

## Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. With a little help from her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist, she figures out that the green grasshoppers are easier to see against the yellow grass, so they are eaten before they can get any larger. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century. Debut author Jacqueline Kelly deftly brings Callie and her family to life, capturing a year of growing up with unique sensitivity and a wry wit. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* is a 2010 Newbery Honor Book and the winner of the 2010 Bank Street - Josette Frank Award.

A riveting novel about the aftermath of a brutal murder of three teenage girls, written in incantatory prose "that's as fine as any being written by an American author today." (Ben Fountain) One late autumn evening in a Texas town, two strangers walk into an ice cream shop shortly before closing time. They bind up the three teenage girls who are working the counter, set fire to the shop, and disappear. *SEE HOW SMALL* tells the stories of the survivors--family, witnesses, and suspects--who must endure in the wake of atrocity. Justice remains elusive in their world, human connection tenuous. Hovering above the aftermath of their deaths are the three girls. They

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

watch over the town and make occasional visitations, trying to connect with and prod to life those they left behind. "See how small a thing it is that keeps us apart," they say. A master of compression and lyrical precision, Scott Blackwood has surpassed himself with this haunting, beautiful, and enormously powerful new novel. A cumulative rhyme recounts the efforts of a circus troop to move their stranded circus truck off the railroad track. Designed to mentor writers at all levels, from beginning to quite advanced, *The Writer's Portable Mentor* offers a wealth of insight and crafting models from the author's twenty-plus years of teaching and creative thought. The book provides tools for structuring a book, story, or essay. It trains writers in observation and in developing a poet's ear for sound in prose. It scrutinizes the sentence strategies of the masters and offers advice on how to publish. This second edition is updated to account for changes in the publishing industry and provides hundreds of new craft models to inspire, guide, and develop every writer's work.

From memoir to journalism, personal essays to cultural criticism, this indispensable anthology brings together works from all genres of creative nonfiction, with pieces by fifty contemporary writers including Cheryl Strayed, David Sedaris, Barbara Kingsolver, and more. Selected by five hundred writers, English professors, and creative writing teachers from across the country, this collection includes only the most highly regarded nonfiction work published since 1970. Contributors include: Jo Ann Beard, Wendell Berry, Eula Biss, Mary Clearman Blew, Charles Bowden, Janet Burroway, Kelly Grey Carlisle,

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

Anne Carson, Bernard Cooper, Michael W. Cox, Annie Dillard, Mark Doty, Brian Doyle, Tony Earley, Anthony Farrington, Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, Diane Glancy, Lucy Grealy, William Harrison, Robin Hemley, Adam Hochschild, Jamaica Kincaid, Barbara Kingsolver, Ted Kooser, Sara Levine, E.J. Levy, Phillip Lopate, Barry Lopez, Thomas Lynch, Lee Martin, Rebecca McClanahan, Erin McGraw, John McPhee, Brenda Miller, Dinty W. Moore, Kathleen Norris, Naomi Shihab Nye, Lia Purpura, Richard Rhodes, Bill Roorbach, David Sedaris, Richard Selzer, Sue William Silverman, Floyd Skloot, Lauren Slater, Cheryl Strayed, Amy Tan, Ryan Van Meter, David Foster Wallace, and Joy Williams.

Janet Burroway's critically acclaimed novel, which the *New Yorker* hailed as "enormously enjoyable" and *Newsweek* called "a novel of rare and lustrous quality," is the story of a woman whose unraveling marriage sends her on a personal odyssey halfway around the world to Japan. Virginia Marbalestier has come a long way from the California trailer park where she grew up. Now a designer at the textile firm where her husband is the number-two executive, as the mother of a young daughter and the mistress of an English Tudor manor, she has it all. But her husband, Oliver, is becoming increasingly elitist and controlling, resentful of her friendships, and rough in bed. The arrival of a new employee, a distressed young woman in whom Virginia finds the missing threads of her own identity, and the firm's possible merger with a Japanese competitor heighten the tensions between Virginia and Oliver, and impel Virginia to set off on a foreign adventure that will

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

change her life forever.

