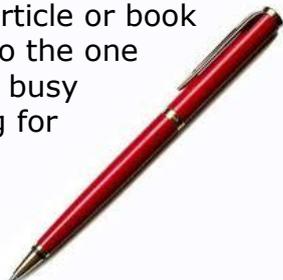




## Editing Secrets

◆ Not really 'secrets', but often disregarded, these tips can make a big difference to your article or book – or to the one you're busy editing for a fee.



## Mother Nature...

◆ Sometimes she throws so much extreme weather it's hard to cope.  
◆ But could the excess of job-seekers help?

## Fixing a stove

◆ Is it helpful if your partner watches and comments..?

## Job Opportunities, near and far

◆ Including, maybe, the one you've been waiting for.

## Reading between the lines

◆ What did you mean, exactly? And was your question answered?

## Should NZ bring back work schemes like the tree-planting programmes of the 1930s?



## Guns!

◆ In the aftermath of another mass shooting, Brian Morris wonders if the Americans will ever find a solution to their conundrum.

## TIME – the best photos of 2012

◆ Emotional response in the viewer was the looked-for ingredient in choosing winners for TIME'S list.

## Another Rubaiyat

◆ Not much like the original. An ode to abstinence awaits you on the last page.



## Mother Nature can throw a tantrum or two too.

In Australia, the annual bush fires season is hitting hard. This year is unfortunately more severe than anyone expected.

In New Zealand we got the opposite: torrential rain, slips, floods, road closures and a heap of clean-up work to do.

But there is a silver lining – if we recognise it.

There is a ton of work to be done cleaning up the mess, restoring all of the damaged infrastructure, and preparing for the next onslaught. Yes, there will be another one.



Currently we have 175,000 people out of work.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/9wz8tmt>

Now we have plenty of work for unemployed people to do. Plenty.

Some tasks will require skilled people but the majority will be work unskilled people can do: cleaning up the mess of storms, dead trees, floods, clearing blocked pipes, removing storm debris, replanting new trees and flowers, repainting buildings.



"Who will pay them?" you ask.

Answer: The same organisation which currently provides the dole.

The money is there and it is being distributed. Let's now ask for some work in return.

If you want to know how it should be organised, ask grandpa or grandma how they did it in the Great Depression.



That's when their generation built roads, railways, tunnels, dams, planted forests and much more, which we benefit from today.

And they did it without computers and GPS lasers and OSH.

There was urgent work to be done and the government of the day organised it.

So why are we floundering around today?

Extensive work needs to be done and yet people still get a dole for doing no work.

Where is real leadership when we need it? □



*Brian Morris*

**Brian Morris** ♦ **Principal**

### On our website

Learn new skills and make yourself a new career.

#### Journalism:

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=journalism-non-fiction-writing>

#### Travel Writing

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=travel-writing>

#### Sports Journalism

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=sports-journalism>

#### Life Coaching

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=life-coaching>

#### Proofreading and Editing

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=book-editing-proofreading-and-publishing>

Information on any course we run is available on: [www.nzibs.co.nz](http://www.nzibs.co.nz)

**09 532 9059** or **0800 80 1994**.

#### Creative Writing

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=creative-writing>

#### Romance

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=romance-writing>

#### Mysteries and Thrillers

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=mystery-thriller-writing>

#### Poetry

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=poetry-songwriting>

#### Stories for Children

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=writing-stories-for-children>

#### Short Stories

<http://nzibs.co.nz/index.php?page=short-stories>

You already have one foot on the first rung of a ladder; your climb into a new vocation could take you to the stars.

\*call **Carol Morris**, Registrar, now

## From TIME magazine, a few of their top ten photographs of 2012

According to TIME, it is likely that ten percent of **ALL** photos ever taken were taken in 2012... an extraordinary number, illustrating just how easy it is to snap images now most phones have a camera.



*Bernat Armangue. Nov. 18, 2012.*  
IN Gaza City, among a group of young men facing the cruel reality of discovering a loved one's body.



*Stephen Wilkes, November 2012*  
After hurricane Sandy, calm oceanwaters only highlight the huge loss suffered by thousands.



*Rod Abd. Idlib, Syria, Mar 8, 2012*  
Ahmed cries. His father has just been killed by Syrian army snipers.



*Goran Tomasevic, Syria, Aug 2012*  
Holed up with Iraqi fighters.



*Martin Schoeller, Iowa, 2012*  
Gabby Douglas, determined to train all hours of the day.



*Parrish Ruiz de Velasco. Lancaster, Texas, April 3, 2012*  
Thirteen tornadoes touched down that day, near Dallas-Fort Worth.



*Dominic Nah. Helig, Sudan, 2012*  
In the border war between Sudan and South Sudan ,fighting over oil.



*RJ Sangosti. Denver, July 27, 2012*  
After the movie theatre massacre, Chantal Blunk waits with her husband's body before it is flown home for a military funeral.

### What makes a great photo?

TIME chose these and others as seminal images because they evoke strong emotion in most who view them.

If you take photos, either as work or for pleasure, do you think about the emotions you're capturing?

## Job Opportunities

### Junior Web Editor, **Absolute I.T., Wellington**

Cover some development as well as testing and repair functions on aspects of a re-configured site.  
No closing date.

