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2024 Schedule

The Shenango Valley Pennwriters Craftmasters meets the 3rd Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted from 1-4 p.m. online at their IO Group site. Contact: catherinemclean00@gmail.com

January 20, 2024

Happy New Year!

6 words: thermobaric, ignis, bumfuzzle, fait accompli, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, axe

Writing Challenge: The Tao says change is part of life. Write about change.

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

******judging The Penn Writer word challenge (if anyone submitted their challenge)*

Program—Heists — VIDEO LEARNING and discussion— <https://www.storyflint.com/tags/heists> —
Lecture by Brandon Sanderson "How to Write the Heist Story"

February 17, 2024

Valentine's Day

9 Words: azo-orange, X, wasteful, schist, utter, succulent, henpeck, bittersweet, gadroon,

Writing Challenge: What is inconsequential?

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program— **Mini-workshop** - Aspects of Plot — the 3, 5, 8 acts of a story or play.

Recommended site: <https://screencraft.org/blog/8-sequence-structure-the-best-kept-screenwriting-secret/>

March 16, 2024

Easter is March 31

10 Words: comatose, restrictive, sandbox, pack, lime-green, knockabout, fish, blackberries
corbeau (a very dark green), leprechauns

Writing challenge: Describe a storm and evoke either the power and fury of it or the sublimeness or tranquility of the day before it

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program— Transitions – Discussion on bridging the gaps, the 13 aspects that keep a story flowing

April 20, 2024

8 Words: arraignment, glassy, jump, within, alizarin, methodology, pastor, raven

Writing Challenge: Plant a "seed" (not an actual seed but of the seed of an idea, kindness, hope, doubt, etc.)

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Poetry Month — *In Person Meeting, library location to be announced.*

Discussing methods for outlining a story, extrapolating ideas into stories, articles, essay, etc., fiction and nonfiction

BOOK REVIEW: *The Crafty Poet* x Dianna Lockwood

May 18, 2024

Pennwriters Conference is May 17-19, Lancaster PA

7 Words: rear guard, twenty, valorous, rocambole, embed, tartan, icebound

Writing Challenge: A fox is watching a hen house. What is the fox thinking?

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program— Discussing the Fantasy and Paranormal genres

June 15, 2024

10 Words: ribald, rummage, return, regency, regard, redolent, rutabaga, route, realgar, romance

Writing Challenge: Solve a mystery— there are six identical pairs of shoes lined up in a row in a closet or under a bed, but one shoe is missing. Where is that shoe? Note: the shoe cannot be a dog's new toy nor can the main character be wearing the shoe.

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program— Discussing Fictional Truth - accuracy in creating disbelief, science vs. imagineering, logic flaws, and more

July 20, 2024

8 Words: abruptly, turmoil, knife, puzzle, laconic, drought, radiant, gridelin

Writing Challenge: Describe a still night and include a light source.

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc..*

Program— Grammarly Discussion – Verb tenses in relation to 1st Person, 2nd Person, 3rd Person, Omniscient and all writing

BOOK REVIEW: *Sins and Syntax* by Constance Hale

August 17, 2024

7 Words: taffrail, vacant, label, kimono, feathers, buttons, Anthozoa

Writing Challenge: Write with a highly opinionated, authoritarian-professor voice (a voice beyond your own)

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program— Discussion of new trends in writing: Audio, AI, Podcasts, Video/YouTube, etc.

September 21, 2024

8 Words: alabaster, rage, fruitful, mask, cicala, sugarcane, weakhearted, lain

Writing Challenge: Write about a day in the life of a pencil.

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program—Discussing Back Page Blurbs, Amazon.com summaries, Query Blurbs, Pitches (in preparation for Writers Road Trip #12)

October 19, 2024 **Area 1 Pennwriters *Writer's Road Trip #12, October 5*** — Halloween

In-Person Meeting, library location to be announced.

9 Words: Halloween, gristly, gooey, costume, snorkel, Big Foot, greige, schoolmarm, skeleton

Writing Challenge: Write about the chaos of going trick or treating and meeting an actual ghoul or witch, etc.

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc. and highlights of October 12th's Writer's Road Trip #12*

Program—What drives plot? Is it character, idea, premise? Or is it something else?

November 16, 2024 Thanksgiving — *NaNoWriMo is this month*

6 Words: languid, penology, purple, verisimilitude, rote, lather

Writing Challenge: Write about "little fantasy people" like gnomes, elves, fairies, etc.

+*Movie and Genre Book Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program—Revisiting POV-Viewpoint and how to seamlessly switch narrators

December 21, 2024 *Christmas*

7 Words: zoysia, useful, brimming, impulse, fabricate, Kris Kringle, allegator

Writing Challenge: Write a poem using the letters P E A C E.

+*Movie Reviews, Feedback on WIP, brainstorming, etc.*

Program— The Bad Guys & Gals that are antagonists or the henchpeople to the antagonist

BOOK REVIEW: Bullies, Bastards, & Bitches x Jessica Page Morrell

Note 1: This schedule may be updated from time to time and will be posted for downloading at: <https://www.catherineemclean.com/shenango-valley-pennwriters-craftmasters.html> or available by contacting catherinemclean00@gmail.com

Note 2: For books being reviewed, you are encouraged to get the book from your local library loan system. If the book proves worthwhile to you, consider purchasing a copy from a book seller.

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