

Writer's Meetup

June 15, 2007

Introductions: (Give your name, your genre, and what you expect from a writer's group.)

Announcements:

Seeking co-organizer, Membership fees.

Costs of Meetup.com is \$9.00 a month, so if you can donate spare change, this would help deviate the costs for me.

Anyone interested in helping as co-organizer let me know. The job would basically welcome members to the group, helps with ideas and workings of the group.

Writer's Challenges/Contests:

Writer's Challenge

A Storm is Coming.....

Use the sentence as the first sentence or the very least the concept of your writing a story. Long or short, doesn't matter. You could also explore poetry or use in non-fiction.

Sharing: Google Docs & Spreadsheets <http://docs.google.com/>

This online service is free to use, and utilizes many features to provide collaboration and the means for our group to share our work.

- Provides many formats to which you can upload and save. This includes MS Word (.doc), OpenOffice (.odt), a web page (HTML), Rich Text Format (.rft) and more.
- Online service. This allows a reasonable means to back up important documents, as well as the convenience to share through the Internet.
- Collaboration is the biggest feature to look at. Not only can you pick and choose who you wish to read and edit your work, you can also provide a simple URL link to your document so that others can a read-only copy. The collaboration, however, allows readers to edit or leave notes right there on your document.
- One little service the Google Docs & Spreadsheets is also to link up to online blogs for those of us who use them. I find some online journals do not allow certain formatting. Using this service allows you to create entries in formats you like, not the typical boring stuff the default settings of your blog allows

Writer's Tips:

Page Counts

In most cases, industry standard preferred length is 250 words per page... so a 400 page novel would be at about 100,000 words. If you want to see what size book is selling in your genre, take a look on the shelves. If the average length is 300 pages, you're looking at a 75,000 word manuscript (approximately)

One reason it's harder for a new author to sell a 140,000 word manuscript is the size of the book. A 500+ page book is going to take up the space of almost two, 300 page books on the shelves. It's also going to cost more for the publishers to produce, so unless the author is well known, the book stores aren't going to stock that many copies of the 'door-stopper' novel as compared to the thinner novel.

<http://www.fictionfactor.com/articles/wordcount.html>

How long is your story?

Micofiction	= up to 100 words
Flash fiction	= 100-1,000 words
Short Story	= 1,000 - 1,7500 words
Novelette	= 7,500 - 20,000 words
Novella	= 20,000 - 50,000 words
Novel	= 50,000 - 110,000 words
Epics/Sequal	= over 110,000 words