### Reporter, **Taranaki Daily News, New Plymouth**

Requires a passion for social media, news websites and print. Closes 25 Jan.

### Transcript Typist, **Sentia Media, Wellington**

Transcribe audio from television, radio and media conferences. No closing date.

### Information Advisor, **Ministry of Justice, Wellington**

Must be able to communicate with a wide range of audiences on complex issues.  
Closes 30 Jan.

### Portfolio Editor, **Thomson Reuters, Wellington**

Develop and generate content for assigned hard copy, CD and online publications.  
No closing date.

### Chief Sub-editor, **NZ Woman's Weekly, Auckland**

Requires excellent copy subbing and fact-checking skills. Closes 18 Jan.

### Studio Assistant, **PixiFoto, Auckland**

Studio photography training provided. Closes 7 Feb.

### Editor, **Urban and Country, Waikato**

Lead the editorial team of a monthly lifestyle magazine. Closes 18 Jan.

### Communications

### Coordinator, **Royal NZ College of General Practitioners, Wellington**

Must be an excellent writer, proofreader and editor. Closes 17 Jan.

## Editing Secrets

By Laura Backes

Reproduced for students and Graduates

Once you've plotted out your book, developed the characters and written the last word of text, the real work begins.

As busy editors are bombarded with hundreds or even thousands of submissions a year, it's more important than ever that authors apply their own editing skills to their manuscripts before putting them in the mail. Checking your basic grammar and spelling are of course important, but authors need to go beyond surface editing if their work has a chance of catching an editor's eye.

### \* Trim, tighten, hack away.

First, second and even third drafts of manuscripts are almost always laden with extra words and scenes. Take a break from your book and then read it through with a fresh eye. Write down your theme in one sentence (what the book is about, such as working through shyness on the first day of school or showing how Thomas Edison's childhood experiences influenced his adult life).

The plot (or progression of facts and events in nonfiction) is your vehicle for conveying the theme to the reader. Ask yourself if each character and scene advance the plot toward communicating this theme. And decide at the beginning that you will give up your precious words and finely-crafted scenes for the betterment of the book.

Pithy dialogue may be fun to read, but if it pushes your story off track, it's just a literary dead end. Take the publishers' suggested word limits seriously: no, you don't really need 3000 words to tell your picture book story about Freddy the Frog's adventures in the Big Pond.

### \* The elements of speech.

Well-crafted dialogue can be a writer's most important tool. Dialogue is not just there to break up the paragraphs or show that your characters know how to talk; ideally, it adds to character development, moves the plot along and replaces sections of narrative. Each character should sound like himself, with speech patterns and phrasing that are unique. This is especially true with talking animal books. I see many of these manuscripts where, if I took away

## How to get what you wanted from what you wrote

the words that identify the speakers, each character would sound exactly the same. Don't have dialogue repeat the narrative and vice versa; "Did you hear that? Someone's at the door!" does not have to be preceded by "They heard a sound at the door".

### \* Show don't tell.

How many times have you heard this? It's still true. Comb through your manuscript for sentences that tell the reader how a character felt (Sara was sad) and replace with sensory descriptions (Hot tears sprang to Sara's eyes and rolled down her cheeks.) Avoid telling the reader what to think about the story (Jason foolishly decided to trust Mike one more time.) Instead, present your character's actions and decisions to the reader, and let the reader draw his or her own conclusions (incidentally, this is how you "teach" without preaching).

### \*Wipe out passive writing.

Search for verbs preceded by "would" (would go, would sleep, would eat) replace with the past tense (went, slept, ate). Also look for actions that seem to happen out of thin air. "The door was opened" is passive, because the sentence lacks a "doer".

Remember, the reader needs to visualize what's happening in the story. "The wind blew the door open" is better, because the action can be attributed to something, and it puts the most important element (strong wind) at the beginning of the sentence.

Simply rearranging the words ("The door blew open from the wind") puts emphasis on a door that won't stay closed, making that the subject of the sentence.

### \*Be precise.

One of the best ways to make your writing come alive for the reader is to use exact nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

One well-chosen word is always better than three vague ones. Adjectives like big, little, cold, hot, beautiful, scary and silly; adverbs such as quickly, slowly, loudly, and softly; and general verbs like walk, went, stayed and ate don't draw a vivid picture for your reader.

Of course, sometimes these words are appropriate, but try as a rule choosing words that describe specifically what you want to communicate.

Words that sound and look interesting are also a plus.

Tremendous, sauntered, frigid, scorching, plodded, and gulped are more fun to read, and they each lend an emotional overtone to the sentence (if your character gulps his food, you don't have to tell the reader he's in a hurry).

### \* Focus.

Editing your own work requires concentration. It's easy to "zone out" and miss obvious problems.

Edit in a quiet space, without distractions.

Get up and walk around once in a while to keep alert.

And don't over-do it. If you're tired, put the manuscript away and take a fresh look later.

Finally, make sure there's a cause and effect relationship between the scenes of your book.

Each event should build upon the ones that came before. The plot should spring intrinsically from your characters; nonfiction should unfold because of the nature of your subject and your slant on the material.

It's when everything comes seamlessly together that you have a winning book.

