

OUR JULY 2026 MEETINGS

Compiled by Genny La Morgan, Kat Collins, and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met at the Sans Souci West Club House, on Friday July 10, at 2:00 pm. Attending were: Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Cat Collins, Joel Crag, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Gary Edwards, Sue Eller, Mark Lee Golden, Anna Goodwin, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Genny La Morgan, Amy Logan, Dave McChesney, John Miller, Carl Northrup, Debby Putman, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. G. Maeve Aeolus joined us as a guest.

Vice President Sue Eller introduced Erik Schubach who provided us with tips, tricks, and challenges of writing a series. Among his suggestions: Always think of your work as a series. (Writing a series is usually easier for those referred to as “pantsers” than it is for those known as “plotters” or “planners.”) It may be possible to spin a new series off of a current one.

Don’t spend money unnecessarily. Use social media for free advertising. Join reader groups to become a part of the community, but don’t sell there. Advertise yourself as well as your books.

Follow the rules you establish for your world. It’s possible to lose readers if you break those rules.

Select as many applicable genres and categories as possible to get your book nearer the top of the sales performance list for a specific category.

Ask for honest reviews from readers. “There is no such thing as a bad review.”

Following a break, we heard from Denise and D. J. Guy who shared a little about their recent trip to Europe with us. And their “Stuffies.”

Carl mentioned that the Garlic Festival up north was cancelled for this year. He also said he is very close to finishing and publishing *Yank*.

Debby Putman said she had been able to place copies of her book in a store back east that was on land that had been owned by her family 400 years ago.

As is usual for our gatherings, we finished by drawing winning numbers for donated door prizes.

Spokane Authors also met at 6 pm on Wednesday the 15th of July at the Sans

Souci West Club House. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Genny La Morgan, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton.

The meeting was called to order by Sue Eller at 6:05 pm. She was also our speaker and talked about *Story Structure*. Sue recommended use of *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White, commonly priced at \$5 to \$10. This book is considered to be *The Bible* for fiction writing. Another resource is Reedsy.com

Sue pointed out that different fonts have different sizes. Bookman Old Style 12 point is bigger than Times Roman 12 point. Depending on what font and other settings you use, you might end up with up to 400 or 500 words per 8.5" x 11" page.

The main reason for *Story Structure* is to grab readers' interest and hold it. If they want to know more, they will keep reading.

Different genres and types of writing have different word count expectations. Novels are generally considered to be works longer than 50,000 words. Choose the approximate word count for your writing project. Choose the lowest level genre, then all categories above are included.

Act 1: Divide the total number of words into chapters/acts to set your goal.

Hook: Get readers interested immediately. Establish the "normal" then your turning point.

Key Event: Toward the end of the 1st Act. Your 1st plot point. When everything changes for the antagonist. Readers should be hooked by this point in your book.

Act 2: You should have about 50,000 words by the end of Act 2. Your protagonist is in Reaction mode. Keep building your story.

Midpoint: Things start to change. 2nd major plot point. Protagonist takes action/is on the offensive.

Act 3: 25,000 words or so farther in. Your 3rd plot point. Everything changes again.

Climax: The point of the whole story and the final plot twist.

Resolution: Ties up loose ends and provides an answer to the Hook.



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