"This guide reveals how writers can take advantage of the brain's hard-wired responses to story to captivate their readers' minds through each plot element"--Provided by publisher.

What If? is the first handbook for writers based on the idea that specific exercises are one of the most useful and provocative methods for mastering the art of writing fiction. With more than twenty-five years of experience teaching creative writing between them, Anne Bernays and Pamela Painter offer more than seventy-five exercises for both beginners and more experienced writers. These exercises are designed to develop and refine two basic skills: writing like a writer and, just as important, thinking like a writer. They deal with such topics as discovering where to start and end a story; learning when to use dialogue and when to use indirect discourse; transforming real events into fiction; and finding language that both sings and communicates precisely. What If? will be an essential addition to every writer's library, a welcome and much-used companion, a book that gracefully borrows a whisper from the muse. The most widely used and respected book on writing fiction, Writing Fiction guides the writer from first inspiration to final revision. Supported by an abundance exercises, this guide/anthology explores and integrates the elements of fiction while offering practical techniques and concrete examples. A focus on the writing process in its entirety provides a comprehensive guide to writing fiction, approaching distinct elements in separate chapters while building on what has been covered

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

earlier. Topics include free-writing to revision, plot, style, characterization, dialogue, atmosphere, imagery, and point of view. An anthology of diverse and contemporary short stories followed by suggestions for discussion and writing exercises, illustrates concepts while offering variety in pacing and exposure to this increasingly popular form. The book also discusses key issues including writing workshops, using autobiography as a basis for fiction, using action in stories, using dialogue, and maintaining point of view. The sixth edition also features more short short stories than any previous edition and includes quotation boxes that offer advice and inspirational words from established writers on a wide range of topics--such as writing from experience, story structure, openings and endings, and revision. For those interested in developing their creative writing skills. Explores the elements of fiction, providing practical writing techniques and examples. Written in a tone that is personal and non-prescriptive, this book encourages students to develop proficiency through each step of the writing process. It also integrates diverse, contemporary short stories in every chapter.

Robert Olen Butler, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, teaches graduate fiction at Florida State University — his version of literary boot camp. In *From Where You Dream*, Butler reimagines the process of writing as emotional rather than intellectual, and tells writers how to achieve the dreamspace necessary for composing honest, inspired fiction. Proposing that fiction is the exploration of the human condition with yearning as its compass, Butler reinterprets the traditional tools of the

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

craft using the dynamics of desire. Offering a direct view into the mind and craft of a literary master, *From Where You Dream* is an invaluable tool for the novice and experienced writer alike.

This covers all four genres: creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and drama. This textbook discusses elements of craft common to all creative writing before delving into the individual genres. After an introduction, the next five chapters each investigate a specific element of craft—Image, Voice, Character, Setting, and Story—from a perspective that crosses all genres. Nearly half of the selections in all four genres are new. New "Try This" exercises give students plenty of practice. *Imaginative Writing* is a very popular book for courses on teaching the craft of creative writing.

The mother of a private contractor who carried out humanitarian work during the Iraq War traces the life of her son and the circumstances that led to his suicide in April 2004.

Dana, the widow of a senator, sells her home in Pennsylvania and retraces her roots in the south, where she reconnects with Cassius Huston, but after being threatened by Cassius's African-American family, Dana flees to the Gulf Coast where she finally finds herself in a place and culture she never could have anticipated.

THE COLLEGE HANDBOOK OF CREATIVE WRITING is a best-selling textbook designed for all creative writing courses. Covering fiction, poetry, and drama, it explores such across-the-genres subjects as theme, setting, characters, plot, point of view, tone, style, description, dialogue, thoughts, time, images, and sounds. There are

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

also useful chapters on The Performance Factor, Fundamentals of Writing, and Writing as a Career, which includes sample listings of jobs for writers. Contemporary and classic selections serve to illustrate discussions and act as models to promote the writing process, and are followed by exercises and writing suggestions at the end of each chapter. A glossary of literary terms and a bibliography complete this concise textbook, resulting in a design that allows for a maximum of information in a portable little book.