Make it look easy, but don't skimp on all the hard work it takes to get there.

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## A question:

Suppose diaries could deliver messages from the past, a [question on the AskReddit section of the Reddit website the other day wonders](#) ...

What message we might send from today to our forebears?

*"If someone from the 1950s suddenly appeared today," it asks, "what would be the most difficult thing to explain to them about life today?"*

So far it's attracted more than 13,000 comments, but probably the best – which has also been circulating online – is this:

***I possess a device, in my pocket, that is capable of accessing the entirety of information known to man.***

***I use it to look at pictures of cats and get in arguments with strangers.***

**Putting up a stove pipe**by **James Montgomery Bailey**

(a marriage satire)

**Putting up a stove** is not so difficult in itself.

It is the pipe that raises four-fifths of the mischief and all the dust. You find this out when you are standing on a chair with your arms full of pipe, and your mouth full of soot.

Your wife is standing on the floor in a position that enables her to see you, the pipe and the chair, and here she gives utterance to those remarks that are calculated to hasten a man into the extremes of insanity. Her apron is pinned over her waist, and her hands rest on her hips.

There is about five cents' worth of pot-black on her nose and a lot of flour on her chin, and altogether she is a spectacle that would inspire a dead man with distrust.

And while you are up there, she stands safely on the floor, and bombards you with such domestic mottoes as, "What's the use of swearing so?" "You ain't got any more patience than a child." "Do be careful of that chair." And then she goes off, and reappears with an armful more of pipe, and before you are aware of it she has got that pipe so horribly mixed up that it does seem no two pieces are alike.

You join the ends and work them to and fro, and to and fro again, and then you take them apart and look at them. Then you spread one out and jam the other together, and mount them once more.

But it is no go. You begin to think that the pieces are inspired with life, and ache to kick them through the window. But she doesn't lose her patience. She goes around with that awfully exasperating rigging on, with a length of pipe under each arm and a long-handled broom in her hand, and says she don't see how it is some people never have any trouble putting up a stove.

Then you miss the hammer.

You don't see it anywhere. You stare into the pipe, along the mantel, and down on the stove, and off to the floor.

Your wife watches you, and is finally thoughtful enough to inquire what you are looking after.

On learning, she pulls the article from her pocket.

Then you feel as if you could go

outdoors, and swear a hole twelve feet square through a block of brick buildings; but she meekly observes: "Why don't you speak when you want something, and not look around for it like a dummy?"

When that part of the pipe, which goes through the wall is up, she holds it up with the broom while you are making the connection, and stares at it with an intensity that is entirely uncalled for.



The pipe don't go together, of course.

The soot shakes down into your eyes and mouth, the sweat rolls down your face, and tickles your chin as it drops of, and it seems as if your arms are slowly but surely drawing out of their sockets.

Of course, she'll now inquire if you are going to be all day doing nothing, and if you think her arms are made of cast-iron.

Then the broom slips off the pipe, and in her endeavour to recover her hold, she jabs you under the chin with the handle, and the pipe comes down on your head with its load of fried soot, and then the chair tilts forward enough to discharge your feet, and you come down on the wrong end of that chair, with a force that would bankrupt a piledriver.

You don't touch that stove again.

You leave your wife examining the chair, and bemoaning its injuries.

You wash your skinned and bleeding hands, then you go down the street to find a tradesman, and your wife goes over to the neighbours with her chair, and tells them about its suffering from your abuse, and she drains the neighborhood dry of its sympathy long before you return. □

**Job Opportunities****Sports Reporter, Waikato Times, Hamilton**

Roll up your sleeves, get out of the office and break stories. Closes 16 Jan.

**Marketing/Office Assistant, Doubledot Media, Christchurch**

Looking for a marketing/communication or English graduate with excellent writing and critical thinking skills. No closing date.

**Trainee Publisher's Assistant, Nelson**

Requires an excellent command of the English language. No closing date.

**Photographer, Dobson Photography, Auckland**

Produce imagery for a large New Zealand retailer. No closing date.

**Life Coaches, YB 12 NZ, Auckland**

Seeking life coaches who want to make a difference in the lives of others. No closing date.

**Business Case Writer, Department of Corrections, Wellington**

Consider, analyse and present options in written form. Closes 16 Jan.

**Wellness Coach, Configure Express, Auckland**

Help gym members achieve their goals. No closing date.

**Ministerials Writers, Ministry of Education, Wellington**

Seeking experienced and competent writers of business correspondence. Closes 16 Jan.

**Internal Communications Specialist, Hays, Auckland**

Seeking accomplished writer who is confident engaging with staff of all levels. No closing date.

## Clubs & Organisations

### The Poets Society

Membership of the New Zealand Poetry Society entitles you to many benefits including a **members-only** website page.

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/join>

### New Zealand Freelance Writers' Association

Have you found their site yet? You can't always find a writer's group, so here's another place you can go to connect with writers.

<http://www.nzfreelancewriters.org.nz/>

### Romance Writers of NZ

This non-profit organisation was founded in September 1990 by Jean Drew (NZIBS tutor) RWNZ has over 260 members (published and unpublished writers) from NZ, Aust, USA, UK and SA.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/>

### Society of Authors

The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc) works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The Society is guided by values of fairness, accountability and responsiveness.

