

A Novel Idea: Growing Through Creative Writing

“The cell was ten feet wide and fifteen feet long; the door was closed to others who had done wrong,” I thought to myself. In reality I was trapped physically, but what of my mind? Questioning myself one day, I thought about what could be accomplished. The need to do something I had never done before was overwhelming. Then I had a novel idea, literally. I wanted to attempt to write a fictional novel. I was never a creative person, but I thought I’d try to write. I couldn’t sing, rap, play an instrument, or draw. I decided to visit the library. Finding out that writing books were scarce, I had to order the books needed for creative writing. Once the books arrived, the books relayed all sorts of writing drills and exercises to creatively write. Doing these exercises gave me the confidence to continue. Next, the books spoke of various forms or patterns to help one get started in writing; things like describing the setting, developing the characters, and dialogue were given in easy patterns that would allow beginners to begin the novel writing process. One book detailed a novel as 40,000 words. The goal was to write those 40,000 words in a single, dedicated month! After reading this essay, I hope the reader may feel ready to dive into the world of creative writing.

Obtaining the ‘right’ source material will help you ‘write.’ The biggest obstacle of creative writing is not having a proper primer to guide you through the process. First, check the library and put a hold request on any writing books in the system. Regardless of the sort of book, a new writer will pull something of use from any book on writing (e.g. grammar, dialogue, etc.). Next, ask your fellow inmates for catalogs on new reduced-priced books. For example, I thought the only access I had was the prison library. After asking one of my fellow inmates, he