Joannie, a disheartened equestrian Olympic hopeful, finds herself entangled in a love quadrangle and a tragic turn of events.

A deft analysis and appreciation of fiction—what makes it work and what can make it fail. Here is a book about the craft of writing fiction that is thoroughly useful from the first to the last page—whether the reader is a beginner, a seasoned writer, or a teacher of writing. You will see how a work takes form and shape once you grasp the principles of momentum, tension, and immediacy.

"Tension," Stern says, "is the mother of fiction. When tension and immediacy combine, the story begins."

Dialogue and action, beginnings and endings, the true meaning of "write what you know," and a memorable listing of don'ts for fiction writers are all covered. A special section features an Alphabet for Writers: entries range from Accuracy to Zigzag, with enlightening comments about such matters as Cliffhangers, Point of View, Irony, and Transitions.

Janet Burroway's bestselling *Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft* explores the craft of creative writing in

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

four genres: Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Creative Nonfiction. A trade author as well as a professor of creative writing, Burroway brings her years of teaching and writing to this book. "Try-This" exercises appear throughout each chapter. Provocative and fun, these exercises help writers develop the specific writing skills discussed within the text. "Working toward a draft" exercises encourage writers to develop their ideas into complete drafts. In response to reviewer requests, the preface "Invitation to the Writer" has been expanded into a full chapter. This new chapter introduces writers to important skills such as reading like a writer, journaling, and participating in the writer's workshop. This book offers lots of ideas and encouragement at a great price! The gold standard of poetry writing books, *Writing Poems*, 8/e is a comprehensive, easy-to-use guide that will help aspiring poets to create meaningful works. What happens when your fantasy world turns real...? Each vacation for the past nine years, cousins Patrick, Ruth, Ellen, Ted, and Laura have played a game they call the "Secret"—and invented, scripted world full of witches, unicorns, a magic ring, court intrigue, and the Dragon King. In the Secret, they can imagine anything into reality, and shape destiny. Then the unbelievable happens: by trick or by chance, they actually find themselves in the Secret Country, their made-up identities now real. The five have arrived at the start of their games, with the Country on the edge of war. What was once exciting and wonderful now looms threateningly before them, and no one is sure how to stop it... or if they will ever get back home. "An intricate

## Online Library Janet Burroway *Imaginative Writing*

sparkling web of intrigue and magic. One of me very favorites.”—Patricia C. Wrede, author of *Dealing with Dragons*

This book is a sequel to *The Dramatic Writer's Companion* by Will Dunne, master teacher of playwrights, screenwriters, and anyone working on dramatic scripts. Following the format of its predecessor, it is divided into three major sections on character, scene, and story and consists of more than 40 new workshop-tested exercises to help writers zero in on and solve specific problems in their scripts. The book is fully linked to *The Dramatic Writer's Companion* and allows readers to find related exercises of interest in that volume, though it can also be used as a stand-alone resource.

"Architectures of Possibility" theorizes and questions the often unconscious assumptions behind such traditional writing gestures as temporality, scene, and characterization; offers various suggestions for generating writing that resists, rethinks, and challenges authors to push their work into self-aware and surprising territory.

"In the fourth edition of *Imaginative Writing* I have tried to refine and focus several features of the book without fundamentally changing its purpose, which is to provide a workable and energizing multigenre text for basic creative writing courses" - Preface (page xii)

[This book] discusses the elements of craft - image, voice, character, setting, and story - from a multi-genre perspective. Presenting the craft before the genre, this guide and anthology helps students understand the

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

creative techniques shared by all forms of imaginative writing before individually exploring Essay, Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. With an emphasis on technique and experimentation and development and revision, [this book] encourages a sense of enthusiastic play and adventure. -Back cover.

