

Mammoth Rider

Author S.J. Poyton's Writing Tips



Here are a few tips for budding writers, I - S.J. - have learnt on my writing journey. Maybe some will help you.

General

Here are some things that have helped me, just a few hints and tips, to think about when you are writing.



S.J. Poyton
Is neurodiverse
with dyslexia,
dyscalculia and
dyspraxia

- Write about something that you love, if you are excited about it, it will show in your writing and make it more exciting to read.
- Feed your brain. Creativity needs to be nourished. You can't paint without paint, or play an instrument without an instrument. You can't make stories without ideas. Ideas come from your creative mind. Feed your mind, by reading, watching films and documentaries, going on walks, observe and build a library of ideas in your brain ready to use when you write.
- If you hear something interesting, a story, fact or turn of phrase, then write it down, so you don't forget it.
- Use a thesaurus to make your vocabulary more exciting. For example use terrified instead of scared.

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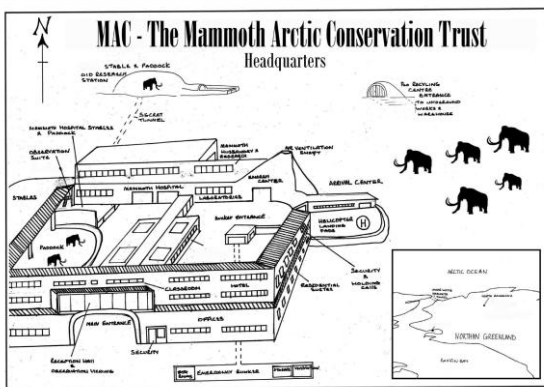
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World Building

Writing is more than just putting pen to paper or text on screen. I often start by drawing maps of the world. When you are world building think about.



- Drawing maps of your world.
- Create an encyclopaedia of animals and plants in your world
- Writing down the rules of your world
- Collage and draw images of places in your world so you can visually see them.

Characters



Sometimes it's useful to do non-writing tasks to get a better understanding of your characters. I often draw my characters and interview them to get to know them...

- Get creative do character profiles, draw or find photos of what your characters look like. Plus write down facts about them.
- Make sure you write characters the readers will really root for.
- Interview your characters to get a better understanding of them, think of yourself as a reporter asking them questions. Work out a set of questions to put to each of your characters then interview them. For example...
 - Are you a morning or evening person?
 - What's your favourite snack?
 - What are you scared of?

These are just suggestions – get your thinking cap on and make up your own.

What's your favourite snack?



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Toys

When it comes to creating stories, I don't just write, I draw, I dream and I play – WITH TOYS.



I often draw characters and setting to help me really immerse myself in the world. But I also play with toys. For the action sequences, where lots of characters are doing different things, I use a map and toy figures - mammoths, Pop Vinyl's, and toy cars and helicopters to plot the action. It also helps me to bring a cinematic feel to the writing and build up tension. I find it also helps to free up my creativity and circumnavigate the dreaded writer's block!



Writing Action

- Don't make it too easy for your heroes. Think of it like a computer game levelling up. There are lots of little challenges to overcome before the big battle.
- Do little mini-cliff hangers – within scenes – where you stop the action and go to another thing happening and then come back. Making the reader wait to see what happens builds tension.

Write your own way

There are loads of ways to write, so find you own ways. Here some things you can try and see if they work for you...

- Record yourself telling the story. Type it up afterwards, or ask for help typing it up, or use software to convert your recording into text.
- Write scenes out of order. You can edit them together later – like a movie is filmed out of sequence then edited together.
- Write what you know is going to happen, and if there are gaps, feel free to leave them and write them in later.
- Get to end of the story, the go back and edit and check your spelling and grammar.

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