

*--Abecedarian Corner--**Inspiration and advice  
for aspiring scribes***A Writing Framework  
by Barry Lee Thompson**

I visit my writing several times throughout the day. Sessions vary from five-minute bursts to extended periods. This way, I can put in a minimum of a couple of hours a day, and often more like four or five. This is a framework. I have a home workspace, a place for my computer, but can work anywhere.

Writing isn't just a physical process of working with words on a page. It's the creative and percolative activity that goes on in the spaces. In other words, the work also happens while walking, reading, daydreaming, riding the bike, poking around, or what-have-you.

I'm never without a paper notebook. I keep the old ones stored in a cabinet. Captured moments—of conversations, song lyrics, glances, peripheral observations—the unorthodox, discordant, and mundane. Here, an obsessive mind might be a fortunate trait.

Short fiction suits my temperament and way of working. A new story can begin from a blank page, or a paragraph or phrase within an existing piece of writing, or from a new or recorded observation. I rarely delete. I circle round until I land on an idea or fragment of material that captures my interest, and then begin to shape it into

a new piece.

Experimentation is thrilling, and I love the idea of development through failure. It's a playful process, and instinct plays a part. Sentences are the building blocks of a story, and proficiency in them gives a reader confidence that they're in capable hands, so allowing greater experimentation within the work.

Reading aloud, and listening to playbacks, I imagine stories as radio performances. Listening enables an objective edit, and a chance to gauge the pace, texture, mood, rhythms, and poetry of the prose.

Writing helps to make life navigable. Anxieties, uncertainties, and ambiguities can be contained and explored on the page through the endless possibilities of fictional forms.

*Barry Lee Thompson is the author of **Broken Rules and Other Stories**, published in 2020 by Transit Lounge. His award-winning short fiction appears in literary journals and anthologies in Australia, the UK, and the USA. He holds a fellowship from Varuna, the National Writers' House of Australia. He is working on his second collection of fiction. For more, visit his website and blog: [barryleethompson.com](http://barryleethompson.com).*

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**MORE FEEDBACK**

"Another helpful issue, but I especially liked 'Fundamentals of Fiction: Learning the Lingo' by Marg Gilks. It's a good primer and reminder."

-- Joy V. Smith, Lakeland, FL

*[You're in luck. Here's Part 2!]*

-- Ed.]

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**Fundamentals of Fiction:  
Learning the Lingo Part 2  
by Marg Gilks**
**Other Mysterious Terms**

What other words might leave you mystified when you start to market your fiction?

- **Advance:** When publishers offer you an advance, they are paying you a portion of your share of projected sales up-front. This is more common in book publishing, but you will occasionally see a publication offering an advance in conjunction with later royalties or a share in profits as payment for your short story. Keep in mind that, if the issue or publication containing your story does not sell well, the advance may be the only payment you receive.

- **Biannual/bimonthly/monthly/quarterly:** If a publication is described as "biannual," it comes out