



DISTRICT ONE StoryMasters

Stories at The StoryMasters Club's Program

Stories on October 8, 2023

Jon White	The Scarlet Letter V
Camille Miller	The Seeds of A Dream
Pieter Severynen	Diabetes 2, The Slow Epidemic



Our next program is Sunday, November 12, 2023 @ 3-5pm. [Please RSVP](#) and join us! (*Members do not need to RSVP*)

Storytelling Stub

Conflict Matters

by Margaret Mitchell

We need to build conflict into our stories. Conflicts are such an important ingredient in storytelling to make your story engaging.

Types of conflict:

- **person versus person**, where the character struggles against an adversary, opponent, or competitor.
- **person versus society**, where the character confronts societal obstacles, such as racism or sexism.
- **person versus nature, or the supernatural**, where the character struggles against extreme or dangerous conditions that exist in nature, or that cannot be explained by science or rational means.
- **person versus self**, where a person struggles against competing aspects within his or her own personality, or being.

Six tips about how to build conflicts into your story:

1. Identify what your character wants most at that stage of his or her life, and the steps that they are willing to take to get to it.
2. With your character's goal in mind, determine the most obvious logical obstacles that will prevent them from getting what they want.
3. With all of your character's traits in mind, determine what will be essential in helping him or her overcome the hurdles that are in front of them.
4. Again, with all your character's traits in mind, identify where there is room for growth, or what their limiting factors may be. What is stopping them from crossing the finish line, and how can they overcome it?
5. Figure out the different ways that your character might change. What are the consequences of those changes?
6. Consider how your secondary characters can bring your story's conflicts to life either by opposing or supporting your primary character or protagonist



Margaret L. Mitchell is a storyteller and poet who lives in Compton, CA. Her personal stories reflect her belief in the resilience of the human spirit and the ability of people to reach their highest potential. She has performed in storytelling concerts at Stories by the Sea, Institute of Musical Arts, and San Francisco Free Folk Festival, as well as story swaps. A retired administrator for the City of Compton, she enjoys mentoring and training others to become more effective communicators. She studies storytelling with acclaimed storyteller Barbara H. Clark.

STORYMASTERS BOOK

The Storytelling Bistro

Fifteen diverse StoryMasters offer true personal stories, fanciful fiction, poems, and thoughts in this captivating collection of short works, perfectly sized for tossing into your bag to read at the beach, park, waiting in a business lobby, or enjoying a few quiet moments at home. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we do! Copies are available on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/7XPoTcT>



UPCOMING STORYTELLING EVENTS

Many enchanting storytelling events keep coming up. Check them out on [our event page!](#)

Nov 11 Strong Words

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/strong-words-november-11-2023-tickets-744246048967>

7:30 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: St. Francis Center

Cost: \$10

The evening will be crisp, but the words will be hot!

Join us for a magical evening of storytelling + live music in Atwater Village.

It promises to be a beautiful evening in their glorious outdoor courtyard.



Nov 12 VAMP LA ~ Heat

<https://thevictorytheatrecenter.org/tickets-events/backstory>

8:00 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: Bar Lubitsch

Cost: \$10

November's Los Angeles show is an opportunity to meet the dog days head on, writing about the moments that were motivating by boiling blood, burning forests, baking sidewalks, overclocked tempers, and however else our band of storytellers interprets the theme to turn their thermometers red.



Nov 21 RISK!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/risk-tickets-689486612017>

7:30 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: The Lyric Hyperion

Cost: \$20

RISK! is the show where people tell true stories they never thought they'd dare to share.



TELLABRATION!™ 2023

<http://www.storysaac.org/sacs-tellabrationtrade-events.html>

Welcome to TELLABRATION!™, storytelling celebrations worldwide in November. Guilds and storytelling enthusiasts all around the globe will share their storytelling talents in concerts held in cities and towns to celebrate the art of storytelling.

The following TELLABRATION!™ events are only a selection of the numerous shows. (Zoom links available at URL above.)

