

Welcome to the second installment of "Becoming a Better Writer" An investigation in to the art of creativity - in ten easy lessons!

A quick thank you to everyone who sent me some very positive feedback about the first lesson. It's nice to know people out there appreciate my particular worldview!

And very special thanks to those who purchased my ebook recently. You have my very best attention - and I look forward to working with you.

Today I want to go over something that I cover in detail in "The Easy Way to Write a Novel", but I want to touch on for those of you who haven't bought their copy yet!

BTW, if you DO get the urge to be the best writer you can be, as always, go to <http://www.easywaytowrite.com>

Lesson Two

"Finding the Genius Within."

This is a three-stage process. It involves a degree of meditation. If that word and its connotations do not sit comfortably with you, consider replacing it with the word "contemplation" or perhaps "directed thinking."

First, you need to break down your preconceptions about what you think genius is.

When you call someone a genius, what do you mean?

That they display characteristics that seem to be above the common herd? That they think ahead of their time? That they seem to be able to create perfect art with little or no effort?

Einstein was a genius they say. So was Leonardo da Vinci, Shakespeare, Beethoven and Van Gogh. Why? Because they displayed a unique way of thinking that separated them from the mainstream.

Did genius just bestow itself upon these individuals?

No, every so-called genius is a craftsman first. They learn the basics. They study them, copy them until they are implicit and take them deep into their being. So that, when it becomes time to create for themselves, they know and understand their influences.

Good artists express themselves with honesty and skill. They also learn - and keep learning - from other

artists. No influence is a bad influence. It all helps.

Genius is not a thing in itself. It is merely a qualitative judgment made by individuals and critics - usually after the artist is dead!

What marks you out as a "genius" is your willingness to be true - to yourself and to your art. In other words, genius is really just about having the courage of your convictions - the courage to be yourself!

Okay, practical advice now.

Clear your mind. To do this, meditate or go for a long walk in the country, undisturbed.

First, try to visualize nothing. No feelings, influences or distractions. Try to find that inner essence that is pure calm, joy and strength. It's there, inside all of us. Try to get in touch with it.

Then, calmly tell yourself you're a genius. Repeat the phrase to yourself until it becomes almost meaningless.

I am a genius.

Do this about three to five times a day for five days. (You can do this with any phrase you want your subconscious to believe.)

Later, when you're ready, take the plunge and write.

Write a paragraph or two about a character or a situation that you totally believe in - even if it's fictional. Edit it afterwards until all the words represent that particular view of reality, as if it IS true, 100%.

Read it back. Is it convincing? If not, keep rewriting until the logic of each word and sentence is, in your mind, incontrovertible.

That's the trick. Make your work totally convincing TO YOU on your own terms. Do not write for others. It doesn't work. Be true to yourself and others will follow.

In the end it's about how much you believe in your own "vision" of the world. If you don't really believe in something then neither will your reader, no matter how clever you are with words.

In brief, to be a potential "genius" you must trust your instincts, believe in yourself and write from the heart. To do any less is to cheat yourself -

and your readers.

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This is the second of ten short lessons on "Becoming a Better Writer." They will arrive weekly. You may unsubscribe at any time - but of course, I'd much prefer if you didn't!

Also, you may like to forward this email to writers and colleagues who might find it interesting, fun and educational. No problem but - no editing please!

Best regards and keep writing.

Don't forget, you can contact me for any reason at rob@easywaytowrite.com

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PS: Why not write that novel now! Click on:
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PPS: Next time, we'll be looking at that most pressing of issues: finding the time to write!

Till then, keep well and happy.

Ciao

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