Publisher description

Short-Form Creative Writing: A Writer's Guide and Anthology is a complete introduction to the art and craft of extremely compressed works of imaginative literature. H. K. Hummel and Stephanie Lenox introduce both traditional and innovative approaches to the short form and demonstrate how it possesses structure, logic, and coherence while simultaneously resisting expectations. With discussion questions, writing prompts, flash interviews, and illustrated key concepts, the book covers: - Prose poetry - Flash fiction - Micro memoir - Lyric essay - Cross-genre/hybrid writing . . . and much more. Short-Form Creative Writing also includes an anthology, offering inspiring examples of short-form writing in all of the styles covered by the book, including work by Charles Baudelaire, Italo Calvino, Lydia Davis, Grant Faulkner, Ilya Kaminsky, Jamaica Kinkaid , and many others.

Janet Burroway followed in the footsteps of Sylvia Plath. Like Plath, she was an early Mademoiselle guest editor in New York, an Ivy League and Cambridge student, an aspiring poet-playwright-

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

novelist in the period before feminism existed, a woman who struggled with her generation's conflicting demands of work and love. Unlike Plath, Janet Burroway survived. In sixteen essays of wit, rage, and reconciliation, *Embalming Mom* chronicles loss and renaissance in a life that reaches from Florida to Arizona across to England and home again. Burroway brilliantly weaves her way through the dangers of daily life—divorcing her first husband, raising two boys, establishing a new life, scattering her mother's ashes and sorting the meager possessions of her father. Each new danger and challenge highlight the tenacious will of the body and spirit to heal. “Ordinary life is more dangerous than war because nobody survives,” Burroway contemplates in the essay “Danger and Domesticity,” yet each of her meditations reminds us that it's our daily rituals and trials that truly keep us alive.

It's a dark day for *Itching Down*. Four million wasps have just descended on the town, and the pests are relentless! What can be done? Bap the Baker has a crazy idea that just might work . . . Young readers will love this lyrical, rhyming text as they watch the industrious citizens of *Itching Down* knead, bake, and slather the biggest wasp trap there ever was! John Vernon Lord's bright ink and crayon illustrations fill the pages with humorous detail.

From one of America's most influential teachers, a

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

collection of the best writing advice distilled from fifty language books -- from Aristotle to Strunk and White. With so many excellent writing guides lining bookstore shelves, it can be hard to know where to look for the best advice. Should you go with Natalie Goldberg or Anne Lamott? Maybe William Zinsser or Stephen King would be more appropriate. Then again, what about the classics -- Strunk and White, or even Aristotle himself? Thankfully, your search is over. In *Murder Your Darlings*, Roy Peter Clark, who has been a beloved and revered writing teacher to children and Pulitzer Prize winners alike for more than thirty years, has compiled a remarkable collection of more than 100 of the best writing tips from fifty of the best writing books of all time. With a chapter devoted to each key strategy, Clark expands and contextualizes the original author's suggestions and offers anecdotes about how each one helped him or other writers sharpen their skills. An invaluable resource for writers of all kinds, *Murder Your Darlings* is an inspiring and edifying ode to the craft of writing.

More than 250,000 copies sold! A creative writer's shelf should hold at least three essential books: a dictionary, a style guide, and *Writing Fiction*. Janet Burroway's best-selling classic is the most widely used creative writing text in America, and for more than three decades it has helped hundreds of thousands of students learn the craft. Now in its

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

tenth edition, *Writing Fiction* is more accessible than ever for writers of all levels—inside or outside the classroom. This new edition continues to provide advice that is practical, comprehensive, and flexible. Burroway's tone is personal and nonprescriptive, welcoming learning writers into the community of practiced storytellers. Moving from freewriting to final revision, the book addresses “showing not telling,” characterization, dialogue, atmosphere, plot, imagery, and point of view. It includes new topics and writing prompts, and each chapter now ends with a list of recommended readings that exemplify the craft elements discussed, allowing for further study. And the examples and quotations throughout the book feature a wide and diverse range of today's best and best-known creators of both novels and short stories. This book is a master class in creative writing that also calls on us to renew our love of storytelling and celebrate the skill of writing well. There is a very good chance that one of your favorite authors learned the craft with *Writing Fiction*. And who knows what future favorite will get her start reading this edition?