- Inland Valley Storytellers & Asian American Storytellers in Action
Saturday, Nov 11, 2023 at 2:00pm-4:30pm Pacific Time
- San Diego Storytellers & Delta Wordweavers
Sunday, Nov 12, 2023 at 2:00pm-4:00pm Pacific Time
- Do Tell Story Swap
Tuesday, Nov 14th at 7:00pm-9:00pm Pacific Time
- Sacramento Storytelling Guild & South Coast Storytellers Guild
Sunday, Nov 19th at 3:00pm-4:30pm Pacific Time
- Southbay Storytellers & Listeners
Sunday, Nov 19th at 7:00pm-8:30pm Pacific Time

Check out more events at: <https://thestorymasters.org/events/>

Disclaimer: Events are posted as a service to our members, friends and the storytelling community. Posting is not an endorsement.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

You Don't Know What You Don't Know

My friend, a Japanese professor specializing in human sciences, recently traveled to North Carolina with the intention of studying racism and anti-racism initiatives. During her stay, she encountered various instances of racism, both overt and subtle, irrespective of their scale.

When I inquired about her feelings regarding the racism she encountered, her response was rather empathetic: “I felt sorry for them. They seem unaware of the broader world’s perspectives.”

It reminded me of the recent AI study. Researchers tasked AI with generating images of black doctors assisting white children. Surprisingly, even with the specific request, the AI consistently depicted doctors as white and children as black. When they requested images of traditional African healers aiding white children, the AI bizarrely adorned a white child with multiple beaded necklaces — a caricatured version of African dress. The AI’s limitations were evident due to a lack of diverse dataset.

It underscores a fundamental truth: we are often oblivious to what we do not understand. Sometimes I find myself cringing at Japanese behaviors that may be unintentionally offensive to other cultures, but these actions are often accepted in Japan due to limited exposure to the world outside. While they welcome travelers from across the globe, holding the small island mentality, many people don’t really understand outside of the small island.

When we tell stories, it is imperative to consider our audience. Success with one group does not guarantee universal acceptance. If somebody gives you constructive criticism, embrace it. Such critiques present an invaluable opportunity to expand our knowledge and view our stories from new angles. They reveal what we did not know before.

Reference: [AI was asked to create images of Black African docs treating white kids. How’d it go?](#)

EDITOR'S NOTE

What A Month!

What an incredible birthday month it has turned out to be!

Our much-anticipated production, “You Say What!” was a resounding success at the Santa Monica Playhouse, as part of their Binge Fringe Festival (BFF). The inspiration for this show stemmed from my solo performance, “How To Be Japanese: Your Normal Is Not My Normal.” The idea of incorporating diverse perspectives from immigrant storytellers quickly materialized into a fantastic lineup featuring Martine Brousse (France), Roy Cruz (the Philippines), Lichelli Lazar-Lea (the U.K.), and Frank Traynor (Argentina). Our stories covered a wide array of topics, ranging from the American dream to healthcare and immigration. In addition, we had the pleasure of having Jon White as our charming host, making it the proverbial icing on the cake.

The enthusiasm and commitment of each storyteller were evident as they brought their A-game to the stage. The audience’s response was overwhelmingly warm and positive, making this a truly remarkable experience.

The refreshment table, thoughtfully curated by the Santa Monica Playhouse, featured an assortment of snacks and toys representing each country. It was a hit with the attendees!

The excitement didn’t stop there. Just three days later, I had the opportunity to perform at the Moth LA SLAM Showcase, a groundbreaking event as it marked their first showcase in Los Angeles.

What set it apart was the absence of competition and judges, a format I appreciate. Due to my schedule, I rarely have the chance to attend Moth SLAM events, so being invited was a stroke of extreme luck.

The event took place in the exquisite Tom Bradley Theatre in Downtown Los Angeles, where an enthusiastic audience gathered to immerse themselves in beautiful music and a series of captivating stories. The night took on a magical quality, and what made it even more special was the presence of so many familiar faces among the audience.

Friends, thank you for your continuous support!

— Miyo Yamauchi

