

The
Wow

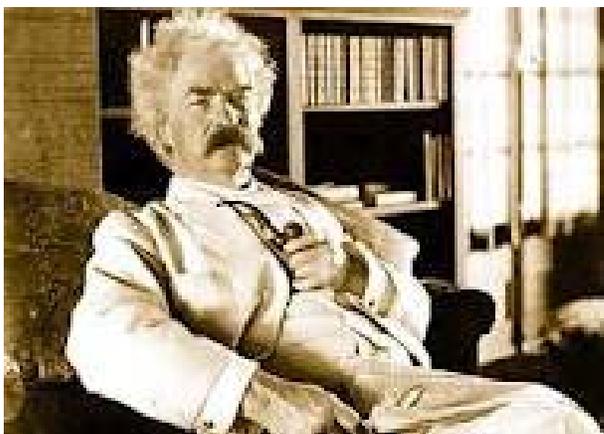
e-newsletter

by Ken and Dahlynn McKowen

Principles

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www.PublishingSyndicate.com



Number 59!

*He is useless on top of the ground;
he ought to be under it, inspiring
the cabbages.*

— Mark Twain

This issue marks our 59th monthly newsletter. We're just one month shy of five years, five years of sharing writing and publishing tips with you, our wonderful Wow readers.

This approaching five-year anniversary is a heady milestone for Ken and me. It's hard to believe we've created so many newsletters and truly hope they have all been fun, informative and interesting. From historical research (October 2008) to interviewing techniques (November and December 2006) to grant writing (July and August 2007), from three concurrent issues on travel writing (June-August 2006) to photo release tips (March and April 2010) to obtaining book endorsements (May 2009), our back list of newsletters is full of information every writer needs to know. (*All 58 issues can be found on the Publishing Syndicate website.*)

But I'll share a secret with you; this issue has been one of the most difficult to create thus far. Usually we line up newsletter topics months in advance and game plan at the end of the each month for the next month's issue. Due to a huge workload of other urgent publishing projects, I started this issue particularly late, mid-month to be exact. It was then Ken and I realized that the topic slated for September was better suited for the October issue, so we pushed the schedule forward. Suddenly, we had a gaping hole in the schedule and no topic for September.

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Contact Publishing Syndicate at
Writer@PublishingSyndicate.com



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For days I fretted: nothing came to mind that was the least bit interesting. Over the last 58 issues, we have written on nearly every subject possible on the craft of writing and then some. Now I was stuck. What was I going to write about for this issue? As the week passed, I became more frantic. Yesterday, Ken said, “Write about writer’s block.” Duh! We are always telling writers to write about what they know, and Ken’s suggestion was the perfect topic for this issue.



One of my favorite authors in the entire world is Mark Twain. Twain (a.k.a. Samuel Clemens) would play billiards when this dreaded writing curse hit; writer’s block was a constant for him, so much so that he had his pool table brought up to the third floor of his Hartford, Connecticut, home and placed in the same room where he wrote. I’ve read nearly everything on Clemens and one fun bit of trivia I have learned was that he was a pool shark before the term was even coined. Either the great author was naturally gifted

when it came to the sport or he experienced many bouts of writer’s block!

I, on the other hand, cook when I can’t write. Needless to say, I’ve been in the kitchen a lot the last week or so and have the new recipes to prove it. Over the years, I’ve gotten to the point in my cooking that my teen son eggs me on (no pun intended) in trying out for reality television cooking shows, the latest being Gordon Ramsey’s *Master Chef* series. He probably isn’t aware that cooking is therapy for me. Cooking helps to calm me when I’m stressed and gets the juices flowing when I’m stuck on a writing project. Creating a dish is a lot like writing. It’s inspiring. It’s stimulating. When I get into my groove, the ingredients gel as one to make a wonderful dish, just as my words flow onto a page when I’m not stymied by writer’s block. And yes, a cabbage recipe was on my list last week, long before I remembered the quote by Twain, which prefaces this article!

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I had planned on closing this article with tips on overcoming writer's block, but instead, I'm going to refer you to the three links below, especially the first one that showcases ten great sites to try should you be experiencing a bout of this dreaded writing disease. And please send me your tips on overcoming writers block: we may showcase a few of them in October's issue.

— Dahlynn 

10 More Websites that Help Cure Writer's Block with Writing Prompts by Saikat Basu
<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/10-websites-cure-writers-block-writing-prompts>

Top 10 Tips for Overcoming Writer's Block by Ginny Wiehardt
About.com: Fiction Writing -- <http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/writingroadblocks/tp/block.htm>

Writer's Block Help

<http://www.writers-block-help.com/index.html>

Three New Titles Added to NYMB series!

We added three new titles to our current list of 25 titles for the *Not Your Mother's Book* (NYMB) series:

- On Being a Cougar (self-explanatory?)
- On Holidays (any holiday!)
- On Special Occasions (any occasion!)



Visit our website to submit your stories today! www.PublishingSyndicate.com

Dream
of
ThingsSM

Last chance story call-out!

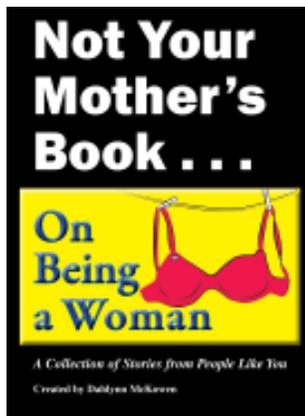
Dream of Things needs more travel stories for their travel anthology, which will be published later this year. Deadline: October 15th

www.DreamofThings.com

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HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF! HOT STUFF!

As of September 30, 2011



Not Your Mother's Book & *OMG! My Reality!*

Thank you for all the stories submitted thus far for *Not Your Mother's Book* and *OMG! My Reality!* We've added three new titles, thus making 28 titles in the works. See page 3 for the info. Story submissions and info can be found at www.PublishingSyndicate.com.

My Story is Out: High School Years by Lyndsey D'Arcangelo



Lyndsey

The nation's newest anthology series for the LGBT community!

Wow! We're excited about our new anthology series, one that will help LGBT teens. Go to www.MyStoryIsOut.com for submission guidelines and more!

Deadline: 1/1/12 (Publisher: Publishing Syndicate)

Dream of ThingsSM

Mike O'Mary at *Dream of Things* has a great line-up of anthology books, all of which need stories. When you pop into his fun website, click on the "Workshop" tab. There you'll find the list of titles in need of stories!

**Also see Pg. 3 of this newsletter
for a last chance call-out!**

www.DreamofThings.com



Chicken Soup for the Soul has great writing opportunities. Visit their website for info!

www.ChickenSoup.com

Chicken Soup for the Soul

Go for it! Get published!