

Which Writers' Archetype Are You?

Pattern Interrupt

“Where your comfort zone ends, your authentic, abundant life begins.” Panache Desai

Do you ever feel that you're in a rut? Are you experiencing writer's block? Do you compare yourself to other writers and fail to write at all?

I was recently engaged in an online class called Creative Un-Bootcamp for Writers by Jacob Nordby, author of *The Divine Arsonist*. One of the recommended books for the course is *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron. Both authors recommend morning pages for stream of consciousness writing from the soul level and artist's dates.

What is an artist date? Anything that interrupts one's daily pattern to honor the artistic senses is an artist's date. It can be anything from a nature walk to a visit to a museum to a weekend retreat for spiritual renewal. The key is to listen to your intuition and follow it.

I also consider taking classes that resonate with my artistic goals a pattern interrupt. Assignments and connections with like-minded participants in the class take me out of the ordinary daily routine and demand stretching to the outer limits of expression.

A huge pattern interrupt for me in Un-bootcamp was the exploration of writers' archetypes. I learned that there are four different archetypes, and although I resonant with all of them, one is more dominant than the others.

Writers' Archetypes

1. **Story Teller:** Comes from the heart with atmospheric details, dialog, and story arc. The story evolves sequentially with a beginning, middle and end. Lessons about life and relationships are taught through stories. The story teller is also called the Shaman. The Shaman sits by the campfire to tell stories that teach to a tribe, usually one main message.
2. **Professor:** Comes from the mind and is linear and detail oriented. The professor makes outlines, analyzes data and teaches “how to” with concrete, factual material. When the professor combines teachings with a story to illustrate the given facts, the teaching becomes more effective and reaches a greater audience.
3. **Herald:** Comes from the mind or heart to tell somewhat random events in short articles such as news stories, videos, and blogs. Passion for a particular issue or current event combines mental concepts with heart felt communication. Many bloggers write about emotional issues dealing with relationships, death, illness, bullying, etc.

4. **Poet/Troubadour:** Comes from the heart to present abstract, holistic, centralized and romanticized ideas and feelings. The poet communicates through feelings, themes and symbols. One “understands” the message without being able to say why.

Which one of these is most dominant to you? Which one feels right for you as a writer? If you aren't a writer, perhaps one of these archetypes would work for you now that you know what they are.

I have written nonfiction workbooks on cooperative learning for children (the Professor) Co-authored a musical, and I am currently writing a science fiction novel for young adults (Story Teller) I often write poetry, mostly as a creative outlet to post on Facebook, and I write blog articles about writing.

Which of these is my dominant archetype? After contemplating each one, to my surprise, I found I resonate most strongly to Poet/Troubadour. This is because I am an emotional, touchy-feely type person. So, I am a Poet/Troubadour *and* a Storyteller. As a blogger, I am the Herald, and I've always been a Professor/teacher. I find it best to try to find balance between the mind and the heart rather than coming strictly from one or the other.

What good does it do to know about the archetypes? Instead of comparing yourself to others, be content to realize you are uniquely talented in your own realm without needing to be like anyone else. For me, knowing my archetype encourages me to write more poetry while continuing to write my novel.

Writers' Style: Plotter or Pantser?

It is also important for me to realize that although many successful authors are Plotters with story boards and a plot all mapped out before beginning to write, it is OK to be a Pantser and fly by the seat of my pants. I am writing a story with a vague idea of setting and characters and the plot develops as I write....Key words: As I write, not before writing. Some people call this channeling or automatic writing. I call it my style of writing. When not writing, I am thinking about the story, but I don't know what is going to happen next in the story until I write it.

Here are some quotes from famous authors to further illustrate my point:

Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It's the one and only thing you have to offer.

– Barbara Kingsolver

A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.
I say it just begins
to live that day.
– Emily Dickinson

Writing a novel is like driving a car at night. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way.

– E. L. Doctorow

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One Lovely Blog Award Nominee

By Lillian Nader

October 10, 2014

Thanks to my friend and writing buddy, Dr. Heather Rivera, I have been nominated for the One Lovely Blog Award. Heather is the author of nonfiction, *Healing the Present from the Past*, and fiction, *Quiet Water*, and *Maiden Flight*. I've read and loved them all, and I am pleasantly surprised to be among those nominated for this award.

One Lovely Blog Award Rules:

1. I need to thank the person who nominated me. *check!*
2. Share 7 things about myself that you still may not know. *check!*
3. Nominate up to 15 bloggers. *check!*
4. Notify the nominees that I have done so. *check!*
5. Put the logo of the award on my blog site. *check!*

Seven things about me you may not know:

1. I am from Marshall, Texas, the home of Bill Moyers and the Great Debaters of Wiley College.
2. My first year of teaching was the first year of integration in Marshall; I was a ninth-grade speech and English teacher.
3. I moved to California in 1981, where I met and collaborated on the musical comedy, *Pandora*, with Larry Marino.

4. I have entered *Pandora* in the Fullerton College 26th Annual Festival of Playwrights, and I am waiting until December to find out if selected.
5. Although I have worked with my dreams most of my life, I attended my first dream work group this week, “The Sacred Dreams” meet-up group.
6. I have been lifelong friends with twins named Narcy and Narcissa.
7. I will be reading excerpts from my novel in progress, *Theep and Thorpe*, at the Writers and Book Festival at SMHAS in Irvine, CA November 1, 2014.

It is my pleasure to nominate:

Carole Marshall: Author of *Reading to Jane*, a novel, and *Maximum Fitness Minimum Risk*, a guide available in e-book or hard copy. I met Carole in the New Best Fiction Author contest. Her site is at <http://www.spiritexplored.com>.

Shawn Allen: Shawn’s lovely poetry is shown here. I met Shawn in online courses for writers. <http://shawnallen50.wordpress.com/>

Mary Dusing: She describes her blog as “...a mixture of poems, rants, prose and pretty much wherever my head’s at.” I met Mary in the Un-Bootcamp for Writers course by Jacob Nordby. www.blueblithers.blogspot.com

Robb Geweniger: Mostly writing about writing with an emphasis on children’s books. I met Robb in Un-bootcamp as well. <http://www.robbserranova.com>

Susan Arthur: Mostly musings about everyday life mixed with my love of photography. Susan was also in Un-bootcamp, and we stay in touch online. <http://freezerburned-suddenlysusan.blogspot.com>

Marilyn Rice: A British author who writes as one of the characters in her novels and she calls herself Lady M. She writes about her appearances at book fairs and other ramblings in the neighborhood and beyond. <http://lookaftereachother.blogspot.com/2014/10/chilwell-last-sunday.html?sref=fb>.

Michele Truhlik: For all you dog lovers: <http://angelsbark.wordpress.com> A blog about life and dogs.

And three more from Un-Bookcamp:

Jasmine Iwaszkiewicz: Find out the Naked truth about Jasmine I. Explore her raw and honest musings on life. <http://jasminei.com/>

Holly Hamilton: Presents a spiritual approach to contemplative action from within. <http://ContemplativeActivists.blogspot.com>

Renata Somogyi Butera: Her subtitle is “Living, loving, and learning to laugh along the way.” She gives a spiritual message in her daily focus. <http://lilypadheart.wordpress.com/>

Happy blog reading to all.

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