

This Chapter: learning from the masters

Read the Tips for Relatable Characters and Tips for Dialogue.
Read: using the five senses and the model plan.

Excerpt 1: Shakespeare's soliloquy

- ◆ Analyse a variety of imagery : using the five senses.
- ◆ Practice writing your own event - use at least three sensory images.

Excerpt 2: The Drover's Wife (Henry Lawson)

- ◆ Analyse the story-telling ingredients in Lawson's short story. (See annotations.)
- ◆ Lawson's writing style: note the use of dialogue and sparse descriptions.
- ◆ Use Lawson's story as a "model" for your own story. See the "Model Plan" and the tips for Relatable Characters.

Robert Louis Stevenson learned to write effectively by imitating passages of admired writers. By study and hard work he made the most of what he described as his 'smaller gift'. 'I rankly believe I have done more with smaller gifts than almost any man of letters in the world.

'Whenever I read a book or passage that particularly pleased me. I wish there was either some conspicuous force or some happy distinction in style, I must sit down at once and set myself to ape that quality. I was unsuccessful .. but .. I got some practice in rhythm, in harmony, in construction and the co-ordination of parts.'

Excerpt 3: A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)

- ◆ Note in particular the conversation between Fred and Scrooge which revolves around a simple but meaningful discussion of Christmas. Pay particular attention to the dialogue, tone, mannerisms.
- ◆ Write your own conversation between two characters with opposing views. What is the outcome? See the Tips for Writing Dialogue.

Excerpt 5: My Brilliant Career: Miles Franklin

- ◆ Sybylla's story is relayed in a first-person narrative style. Notice her distinct "voice" and story-telling devices to convey the depth of her frustrations.
- ◆ Note Sybylla's conflict with her mother and with her conversation with her grandmother. Pay particular attention to the dialogue, tone, mannerisms.
- ◆ Using the model, write your own story on inter-generational conflict.

Excerpt 6: The Rugmaker

- ◆ While The Rugmaker is written in the first-person narrative style, there are excerpts that resemble a monologue. This excerpt can be read as such.
- ◆ Read the summary of a "monologue" and write your own. Notice the point he is making about his reflections. The irony: the more he tries to think of something deep and meaningful, the more he is thrown back to simple or impossible questions.
- ◆ Write your own monologue-style reflection.

Excerpt 7: Face in the Mirror - Blossom Beeby

- ◆ In the first person narrative style, Beeby reflects upon her identity. She uses a series of mirror images to think about her experience of difference.