The mission of the Society is to actively and responsibly support and represent the interests of all New Zealand's writers and the communities they serve.

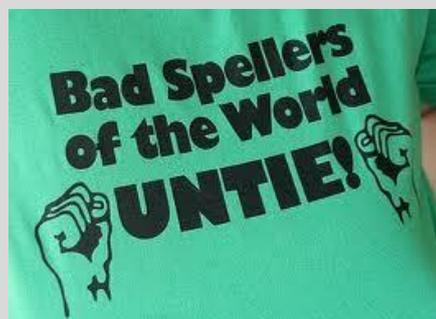
**Join up here:**

<http://www.authors.org.nz/>

### FanStory.com

For when you just want to write and get some feedback.

At FanStory.com you can share stories and poems and receive feedback. [50+ writing contests](#)



## Punctuation Pointers

### Websites to explore

#### 1. The 2013 Challenge

**Early to Rise, Craig Ballantyne** is on a mission to encourage a million people to transform their lives.

You can enter a free contest here (on for the next 90 days) to transform your health or wealth. There's a forum, and motivational info from many of the world's experts on personal transformation.

<http://www.transformationcontest.com/Giveaway101.html> ©

The past,  
the present,  
and the future  
walked into a bar.  
It was tense.

Grammarly Lite

#### 2. TIME – the 2012 best photographs

A few of these were highlighted on page 3 of this newsletter. But you can visit the TIME site and experience them all.

<http://lightbox.time.com/2012/12/13/time-picks-the-top-10-photos-of-2012/#8>



#### 3. Scott Base

All about New Zealand's role in Antarctica. Pictures of, well, snow. And penguins. Plus all of the stuff you'll need to know if you're going to set a murder on the ice...☺

<http://www.antarcticanz.govt.nz/scott-base>

## Americans love guns more than peaceful communities

You have to reach that conclusion when you read the US news.

On the day after Adam Lanza killed 26 kids and teachers you'd expect normal people to hunker down and commiserate over the nation's saddest event in a decade.

But no.

Thousands went out and bought assault rifles and ammunition.

"Everybody wants assault weapons," said the owner of one gun shop, who sold 100 of the ArmaLite AR-15 rapid-fire assault rifles on the day after the Connecticut school shooting tragedy. "I'm completely sold out."

The people who quote the



Second Amendment (the right to bear arms) have lost sight of the difference between a black powder and ball, single-shot musket and a semiautomatic military killing machine capable of firing 100 shots per minute.

Those Americans who love guns, shooting, and the concept of defending themselves against home invaders or an errant government represent a vocal 40 per cent of their 311 million population. They've been that way for 250 years.

Today the kids train with video games like 'Kindergarten Killer' and 'Grand Theft Auto'.

Since the 14 December Sandy Hook School shooting another 406 people have been shot and killed in America with guns.

[http://www.salon.com/2013/01/03/gun\\_deaths\\_rampant\\_after\\_sandy\\_hook\\_massacre/](http://www.salon.com/2013/01/03/gun_deaths_rampant_after_sandy_hook_massacre/)

President Obama assigned Vice President Joe Biden the job of finding a workable solution to the gun homicide problem.

I hope they do, but I'm not holding my breath.

**Brian Morris** ♦ Principal

## Online Openings for editors and proofreaders

When searching online, search for variations of what you want, i.e:

- **Proofreading**
- **Proof reading**
- **Book editing**
- **Editing**
- **Manuscript correcting, etc**

Get creative. Here are some ideas.

### Craigslist.org

Don't forget this international billboard of opportunities. All parts of the world.

<http://auckland.craigslist.org/>

### Online Writing Jobs.com

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>



### Freelance Writing Gigs

Online references, contract jobs and more contacts than you'll need.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

### Freelance Writing

A blog that's been around longer than most, this site gives links to many sites with writing, editing and proofreading work:

<http://FreelanceWriting.com>

### E lance.com

<https://www.elance.com/q/find-work/online-work-overview/>

### Donanza.com

Donanza does draw its job listings from other places, so you may see ads you've seen elsewhere.

<http://www.donanza.com/jobs/proofreading>

### Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations are here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

### iFreelance

Advertise your services here, apply for work that interests you.

<http://www.ifreelance.com/>

## How to read between the lines

"It's not what you say but how you say it," according to William Carlos Williams.

Listen to how people speak. You'll understand what is really happening.

For example:

"Where do you work?" Answer: "I work at Acme at the moment."

"Where do you live?" Answer: "I live in Kaitira at the moment."

⊙ This person is mentally unsettled. "... at the moment" means "... as soon as something better/different comes up, I'll be off."

"You're in banking, what do you think of the foreign exchange rate?" Answer: "Well, it's – ahhh – quite a sort of – well – complex, like it needs to be ... ahhh ... sorted, eh."

⊙ This person doesn't understand the business they're in and finds it difficult to express an opinion.

"Thanks for explaining that. But what about the warranty?" Answer: "Well, to be honest, you won't need a warranty."

⊙ Suddenly this person has decided to be honest. That means everything they told you up to this point must have been dishonest.

Unknown telephone caller: "Mr Morris, how are you today?"

