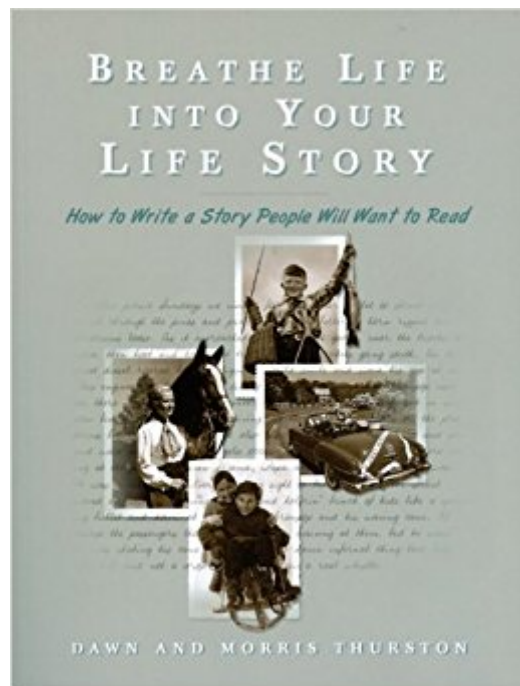




The book was found

Breathe Life Into Your Life Story: How To Write A Story People Will Want To Read



Synopsis

Breathe Life into Your Life Story[®] is an essential read for anyone who aspires to write a life story[®] "but not just any story, one your family and others will actually WANT to read. Written for both novices and experienced writers, this book presents techniques used by novelists to immerse readers into their fictional world[®] "techniques like "showing" rather than just "telling"; creating interesting, believable characters and settings; writing at the gut level; alternating scene and narrative; beginning with a bang; generating tension, and more. Excerpts from memoirs written by such pros as Maya Angelou, Frank McCourt, Russell Baker, and many others illustrate how best-selling authors have used these methods to hook their readers. Dozens of "Learn by Doing" exercises help readers practice and acquire the skills necessary to breathe life into their own stories.

Book Information

Paperback: 228 pages

Publisher: Signature Books (July 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1560850949

ISBN-13: 978-1560850946

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #768,479 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Academic & Commercial #3018 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > Creative Writing & Composition

Customer Reviews

The authors push the aspiring writer to achieve a victory over fear and uncertainty. Breathe Life is a great introduction to writing that even experienced authors will find helpful. It is highly recommended. --Jeff Needle, AML Reviewer
The authors know the pain of learning to write well and are beside you through the struggle. If you stick with them they will make you a better writer.
--Richard Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History Emeritus, Columbia University
The Thurstons are both experienced writers of family history. Dawn is a writing teacher and Morris a retired lawyer. As a result, this book is unusually creative in trying to teach readers how to write; they have some very good ideas. --Deseret News

"This is a powerful book--and a kindly one. The authors know the pain of learning to write well and are right beside you through the struggle. They may shake you up a little with their concrete, practical recommendations, but if you stick with them they will make you a better writer. You will learn if only by paying attention to their own fluid style. They show as well as tell."--Richard Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History Emeritus, Columbia University; recipient of the Bancroft Prize for *From Puritan to Yankee: Character and Social Order in Connecticut, 1690-1795*

I've purchased a few books in the personal history genre as gifts for friends and family. When I decided to start writing my own story, I reviewed what was available and then chose Morris Thurston's book. I'm glad I did. I'm rating this five stars even though I'm less than half way through the book so far. I do this in good conscience because I've already gained far more than I expected from the entire volume. If taken seriously, Thurston's book is not light reading because he gives assignments that take time. I have found these assignments interesting and beneficial. This is a book one must work through rather than simply read. The benefits received will be directly proportional to the effort expended. There are a number of products available to help people remember and record their past. While Thurston touches on the subject of recalling memories, his emphasis goes beyond that. He maintains that it is not enough to recount memories, rehash facts, or preach wisdom. Rather, Thurston says authors will not make an impact unless they hold their readers' interest. And in order to do so, Thurston recommends understanding and employing effective story telling techniques as used by good, professional writers. In doing so, Thurston does not suggest fabricating experiences. He simply encourages and shows authors how to tell their own experiences in an interesting way. You don't have to be a professional writer to benefit from Thurston's book. I'm no pro, and I have no ambition of sharing my (ordinary) story with anyone other than my descendants. But I didn't want to risk the effort of writing a life history without it having much impact on anyone. So I am taking his recommendations to heart. I believe Mark Twain once said something like, "Of course, truth is stranger than fiction -- fiction has to make sense." Thurston shows authors how to tell their life stories in a way that makes sense.

