

The Power of Words

Student Resource Material

Related Print Materials

Selected Works by Academy of Achievement Panelists

- Ambrose, Stephen E. *Eisenhower: Soldier and President*, Touchstone Books, 1991 and *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. Touchstone Books, 1997. Ambrose has written extensively about World War II and published two books on the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- Dove, Rita. *Selected Poems*, Pantheon Books, 1993; *Mother Love: Poems*, W. W. Norton and Company, 1996; *Grace Notes: Poems*, W. W. Norton and Company, 1991. Rita Dove has also written several more volumes of poetry, a verse play, and a novel.
- Lucas, George, et al. *The Art of Return of the Jedi: Star Wars : Including the Complete Script of the Film; The Art of Star Wars: A New Hope*; and *The Empire Strikes Back*, Del Rey, 1997. Many additional books on the *Star Wars* Trilogy and on George Lucas are available.
- Shields, Carol. *Small Ceremonies*, Penguin Reprint, 1996; *The Republic of Love*, Penguin, 1993; *Departures and Arrivals*, Blizzard Publishing, 1990. Carol Shields has published numerous additional novels, the most recent *Larry's Party*, Penguin, 1998.
- Simpson, Alan K. *Right in the Old Gazoo: A Lifetime of Scrapping with the Press*, William and Morrow, 1997.
- Tan, Amy. *The Joy Luck Club*, Ivy Books Reprint, 1994; *The Kitchen God's Wife*. Ivy Books, 1992; and *The Hundred Secret Senses*. Penguin, 1995.

The Writing Process

- Elbow, Peter. *Writing Without Teachers*, Oxford University Press, 1998; *Writing With Power: Techniques for Mastering the Writing Process*, Oxford University Press, 1998. First published in 1976, *Writing Without Teachers* pioneered the free writing approach to drafting and the peer review approach to revision. The lack of emphasis on final drafts in this first book led to Elbow's publication of *Writing With Power*. Both have been widely used for teaching the writing process.
- Johnson, Jean. *Bedford Guide to the Research Process*, Bedford Books, 1997. Bedford Books titles are good introductions to high school and college research, composition, and literary studies.
- Keane, Christopher, et al. *How to Write a Selling Screenplay: A Step-By-Step Approach to Developing Your Story and Writing Your*

Screenplay, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1998. This is one of the best selling and most positively reviewed books on getting started with screenplay writing.

- Lindemann, Erika. *A Rhetoric for Writing Teachers*, Oxford University Press, 1982. A comprehensive guide to teaching and practicing writing.
- MacRorie, Ken. *Uptaught* (Innovators in Education Series), Boynton/Cook, 1996; *The I Search Paper*, Heinemann, 1988; and *Telling Writing*, Boynton/Cook, 1989. *Uptaught*, first published in 1970, represented a revolution in writing instruction by calling attention to the need for positive reinforcement during the prewriting and drafting process, arguing quite correctly for the importance of the connection between the student's self-esteem and his ability to be productive as a writer.
- Murray, Donald M. *Expecting the Unexpected : Teaching Myself and Others to Read and Write*, Boynton/Cook, 1989; *Write to Learn*, Harbrace Jovanovich College and School Division, 1998. Donald Murray is a nationally known teacher of the writing process. *Write to Learn*, the best of numerous books on the writing process, takes the reader through the writing process, modeling and explaining each step, as the author develops a fascinating narrative essay about his grandmother.
- Sorenson, Sharon. *How to Write Short Stories*, Macmillan, 1998. In its third edition, this is an update of a tested guide for writing well-constructed stories.
- Wallace, Robert. *Writing Poems*, Addison-Wesley, 1996. An excellent introduction to poetry and guide to writing poems.

The Creative Process

- Cameron, Julie. *The Artist's Way : A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*. J. B. Tarcher, 1992. This work is widely used by prospective artists in many fields to inspire creativity.
- Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly. *Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention*. Csikszentmihalyi uses the term "flow" to refer to the ability to transcend time and body through a creative task. He interviewed nearly 100 creative people for this book and develops concepts about the nature of creative people and the creative process.
- Gardner, Howard E. *Art, Mind, and Brain: A Cognitive Approach to Creativity*, Basic Books, 1984; and *The Arts and Human Development: A Psychological Study of the Artistic Process*, Basic Books, 1994. This eminent Harvard educator who developed the theory of multiple intelligences analyzes the nature of creativity in these works.
- Maslow, Abraham. *Toward a Psychology of Being*, John Wiley &

Sons, 1998, and *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*, Arkana, 1993. These classic works define the self-actualized person and explore the personality traits common to creative people.

