

**Writing Exercise: The Worm Turns**

Write a scene in which two characters are unfailingly polite to each other, until the very end, when one of the characters turns viciously on the other. Write in such a way that the turn is no surprise to the audience once it happens – or perhaps for the audience it is an “Aha! I should have seen that coming!” moment – though it would be to the aggrieved party.

Neither character should mention the real source of the tension or conflict, even as the scene escalates. As Hemingway notes with his “iceberg” metaphor for fiction, the real story is out of sight, though full of hazards – only the tip of the iceberg shows in the story.

Make sure each character has a distinctive voice, and make sure these voices are different from the narrator’s voice.

Write the scene as much as you can as pure dialogue