Wonderful help with lots of suggestions and creative ideas.

I learned of Dawn Thurston's life story writing classes through a flyer posted at my local genealogy society. Now, wherever you live, you, too, have access to this superb teacher's encouraging and

practical ideas. In *Breathe Life into Your Life Story*, Dawn gives suggestions of topics to write, where to begin, specific methods to create a scene, how to let your feelings show, and how to write with a focus. She provides examples of effective writing from her students and recommends a reading list of published memoirs. For me, the Thurston book is a resourceful writing companion and a reminder of the value of putting my life on paper. My mother didn't have a copy of this new book to inspire her to leave us her stories. How I would love to have her recorded memories now. For the holidays, I will send copies of *Breathe Life* to my sister, her daughters, and at least one cousin. If we don't write our stories, who will?

Great book, very helpful suggestions to help writers understand how to organize / develop a memoir that is worth reading.

This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in writing memoirs or personal histories. Every page is filled with useful tips, excellent samples, and easy exercises to stimulate a writer's (or non-writer's!) creativity. I found every page useful and interesting, and have been effective in putting the teachings to work immediately. Definitely a book I will refer to again and again!

Book was really helpful as I transcribed my mother's handwritten autobiography into a form her kids and grand kids would read. Took some liberties with quotes but according to the book, it's perfectly OK. THANKS TO GREAT TEACHERS.

This is a great resource book. Enjoyed the course that the author presented some of these ideas in.

Received it quickly and it was as described! Thanks!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Breathe Life into Your Life Story: How to Write a Story People Will Want to Read
How to Analyze People: Human Psychology
Read People Instantly, Read Body Language and Know What People Want,
How to Read Minds
Breathe, Mama, Breathe: 5-Minute Mindfulness for Busy Moms
How to Write History that People Want to Read
This book will teach you how to write better: Learn how to get what you want, increase your conversion rates, and make it easier to write anything (using formulas and mind-hacks)
How to Write Your Irresistible Home Page in 7 Simple Steps: Your Blueprint to Website Home Page Content that Converts Visitors into Leads & Clients (How to Write... Book 3)
How to Write the Perfect Personal Statement: Write powerful essays for law,

business, medical, or graduate school application (Peterson's How to Write the Perfect Personal Statement) All In One: Part 1,2,3 & 4 -- Write a Detective Novel, Write a Good Mystery, Red Herrings, Hiding & Finding the Clues: Help With Writing A Detective Novel (Write Me Dearly) The 30 Day Romance Novel Workbook: Write a Novel in a Month with the Plot-As-You-Write System (Write Smarter Not Harder) Guys Write for Guys Read: Boys' Favorite Authors Write About Being Boys My Mueller Spiral-Ultra Vegetable Spiralizer Cookbook: 101 Recipes to Turn Zucchini into Pasta, Cauliflower into Rice, Potatoes into Lasagna, Beets into ... Slicer! (Vegetable Spiralizer Cookbooks) Fun-Schooling for Beginners - Bible Bunny Learns to Read: 30 Bible Verses - Read, Write and Spell - Ages 6 - 9 (Homeschooling with Faith, Art & Logic) (Volume 1) Instant Personal Poster Sets: Read All About Me: 30 Big Write-and-Read Learning Posters Ready for Kids to Personalize and Display With Pride! Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them (P.S.) How To Analyze People: How To Read People And Master Human Psychology In Less Than One Day (Body Language, People Skills, Human Mind Book 1) Breathe Easy, Young People's Guide to Asthma You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together Let's Measure It! Learn to Read, Math (Learn to Read, Read to Learn: Math) HOW TO START A BLOG THAT PEOPLE WILL READ: How to create a website, write about a topic you love, develop a loyal readership, and make six figures doing it. (THE MAKE MONEY FROM HOME LIONS CLUB)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)