- May, Rollo. *The Courage to Create*, W. W. Norton, 1994. This is a reprint of a classic book on the creative process.

Related Web Sites

Academy of Achievement Panelists

Ambrose, Stephen E.

[Amazon.com: Stephen E. Ambrose](#) and [Lewis & Clark: Corps Discovery Film by Ken Burns](#).

Explore a list of Ambrose's many publications on the history of World War II and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Click on titles for reviews and reader responses to these works. At the site on the Ken Burns film on Lewis & Clark, go to [Living History](#) to discover the role Stephen Ambrose played as a scholarly contributor to this film.

Dove, Rita

[Rita Dove: Vita](#); [The Circle Association's Rita Dove Page](#); [Lady Freedom Among Us](#)

These web site provide information about Rita Dove's professional career and examples of her poetry.

Lucas, George

[George Lucas Educational Foundation](#) and [LucasLearning](#)

These sites provide information about George Lucas's educational and creative enterprises as well as links to other sites about these activities.

Shields, Carol

[Amazon.com: Carol Shields](#)

Explore a list of books by Shields (ignore books by Carol Diggory Shields and Carol L. Shields). Click on titles for more information.

Simpson, Alan K.

[Amazon.com: Alan I. Simpson](#)

Explore a review of Simpson's book, *Right in the Old Gazoo: A Lifetime of Scrapping with the Press*, and skim the book's first chapter to see if you want to read more.

Tan, Amy

[Anniina's Amy Tan Page](#); [The Salon Interview: Amy Tan](#)

These web sites provide a personal introduction to Amy Tan and information about her works.

Literary Allusions

Gilbert and Sullivan

[Yahoo! List of Gilbert and Sullivan Societies](#)

Alan Simpson mentions that his father's versions of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas inspired his interest in words and wordplay. This late 19th century British composer and lyricist remain extremely popular today as this list of Gilbert and Sullivan Societies in England and American shows.

O'Connor, Flannery

[Flannery O'Connor Page](#) and [The Flannery O'Connor Collection](#)

Quoting Flannery O'Connor, Amy Tan says that if you survive childhood you have enough writing material for a lifetime. O'Connor lived a rather short and restricted life. These web passages provide insight into her life and works.

Plath, Sylvia

[Plath, Sylvia: 1932-1963](#) and [Academy of American Poets: Sylvia Plath](#)

Rita Dove shares an eloquent comment on the influence of Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy" on her own journey toward freedom of self-expression. Find out about Sylvia Plath's achievements and her short, tragic life and read the poem "Daddy" at the Academy of American Poets web site on Plath.

Sayers, Dorothy

[The Dorothy Sayers Society](#)

Carol Shields uses a phrase from Sayers, "undergoing a novel," when she describes the writer's experience of the creative process. The British writer, Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957), is one of the 20th century's most popular writers of detective fiction.

Shakespeare, William

[Mr. William Shakespeare: Shakespeare and the Internet](#) and [Shakespeare's Globe](#)

George Lucas points out that in his day, Shakespeare had to write for the technology available to him, composing a text that worked well dramatically despite a bare stage and limited lighting. Similarly, script writers and film directors today work within the medium available to them. Links at the first web site

takes you to many Shakespeare theaters in the U.S. and the second site to the recently reconstructed Globe Theater in London.

Woolf, Virginia

[The Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain](#)

Carol Shields describes the great fear Woolf, despite her gifts as a writer, experienced with each new publication as she awaited the public's response to her work. Woolf has become a model for women writers, and her book, *A Room of One's Own*, explores the difficulty women have in finding a space, physically and socially, for writing.

Toole, John Kennedy [A Confederacy of Dunces Index Page](#)

Toole's novel is mentioned in response to a student's question about how to get published. Ambrose quips, "Write a good book." Then the panel acknowledges that Toole wrote a good book, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, which was rejected 28 times and only published posthumously. Professor Gregg Hecimovich, Eastern Illinois University, teaches the novel and maintains this web site.

Career Corner

Writing is an important skill in many different careers, including:

- journalism and television news reporting
- television and film script writing
- teaching
- editing
- university research and scholarship
- webmaster and writer for internet pages
- technical writing
- law

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