⊙ He wants to sell me something.

John is explaining something. "It's as big as, well, you know."

⊙ No, John. I don't know. Describe it to me.

"Sweet as, bro."

Sweet as WHAT?

⊙ This person is too lazy to think of a suitable synonym.

The words we use, or the words we give our characters to say, speak volumes when we read between the lines.

**Brian Morris** ♦ **Principal**

## Job Opportunities

### **Sub Editor, Fairfax Editorial, Auckland**

Write sizzling headlines and polish copy to the highest possible standard. No closing date.

### **Documentation Officer, NZCU South, Dunedin**

Requires strong communication, document development and editorial skills. Closes 14 Jan.

### **Communications/PR Advisor, World Vision, Auckland**

Deliver strategic, innovative and effective PR campaigns. No closing date.

### **Proofreading Contractor, NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants, Wellington**

Proofread the Institute's Members' Handbook. Closes 11 Jan.

### **Journalist, Newstalk ZB, Auckland**

Gather and break hard news and sport stories. Closes 14 Jan.

### **Editor, SOMO Creative, Christchurch**

Unearth the inside stories that will really capture the interest of readers. No closing date.

### **Privacy and Official Information Editor; Child, Youth and Family; Auckland**

Requires good understanding of the Privacy and Official Information Acts. Closes 11 Jan.

### **Senior Writer, Key Media, Auckland**

Research and write for *Your Investment Property* magazine. No closing date.

### **Photographers, PhotoWonder NZ, Auckland**

Pose and photograph students and staff as directed by PhotoWonder NZ. No closing date.

### International Writers' Workshop

meets each month, February to November inclusive, at the Lake House Arts Centre, Takapuna.  
<http://www.iww.co.nz/>

*Yellow Pages representative Maja Lee says the font size decrease is one of a number of changes made to the directory this year to make the books more user-friendly.*

Weekend Sun. 22/6/12

### Hibiscus Coast Writers

Members enjoy workshops and up to six competitions a year including poetry, short stories, drama and non-fiction, all judged externally.  
<http://hibiscuscoastwriters.weebly.com/>

### Tauranga Writers

A long-running group, established in 1967, who meet twice a month.  
<http://taurangawriters.org.nz/TW3/>

### Kiwi Write 4 Kids

Kiwi Write4Kidz is an organisation for adults who like to write tales for children. Learn more about technique direct from the mouths of Kiwi children's authors.  
<http://www.kiwiwrite4kidz.co.nz/>



### Franklin Writers

This group meets at Franklin Arts and Cultural Centre, Pukekohe, on Tuesdays during school terms. Contact Judy / Barbara 09232 0132.

### Photography Clubs

They are everywhere - nationwide. Photography clubs keep you up to date with events, seminars, competitions, and more. NZ Photographic Society details:  
[http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs\\_map.html](http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs_map.html)

## Writing Prompts

### How do you excite your creative juice?

You could visit the competitions section on the SDB, or you could set your writing muscles tingling with some of these:

#### 1 Imagine a world without words or writing.

Can you picture it at all? How would humans communicate? What alternatives could we employ? Maybe this is the beginning of your first science-fiction novel.

#### 2 It's Friday night: Make a date with the artist inside you.

Buy some wine, put on some music, turn off the phone, and write about the pleasure of stealing time for yourself.

3 Reflect on the past year, and write about your most memorable experience.

#### 4 Take a lunchtime break at a local bookstore.

Buy two new magazines. Jot down any query ideas that strike you as you read.

5 Check out the writer's guidelines for your favourite travel magazine, and prepare a query targeting a summer issue.

6 If you had to compare yourself to the elements (earth, wind, fire and water), which would you be? Write about why you chose the one you did.

7 Spend the day in the library doing research on your latest writing ideas. Or research a topic that interests you to come up with new ideas.

#### 8 Stir your creative juices.

Write the word "island" in the middle of an unlined piece of paper, draw a circle around it and then do some free association writing of any words, images, sights, smells or sounds that come to mind.

9 Make a list of 10 ways to help Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial harmony become a reality.

10 Eat cereal? Rewrite the front of the box in a humorous way. Change the name. Alter the ingredients. Challenge yourself to play with the words.

11 Take a dictionary, open it randomly, then close your eyes and let your finger fall onto the page. Whatever word it lands on, write it down. This is the title for the poem you are about to write.

12 Go to a movie and when you get home, write an alternate ending.

13 Exercise? Today think of writing as exercise. Write about what you do to stretch out, cool down and sweat. How do you feel after you're done?

14 Pretend it's the '70s and the heart of the disco era. Describe what you would be putting on and listening to before heading out for the fever of Saturday night.

15 Choose a shape. What does it remind you of?

16 Select a favourite casual photograph of yourself. Write about what you remember from that day. Perhaps this will begin a memoir.

17 If you could have named the planets, what would you have called them? Journal about your answers and why you chose the names you did.

18 Research writing contests, and choose at least one to enter.



19 Wear something you haven't put on in ages. Reflect on why what we wear affects our mood. Do you feel most comfortable in a certain colour, a certain type of clothing? Perhaps this is an article for a fashion magazine.

20 Think about your favourite colour. Do some free writing about why you like it. What memories, sensations, objects or places do you associate with it?