Fall 2016 Library Journal Editors' Pick “In my reckless and undiscouraged youth,” Lillian Boxfish writes, “I worked in a walnut-paneled office thirteen floors above West Thirty-Fifth Street...” She took 1930s New York by storm, working her way up writing copy for R.H. Macy's to become the highest

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

paid advertising woman in the country. It was a job that, she says, “in some ways saved my life, and in other ways ruined it.” Now it’s the last night of 1984 and Lillian, 85 years old but just as sharp and savvy as ever, is on her way to a party. It’s chilly enough out for her mink coat and Manhattan is grittier now—her son keeps warning her about a subway vigilante on the prowl—but the quick-tongued poetess has never been one to scare easily. On a walk that takes her over 10 miles around the city, she meets bartenders, bodega clerks, security guards, criminals, children, parents, and parents-to-be, while reviewing a life of excitement and adversity, passion and heartbreak, illuminating all the ways New York has changed—and has not. A love letter to city life in all its guts and grandeur, *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney paints a portrait of a remarkable woman across the canvas of a changing America: from the Jazz Age to the onset of the AIDS epidemic; the Great Depression to the birth of hip-hop. Lillian figures she might as well take her time. For now, after all, the night is still young.

*Why God Is a Woman* is a collection of poems written about a magical island where women rule and men are the second sex. It is also the story of a boy who, exiled from the island because he could not abide by its sexist laws, looks back with both nostalgia and bitterness and wonders: Why does God have to be a woman? Celebrated prose poet

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

Nin Andrews creates a world both fantastic and familiar where all the myths, logic, and institutions support the dominance of women. Nin Andrews's books include *The Book of Orgasms* and *Sleeping with Houdini*.

"In the spirit of Annie Dillard's *The Writing Life*, Friedman...gives heartfelt counsel to those who need to be coaxed into the creative process."—Washington Post An indispensable guide for writers that explores the emotional side of writing and offers insightful advice on overcoming writer's block, procrastination, guilt, and more. Charting the emotional side of the writer's life, *Writing Past Dark* is a writing companion to reach for when you feel lost and want to regain access to the memories, images, and the ideas inside you that are the fuel of strong writing.

Combining personal narrative and other writers' experiences, Bonnie Friedman explores a whole array of emotions and dilemmas writers face—envy, distraction, guilt, and writer's block—and shares the clues that can set you free so that you can write the book you've always dreamed of writing. Supportive, intimate, and reflective, *Writing Past Dark* is a comfort and resource for all writers.

*Creative Writing in the Community* is the first book to focus on the practical side of creative writing.

Connecting classroom experiences to community-based projects, it prepares creative writing students for teaching in schools, homeless centres,

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

youth clubs and care homes. Each chapter is packed with easy-to-use resources including: specific lesson plans; case studies of students working with community groups; lists of suitable writing examples; "how to..." sections; examples and theoretical applications of creative writing pedagogy and techniques; reflection questions; writings by workshop participants. Enhanced by contributions from directors, students and teachers at successful public programs, *Creative Writing in the Community* is more than an essential guide for students on creative writing courses and leaders of community-based learning programs; it is practical demonstration of the value of art in society.

