

- #1: You admire a character for trying more than for their successes.
- #2: You gotta keep in mind what's interesting to you as an audience, not what's fun to do as a writer. They can be v. different.
- #3: Trying for theme is important, but you won't see what the story is actually about til you're at the end of it. Now rewrite.
- #4: Once upon a time there was \_\_\_\_\_. Every day, \_\_\_\_\_. One day \_\_\_\_\_. Because of that, \_\_\_\_\_. Because of that, \_\_\_\_\_. Until finally \_\_\_\_\_.
- #5: Simplify. Focus. Combine characters. Hop over detours. You'll feel like you're losing valuable stuff but it sets you free.
- #6: What is your character good at, comfortable with? Throw the polar opposite at them. Challenge them. How do they deal?
- #7: Come up with your ending before you figure out your middle. Seriously. Endings are hard, get yours working up front.
- #8: Finish your story, let go even if it's not perfect. In an ideal world you have both, but move on. Do better next time.
- #9: When you're stuck, make a list of what WOULDNT happen next. Lots of times the material to get you unstuck will show up.
- #10: Pull apart the stories you like. What you like in them is a part of you; you've got to recognize it before you can use it.
- #11: Putting it on paper lets you start fixing it. If it stays in your head, a perfect idea, you'll never share it with anyone.
- #12: Discount the 1st thing that comes to mind. And the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th – get the obvious out of the way. Surprise yourself.
- #13: Give your characters opinions. Passive/malleable might seem likable to you as you write, but it's poison to the audience.
- #14: Why must you tell THIS story? What's the belief burning within you that your story feeds off of? That's the heart of it.