## How good is your editing?

By **Laurie Pawlik-Kielen**

<http://theadventurouswriter.com>

Reproduced for educational purposes

Blogger and freelance writer Laurie Pawlik-Kielen collects "Tips and Quips" of use to writers. Here's a few. For more, see her website.

### 1. Use the "find" feature to eliminate certain phrases.

"When writers have finished their first draft, they should use the "find" feature to identify the phrases "there are" or "there is" or "to be." There are always better ways to write sentences — without using those phrases. This type of editing makes writing more action packed and creative." – Meghan Sager, public relations specialist.

### 2. Eliminate the word 'that.'

"Rarely is the word 'that' valuable or necessary," says John Honeycutt, author of *Provocative Business Change: Business-Turfing*. "Take, for example, 'I hope that your effort is successful' versus 'I hope your effort is successful!'"

When you're editing your writing, take out words that add unnecessary bulk.

### 3. Trust the writing process.

"The process works. The job isn't in the writing, it's in the rewriting," says television, book, and magazine writer Jill Golick.

"The first draft isn't supposed to be good; writers just need to barrel their way through to the end without self-editing. The second draft will be better, and the third better still.

The more the article or chapter is rewritten, the better it'll get." Golick also encourages writers to forget quality, and go for quantity.

### 4. Let your writing go.

"The best writing advice I ever received was to not get attached to words," says Alyce Edrich, editor and freelance writer. "When writers allow themselves to get emotionally attached to what they've written — which is really easy to do as a creative artist — they don't allow themselves to improve their writing.

While it is true that some critiques are a matter of opinion and can be easily ignored, other critiques are a matter of business. Editors, for instance, often come back with suggestions to change paragraphs, delete sentences, increase background information or sources, or overhaul certain grammatical errors.

Those critiques can sting and hurt a writers' egos, even making them feel like failures or as though they've been personally attacked. The problem occurs when writers don't take those critiques objectively and choose an unprofessional attitude, causing the editor to wish she'd never given the writer the assignment in the first place."

### 5. Check the facts in your article, book proposal, or essay.

"My key piece of writing advice is look up everything," says freelance writer and editor Cynthia Clampitt. "Writers should NEVER write what they think is correct without checking first. I can't tell you how many times I've seen things come across my desk, in which a writer has written off the top of his or her head. The errors were horrendous. I've seen Mikhail Baryshnikov named as the president of Russia, penultimate used to mean "more than the best" (it means "next to last)," and more examples.

I tell writers there are two things they need to look up: all their facts and all their words. Because if they don't, either the publication will look stupid or some harried editor has to rewrite the piece."

### 6. When in doubt, take the word (or phrase) out.

"According to my journalism professor, writers tend to fall in love with their own words. They need to use an editor's eye when revising and editing their writing," says Mary Beth Kriskey, a copywriter and public relations specialist.

"Sometimes writers are blind to words or phrases that do not enhance the goal of the written piece. To this day, whether it is my own writing or I am proofing/reviewing a project for work or family and friends, if something strikes me as extraneous, duplicated, awkwardly phrased and so on, I (try to) remove it."

## Job Opportunities

### [Group Publisher, HarperCollinsPublishers, Auckland](#)

Help develop digital publishing in the NZ market.  
No closing date.

### [Editor, NZ Engineering News, Auckland](#)

Seeking a senior editor with professional writing/interview skills. No closing date.

### [eCommerce Content Editor, Auckland](#)

Write customer friendly and SEO optimised copy and site merchandising.  
No closing date.

**MEDIA caps** for graduates of these NZIBS courses:

- ❖ Journalist,
- ❖ Sports Journalist
- ❖ Photographer
- ❖ Travel Writer.

If you'd like one, please send \$10 and a letter detailing your name, postal address and former student number. White. One size fits all.



### [Senior Advisor, NZ Transport Agency, Wellington](#)

Edit official correspondence for NZ Transport.  
Closes 21 Jan.

### [Copywriter/Subeditor, SOMO Creative, Christchurch](#)

This varied position is perfect for an efficient and positive writer with a passion for words.  
No closing date.

### [Reporter, Academy Publishing, Christchurch](#)

Write news, features and supplement based articles.  
Closes 11 Jan.

### [Photographers, Optimumplus1, Tauranga](#)

Seeking qualified photographers to do wedding photography. No closing date.

## The Christine Cole Catley Short Story Award 2013

Sponsored by The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.) and Cape Catley Publishing, the purpose of the annual Christine Cole Catley Short Story Award is to provide a platform to support and promote the development of short stories within New Zealand [http://www.authors.org.nz/webfiles/NZSocietyofAuthors/files/Terms\\_Conditions\\_2013\\_.pdf](http://www.authors.org.nz/webfiles/NZSocietyofAuthors/files/Terms_Conditions_2013_.pdf)  
**Entry closes 25 February 2013**

## AUT New Zealand Creative Writing Competition

AUT's fourth annual creative writing competition opens 31 October 2012 and **closes midnight 28 February, 2013.** There are three categories in the competition:  
**Short story: Emerging** (15 - 20 years)  
**Short story: Open** (21 years and over)  
**Poetry: Open** (15 years and over)  
**Details here:**  
[www.aut.ac.nz/creativewriting](http://www.aut.ac.nz/creativewriting)

## Writer's Relief

**30 day Know Thyself Challenge.** Define who you are as a writer – and there's a prize... but you have to enter to discover it. You do need a facebook account.  
<http://www.facebook.com/writersrelief>

## Story Mint

Participate in a serial here: <http://thestorymint.com/story-mintery>  
 You can add one chapter of up to 500 words to the latest serial.  
**Put your name down** for a slot and write 480 -500 words to carry the story forward.  
 develop back story  
 develop the characters  
 push the story forward  
 introduce a new angle

Or, you may want to take the story somewhere completely different.

