

# 30 Days of Inspiration

**Ideas to Energize Your Story Writing**



by

**Creative Writing Now**

[www.creative-writing-now.com](http://www.creative-writing-now.com)

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## The Thirty Day Challenge

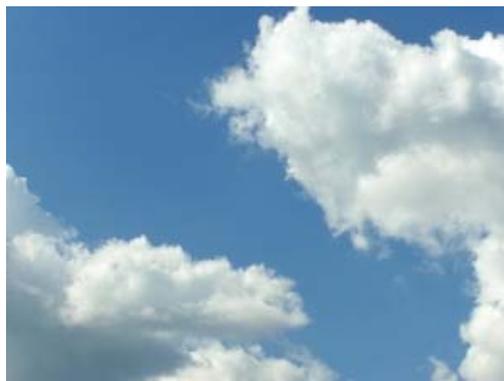
There are different ways you can use this book, but here's a suggestion. For thirty days, challenge yourself to write at the same time every day for at least 10 minutes. Use the ideas in this book to get you started.

Many of the story ideas will take much more more than 10 minutes to write, but don't worry. Just get started, and at the end of the 10 minutes, decide if you want to continue.

If not, you can abandon the story guilt-free. You've done your job; you've put in your writing time for the day. If you're inspired to keep going, you can either write for a longer time or save what you've started and come back to it another day.

Keeping a regular writing schedule can be very powerful. It's like daily exercise that trains and strengthens the writing "muscles."

And by working regularly at your writing, you separate yourself from the millions of people who say, "I want to be a writer." Instead, you can say, "I AM a writer." You've earned it.





### **Day 1**

Your character moves into a new apartment. On the surface, the place seemed ideal, but his/her first night there, your character discovers a terrible problem with the place that he/she didn't take into account...

### **Day 2**

Write a story that includes: a tombstone, a first kiss, and a butterfly collection...

### **Day 3**

Imagine you're looking through a collection of short stories. One of the titles catches your interest. That's the story you want to read first. What might the title be? Invent a title that would make you want to read the story. Now, write a story to go with that title...



### **Day 4**

Think of two very different people you know. Invent a character who combines characteristics of both of them. Then put this character in a stressful family situation...

### **Day 5**

Your character has a date but decides not to show up. Your character believes he or she has a very good reason for this decision (you decide the reason). But your character's date is furious and decides to make your character sorry...

### **Day 6**

Write a story that includes: twins, a 12-layer cake, a house that seems to be haunted but isn't...



### **Day 7**

Your character gets a call from someone asking to talk to "David." "You have the wrong number," your character says. But instead of hanging up, the caller and your character get to chatting, and they decide to meet later that night...

### **Day 8**

Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words. The heartbreaking result: "*For sale: baby shoes, never worn.*" Write a ghost story or a love story in less than 20 words...

### **Day 9**

Go to Google.com, and click on the "Image" link on the top left. This will take you to the image search page. Type two words into the search box, and click on the ""Search"" button. A bunch of pictures will appear. Choose one of them to use as a writing prompt. You can repeat this exercise whenever you need fresh writing ideas!



### **Day 8**

Write a story about a bad or unpleasant person. Make this person likable to your reader...

### **Day 9**

Marta, your character's neighbor asks your character a favor. Would your character mind taking in Marta's mail and watering her plants while Marta is away on an unexpected trip? Your character agrees and accepts Marta's house key. But when your character lets himself/herself into Marta's house for the first time, he/she encounters something he/she certainly wasn't expecting....

### **Day 10**

Perhaps the best way to learn about writing is by studying the work of other writers. Today, you will choose a book by a writer you admire. Read a paragraph of this book to get the author's "voice" in your head. Now, try to write your own story (or rewrite a story you have written) the way this author would have written it. Imitate the author's style and the techniques he or she uses...



### **Day 11**

Your character gets trapped in an elevator with someone he or she is afraid of (you decide why)...

### **Day 12**

Write the ending of a mystery story. Then write the beginning.

### **Day 13**

A change of environment can sometimes refresh and recharge the brain. Do you normally write at a desk or at your kitchen table? Today, go someplace different to write. For example, try writing outside or in a public place such as a coffee house or mall....



## Day 14

Write a story that includes: a blind man, a tent, and a train...

## Day 15

Today, you have a choice of two different activities related to point of view. When I say point of view, I mean the perspective used to tell the story. Think of the location of the camera when filming a movie. You can tell a story from inside a particular character's head, showing what that character sees, thinks, and experiences.

- Option 1: Think of an argument or uncomfortable encounter you had with another person. Tell the story of this encounter from the other person's point of view. Or...
- Option 2: Rewrite a story you have written previously, but write it from the point of view of a different character.

## Day 16

Put on music in the background today while you write. Write a scene that captures the feeling of the music....



### **Day 17**

Your character gets on a taxi and tells the driver to take him/her to the airport. But the driver has his/her own ideas about where they are headed...

### **Day 18**

They say you can't judge a book by its cover. But some book covers attract and fascinate. Browse Amazon, or look on your bookshelves and choose a book you haven't read that has a cover you really like. Now, you're going to steal that cover for your own story. Okay, not really "steal" -- just borrow. Write a story of your own that would go with that cover...

### **Day 19**

Write a story that includes: a gingerbread house, a stolen key, and a surprising phone message...



## Day 20

Write a story that will make your reader afraid to turn off the lights at bedtime tonight...

## Day 21

Your character's dream in life is to be a celebrity. He/she is not particularly talented or successful at anything, so he/she will have to find a different way to become famous...

## Day 22

Supposedly, Ernest Hemingway wrote standing up. On the other hand, Mark Twain wrote while lying in bed. Could standing up while you write give you extra energy? Could writing in bed help to relax your mind so that ideas flow more easily? Today, try doing one or the other and see if the physical change makes a difference in your writing...



### **Day 23**

One night your character decides to leave home and never come back (you decide the reason). But at the airport, he or she encounters an old friend, and they get in a conversation. Something about this conversation (you decide what it is) makes leaving home suddenly seem much more difficult than your character had expected...

### **Day 24**

Write a story about a victimizer and a victim... in which the person who appears to be the victim is really the victimizer, and the person who appears to be the victimizer is actually the other person's victim...

### **Day 25**

Write a story that includes: melted snow, a dead poet, and a betrayal...



### **Day 26**

Today, try telling your story out loud. Speak into a recording device (there may be one on your cell phone). Then play back what you said and write it down. You can revise and edit later if you want. Do the words flow more easily when you are talking instead of writing? If you don't have a recording device, do this exercise anyway, but stop after a few minutes to write down what you've just said...

### **Day 27**

Alison decides to find the son she gave up for adoption years ago. The son is now a teenager. She tracks him down at the fast food restaurant where he works in the evenings. Write about the encounter from either Alison's or her son's perspective.

### **Day 28**

Write a story that includes: a family argument, a 17th-floor balcony, and an unforgettable perfume...



## Day 29

Imagine a house. Draw a quick floorplan of the house on a piece of paper. Who do you think lives in this house? Imagine the house's residents. Now, add a secret room to your floorplan. What's in the room? Why is it secret? You decide. Someone is about to discover the secret room. What happens? Write the story.

## Day 30

Your character believes in love in first sight. In fact, your character believes he or she has actually fallen in love with someone he or she has only seen in a photograph. Your character makes up his or mind to marry this person...

Happy writing!

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