



## Swanton Writers Group Newsletter April 2024

The Swanton Writers Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6 PM at the Swanton Library. All writers or anyone interested in writing are welcome. The April meeting will take place on Thursday, April 18, at 6 -7 PM at the Swanton Library. For more information, contact Becky Rupp at [rebeccarupp@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccarupp@gmail.com)

The Writing Prompt for this month is anything – anything - to do with an eclipse. (We're writers, right?? Give it a try and come share!)

### IN THE NEWS:

The Write Start Competition from Roadmap Writers at <https://www.roadmapwriters.com/pages/write-start-competition> is looking for manuscripts of all genres, to connect with literary agencies and publishers. Submit the first 20 pages of your manuscript (and a fee of \$35) to enter. Deadline is May 31.

The Reedsy Prompts Contest just looks fun – participants get five prompts a week; submit your story for a chance to win \$250. Sample prompts:

Start or end your story with a character who gets trapped in a museum overnight.

Write a story from the point of view of a nonhuman character.

Write about a backstabbing gone wrong.

Check it out at <https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/>.

For the Rattle Poetry Prize, submit up to four poems per entry. (The \$30 entry fee gives you a one-year subscription to *Rattle* magazine.) First prize is \$15,000. Deadline is July 15. See <https://www.rattle.com/prize/guidelines/>.

Got a children's book? The Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition – for writers who have not previously published a children's novel – is looking for a completed full-length

novel for kids between the ages of 7 and 18. First prize is a publishing contract with Chicken House and a royalty advance. Deadline is June 1. For more information, see <https://www.chickenhousebooks.com/uncategorized/the-2024-times-chicken-house-childrens-fiction-competition-is-now-open/>.

From the Historical Writers' Association, submit an unpublished short story set at least 35 years in the past of up to 3500 words. Deadline is July 1. For more details, see <https://historicalwriters.org/awards/ddshwass-award-2024/>.

Got a good Covid story? The Vermont Historical Society is collecting Covid-19 pandemic stories. If you've got one to tell, see <https://vermonthistory.org/collecting-covid-19/>.

## BEST BOOKS FOR WRITERS

Got something to recommend? Just contact me!

By Ben Blatt, *Nabokov's Favorite Word Is Mauve* (Simon & Schuster, 2018) is subtitled "What the Numbers Reveal About the Classics, Bestsellers, and Our Own Writing" – and it's a hoot, crammed with cool stories and infographics demonstrating – for example – just how many writers use adverbs and exclamation points, and how many American (vs. UK) writers use the word "brilliant."

For essay writers, *Models for Writers* by Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz (Bedford/St. Martin's, many editions) is a wonderful resource – though if you're interested, buy it used; it's often touted as a college textbook, which means that the initial price is enough to curl your hair. This is a collection of wonderful essays by a wide range of authors – with discussion questions (share with your book club?) and suggested writing projects. The advantage: everybody needs to read good examples.

For memoir writers, see William Zinsser's *Writing About Your Life* (DaCapo Press, 2005), a chatty and delightful how-to book about how to write about your past.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*It takes an awful lot of time to not write a book.*

Douglas Adams

Best to all,  
Becky