## Photo Competitions

**192** competitions are listed here: <http://www.photographycompetitions.net>  
 Among them all, there **will be** at least ONE for you. Enter it.

## The Global... Short Story Competition.



This Competition is founded on a love and enthusiasm for writing and short stories. **Enter here:** © <http://www.globalshortstories.net/index.html>

## The Fish Poetry Prize

Fish has been running the poetry contest since 2006. Previous judges include Billy Collins; Brian Turner; Leanne O'Sullivan; Michael McCarthy, Peter Fallon; Matthew Sweeney. This year's judge is Paul Durcan. **Details here:**  
<http://www.fishpublishing.com/writing-contest-competition.php>

## AUT New Zealand Creative Writing Competition

AUT's fourth annual creative writing competition closes **midnight 28 February, 2013.** There are three categories in the competition:  
**Short story: Emerging** (15 - 20 years)  
**Short story: Open** (21 years and over)  
**Poetry: Open** (15 years and over)  
**Details here:**  
[www.aut.ac.nz/creativewriting](http://www.aut.ac.nz/creativewriting)

## FanStory.com

For when you just want to write and get some feedback. Write a short story... write flash fiction...write non-fiction... At FanStory.com you can share stories and poems and receive feedback. There's something for everyone.  
[http://www.fanstory.com/page/writing\\_contest/writing\\_contest.jsp](http://www.fanstory.com/page/writing_contest/writing_contest.jsp)



**Short fiction – 1000 words**  
 The contest seeks out the best in original short fiction and short memoir.  
[http://www.valhallapress.com/contest\\_termsflash.php](http://www.valhallapress.com/contest_termsflash.php)

**Deadline: February 1, 2013.**

## Winning Writers Current Writing Competitions

[http://winningwriters.com/contest/sports/sp\\_guidelines.php](http://winningwriters.com/contest/sports/sp_guidelines.php)



[http://winningwriters.com/contest/s/tomstory/ts\\_guidelines.php](http://winningwriters.com/contest/s/tomstory/ts_guidelines.php)

**And...** seeking today's best poetry and prose on sports-related themes. Each entry may contain up to 6,000 words. You may submit an unlimited number of entries.  
**Entries close May 31, 2013**

There is \$5,000 in prizes.  
[https://www.winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp\\_subonline.php](https://www.winningwriters.com/contests/sports/sp_subonline.php)

To be honest, you won't need a



warranty with this product . . .

## Competitions

### Fairy Tales and Fables

Judged by **Amanda Edwards**

For **Dec/Jan:**

Write the ballad in fifty words...

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4482>

### Your novel's first 100 words

Judged by **Brenda Segedin**

For **Dec/Jan:**

**As I lay dying...** for all you lovers of romance!

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4456>

### Chinese Whispers...**HOT!**

a group effort – join in!

For **Dec/Jan:**

Add a little something...

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4492>

### What's the Question?

Judged by **Amanda Edwards**

For **Dec/Jan:**

The answer is **53**...

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4474>

### Simplify...

Judged by **Amanda Edwards**

For **Dec/Jan:**

Write a little **PURPLE PROSE**...

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4485>

### Introduce yourself ☺

hosted by **Brenda Segedin**

For **Dec/Jan:**

Tell us about yourself...

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4480>

### That's Life...

Judged by a **forum vote**

**This is going great – join in!**

Write an anecdote of life. Truth or fiction, or let us guess... ☺

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4247>

### Photography Challenge

Judged by **Robert van de Voort**

For **Dec/Jan:**

"Bokeh" is your topic for this holiday challenge.

Ask Robert your photography questions in the forum. He'd be delighted to see your efforts.

Judged by **Robert van de Voort.**

<http://www.nzibs.org/forums/showthread.php?t=4472>

Check out other people's work too.

