequently describes certain objects in order to show--not tell--much about a character who uses or otherwise interacts with those objects.

In this exercise, imagine you are being evacuated from home because of the threat of a forest fire. You have been told that food and clothing and bedding will be provided at your evacuation site. You are, however, permitted to bring along one suitcase of things--objects, personal effects, but not pets.

- 1) What, specifically, would you pack in your suitcase?
- 2) What do you think your choice of objects reveals about you, about you as a character?