Beginning with "The Writer's Wonderland—Or: A Warning" and ending with "You've Published a Book—Now What?" *The Creative Writer's Survival Guide* is a must-read for creative-writing students and teachers, conference participants, and aspiring writers of every stamp. Directed primarily at fiction writers but suitable for writers of all genres, John McNally's guide is a comprehensive, take-no-prisoners blunt, highly idiosyncratic, and delightfully subjective take on the writing life. McNally has earned the right to dispense advice on this subject. He has published three novels, two collections of short fiction, and hundreds of individual stories and essays. He has edited six anthologies and worked with editors at university presses, commercial

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

houses, and small presses. He has earned three degrees, including an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and taught writing to thousands of students at nine different universities. But he has received far more rejections than acceptances, has endured years of underpaid adjunct work, and is presently hard at work on a novel for which he has no guarantee of publication. In other words, he's been at the writing game long enough to rack up plenty of the highs and lows that translate into an invaluable guide for anyone who wants to become a writer or anyone who is already a writer but doesn't know how to take the next step toward the writing life. In the sections *The Decision to Become a Writer*, *Education and the Writer*, *Getting Published*, *Publicity*, *Employment for Writers*, and *The Writer's Life*, McNally wrestles with writing degrees and graduate programs, the nuts and bolts of agents and query letters and critics, book signings and other ways to promote your book, alcohol and other home remedies, and jobs for writers from adjunct to tenure-track. Chapters such as "What Have You Ever Done That's Worth Writing About?" "Can Writing Be Taught?" "Rejection: Putting It in Perspective," "Writing as a Competitive Sport," "Seven Types of MLA Interview Committees," "Money and the Writer," and the all-important "Talking about Writing vs. Writing" cover a vast range of writerly topics from learning your craft to making a living at it. McNally

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

acts as the writer's friendly drill sergeant, relentlessly honest but bracingly cheerful as he issues his curmudgeonly marching orders. Alternately cranky and philosophical, full of to-the-point anecdotes and honest advice instead of wonkish facts and figures, *The Creative Writer's Survival Guide* is a snarky, truthful, and immensely helpful map to being a writer in today's complex world.

Wendy Bishop and David Starkey have created a remarkable resource volume for creative writing students and other writers just getting started. In two- to ten-page discussions, these authors introduce forty-one central concepts in the fields of creative writing and writing instruction, with discussions that are accessible yet grounded in scholarship and years of experience. *Keywords in Creative Writing* provides a brief but comprehensive introduction to the field of creative writing through its landmark terms, exploring concerns as abstract as postmodernism and identity politics alongside very practical interests of beginning writers, like contests, agents, and royalties. This approach makes the book ideal for the college classroom as well as the writer's bookshelf, and unique in the field, combining the pragmatic accessibility of popular writer's handbooks, with a wider, more scholarly vision of theory and research.

*Unconventions* is a quirky and provocative

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

miscellany that reveals Michael Martone's protean interests as a writer and a writing teacher. Martone has, shall we say, a problem with authority. His chief pleasure in knowing the rules of his vocation comes from trying out new ways to bend, blend, or otherwise defy them. The pieces gathered in *Unconventions* are drawn from a long career spent loosening the creative strictures on writing. Including articles, public addresses, essays, interviews, and even a eulogy, these writings vary greatly in form but are unified in addressing the many technical and artistic issues that face all writers, particularly those interested in experimental and nontraditional modes and forms. Martone's approach has always been to synthesize, to understand and use any technique, formula, or style available. "I find myself, then," he writes, "self-identifying as a formalist, both and neither an experimenter and/or a traditionalist." In "I Love a Parade: An Afterword," Martone writes about not fitting in--and loving it--as he recalls the time he marched alone in a local Labor Day parade, as a one-person delegation from the National Writers Union. Elsewhere, in writings formally, stylistically, purposely at odds with themselves, Martone's expansive curiosity is on full display. We learn about camouflage techniques, how a baby acquires language, how to "read" a WPA-era post office mural, and why Martone sold his stock in the *New Yorker* and reinvested his money in the company

## Online Library Janet Burroway Imaginative Writing

that makes Etch A Sketch®. Unconventions, then, is Martone's "Frankensteinian monster," a kind of unruly, hybrid spawn of the mainstream writing enterprise. "Writing seems to me an intrinsic pleasure, an end in itself first," says Martone. "The question for me is not whether my writing, or any piece of writing, is good or bad but what the writing is and what it is doing and how finally it is used or can be used by others."

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