### From the competitions board:

Here are a couple of the **entries** from Dec/Jan's contests:

#### When the answer is "Page 53."

*"Usage: Bantu is a very offensive word in South African English, especially when used to refer to individual black people" - this was the first entry in the Oxford English Dictionary on . . . can you guess what page?*

Nice entry **Janis van der Laan**

#### The first 100 words...

*As I lay dying, a cool hand gently caressed my forehead. I looked up into the eyes of the woman who had always been my best friend and staunchest supporter - my Mother. All my life she had been there for me. And now, true to form, here she was in my darkest hour, comfort and kindness itself.*

*Leaning over me, her sweet, lilting voice was music to my ears.*

*I've washed, folded and put away the laundry, and done the dishes", she reported. "Here, take your tablets, like a good girl. I'm sure your migraine will be all better soon".*

Nice entry **Nikki Frittmann**

*As I lay dying, hooked up to a myriad of monitors I looked at my wife, so prim and proper—her bible on her lap. Her religious fundamentalism had always kept our marriage in an emotional straightjacket.*

*I closed my eyes and dreamed of Rosie and the wild passion we had shared.*

*I suspected that Myrtle had learned of her but she had never said anything.*

*I had ensured that Rosie would get the apartment and the secret bank account when I died.*

*There was a knock at the door. "You have a visitor," announced the nurse.*

*In walked Rosie... ..*

Nice entry **David Muller**

## Job Opportunities

### [Journalism Jobs in Rarotonga,](#)

#### **Cook Island News**

Looking for a journalism course graduate to start immediately. No closing date.

### [Web Content Editor, Listverse.com, Wellington](#)

Research and editing, social media management, content writing, public relations, etc. No closing date.

### [Photography & Sales Assistant, Magic Memories, Queenstown](#)

Photograph guests at Te Anau Glowworm Caves. No closing date.

### [Marketing Assistant, Destination Coromandel](#)

Help promote the Coromandel region. Closes 18 Jan.

### [Junior Graphics Designer, MCP NZ, Christchurch](#)

Includes print work, designing online website layouts and instore displays. No closing date.

### [Marketing and Communications Assistant, QV, Wellington](#)

Seeking a fantastically convincing communicator. No closing date.

### [Website Assistant, Directories Group, Auckland](#)

Write and update beauty product listings. No closing date.

### [Regional Journalist, Radio NZ, Napier](#)

Sole charge position covering news across the region. Closes 8 Feb.

### [Digital Marketing Specialist, 3rdeye, Auckland](#)

Manage online efforts and drive web content. No closing date.

### [Media Advisor, Westpac, Auckland](#)

Seeking a communicator to interact with a wide range of stakeholders. No closing date.

# THE RUBAIYAT OF OHOW DRYYAM

By J. L. DUFF

With Apologies to  
OMAR



Illustrated by

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

[Not of Philadelphia]

Reprinted as a non-alcoholic example of creative writing for students and graduates.

Wail! For the Law has scattered into flight

Those Drinks that were our sometime dear delight;

And still the Morals-tinkers plot and plan

New, sterner, stricter Statutes to indite.

After the phantom of our Freedom died

Methought a Voice within the Tavern cried:

"Drink coffee, Lads, for that is all that's left

Since our Land of the Free is washed---and dried."

The Haigs indeed are gone, and on the Nose

That bourgeoned once with color of the rose

A deathly Pallor sits, while down the lane

Where once strode Johnny Walker---Water goes.

Come, fill the Cup, and in the Coffee-house

We'll learn a new and temperate Carouse---

The Bird of Time flies with a steadier wing

But roosts with sleepless Eye---a Coffee Souse!

Each morn a thousand Recipes, you say---

Yes, but where match the beer of Yesterday?

And those Spring Months that used to bring the Bock

Seem very long ago and far away.

A Book of Blue Laws underneath the Bough,

A pot of Tea, a piece of Toast,---and Thou

Beside me sighing in the Wilderness---

Wilderness? It's Desert, Sister, now.

Some for a Sunday without Taint, and Some

Sigh for Inebriate Paradise to come,

While Moonshine takes the Cash (no Credit goes)

And real old Stuff demands a Premium.



*The Scanty Stock we set our hearts upon...*

The Scanty Stock we set our hearts upon

Still dwindles and declines until anon,

Like Snow upon the Desert's dusty Face,

It lights us for an hour and then---is gone.

Ah, my Beloved, fill the Cup that clears

TODAY of past Regrets and future Fears---

Tomorrow!---Why, Tomorrow I may be

In Canada or Scotland or Algiers!

Yes, make the most of what we still may spend;

The last Drop's lingering Taste may yet transcend

Anticipation's Bliss---though we are left

Sans Wine, Sans Song, Sans Singer, and---Sans End.

Alike for those who for the Drouth prepared

And those who, like myself, more poorly fared,

Fond Memory weaves Roseate Shrouds to dress

Departed Spirits we have loved---and shared.

Myself when young did eagerly frequent

The gilded Bar, and all my Lucre spent

For bottled Joyousness, but evermore

Came out less steadily than in I went.

The legal Finger writes; and having writ,

Moves on---and neither Thirst nor Wit

Has lured it back to cancel half a line

To give a Man excuse for being lit.

And Bill the Bootlegger---the Infidel!---

When He takes my last Cent for just a Smell

Of Hooch, I wonder what Bootleggers buy

One half so precious as the Stuff they sell.

Oh Bill, Who dost with White Mule and with Gin

Beset the Road I am to Wander in,

If I am garnered of the Law, wilt Thou,

All piously, Impute my Fall to Sin?

Yon rising Moon that looks for us again---

How oft hereafter will she wax and wane;

But, Oh, how oft before we have beheld

Six Moons arise---who now seek Two in vain.

And when Thyself at last shall come to trip

Down that dim Dock where Charon loads his Ship,

I'll meet Thee on the other Wharf if Thou

Wilt promise to have Something on thy Hip.. □