



APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER WRITERS TIPS

Teresa's Quote of the Month

"Writers should play to their strengths."

Every writer has strengths and weaknesses. Some excel at character development, others at plot. Some write dialogue that is spot on, some write descriptive passages that make you sigh. The point is to know your strengths and your weaknesses and work around them. Most writers know what their strengths are. They tend to come easier to us than the things we struggle with. And we know because every time we try to write a simile that fails, our writers' groups or trusted readers point them out.

Somewhere in our writing journey, many of us got the impression that to be a truly "great" writer we had to be able to wield all the tools of the trade. But it's not true. Just like some singers will never hit that high note, some writers will never master metaphor. But you can still write prose that moves people. This doesn't mean you shouldn't try to work on your weak points and try to improve them. Like weight lifting, some of us can beef up our prose with enough practice. Still, few of us will ever bench press 500 pounds and few of us will write Pulitzer Prize-winning books, but we can write *our* best books and take pride and pleasure in those.

Writing Blogs to Check Out:

Check this website which lists the "Top 100 Creative Writing Blogs" according to Best Colleges Online: <http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2009/02/05/top-100-creative-writing-blogs/>. Some great blogs in here, but I'm sure there are more. Let me know if there's a blog you really like.