

# Writers Weekend: The Journey Continues

with author, Jane K. Cleland

September 30, 2011 to October 2, 2011

All topics include:

1. A lecturette about the element or process being discussed
2. An exercise or experience
3. Writing
4. Debriefing
5. Q&A
6. Summary and reflections

## Detailed Agenda

Day/Time	Activity	Description
Friday, 5:00 to 6:30	Check-in/register and welcome	
Friday, 5:30 to 7 p.m.	Cocktail Reception	Renew friendships: Meet Jane and your fellow writers, cash bar
Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.	Dinner	Enjoy a sumptuous dinner—wine included!
Friday, 9 to 10 p.m.	Writing Emotional Truth: Lessons from the Heart	Welcome, updates on how we're all doing, brief remarks from Jane, and our first writing exercise
Saturday, 7 to 8 a.m.	Optional Tour of the Grounds	Led by the chief groundskeeper; learn the secrets of the Endicott Mansion gardens
Saturday, 7 to 8:30 a.m.	Endicott Breakfast Buffet	Enjoy the full breakfast buffet!

Saturday 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.	<b>Topic One: POV/Perspective</b>	<p>Whether you write adult novels, children’s literature, plays, essays, memoirs, creative non-fiction, or poems, finding the correct <b>POV/ perspective</b> is the first decision you must make. Should you write from a 5 year-old boy’s POV or his mother? Or both? Should you use first person or third? Should you use multiple POVs? These decisions set the tone for the entire project. Getting it right gives you a real leg up in getting it sold.</p> <p><u>Exercise:</u> A 360° View of a Crisis</p>
Saturday, 9:45 to 10 a.m.	Break	
Saturday, 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.	<b>Topic Two: Three-Prong Plotting</b>	<p>People read stories (fiction and non-fiction) because they want to know what happens next. Using Jane’s <b>Three-Prong Plotting</b> technique ensures your plots are suspenseful and surprising, which keeps people turning pages, and lead to a satisfyingly inevitable ending, which makes your writing resonate with emotional truth.</p> <p><u>Experience:</u> The Architecture of Plots</p>
Saturday, 11:15 to 11:30 a.m.	Break	
Saturday 11:30 to 12:45 a.m.	<b>Topic Three: Dialogue</b>	<p><b>Dialogue</b> should <i>do</i> something, not just <i>say</i> something. What secrets will your characters reveal (or keep under wraps)? What opinions will they share (or keep to themselves)? Each character must speak with a unique voice, using his or her own cadence, slang, and “verbal tics.”</p> <p><u>Exercise:</u> Whatja say?</p>
Saturday, 12:45 to 2 p.m.	Lunch	
Saturday, 2 to 3:15 p.m.	<b>Topic Four: Conflict</b>	<p><b>Conflict</b> pierces readers’ hearts; it makes them root for one side or the other; it</p>

		forces them to read on. Conflict runs deeper than superficial divergent views—the ones we want to read about derive from a passionate do-or-die commitment.  <u>Exercise:</u> Fire and Ice: Using Opposites to Drive Conflict
Saturday, 3:15 to 3:30 p.m.	Break	
Saturday, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.	<b>Topic Five: Action Scenes</b>	All writing benefits from <b>Action Scenes</b> . It's not, "He was cold." It's not "He felt cold" (although that's better). It's, "He stomped across the room and raised the thermostat." Action brings feelings to life. Whether you're writing a "shoot 'em up" thriller, a slice-of-life memoir, or a humorous essay, show the action, don't merely describe the feeling.  <u>Experience:</u> The Deserted Swimming Pool
Saturday, 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.	Wine & Cheese Pairings	Taste delectable wines and cheeses and discover why certain pairings bring out the best in each.
Saturday, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.	Cocktail Reception	Discuss your day and the writing life with Jane and your fellow writers, cash bar
Saturday, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Dinner	Enjoy a sumptuous dinner—wine included! <u>Keynote:</u> "Dream Big: Living the Writer's Life "
Sunday, 7:00 to 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Yummy!
Sunday, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.	<b>Topic Six: Storytelling</b>	<b>Storytelling</b> brings characters to life. It's the synthesis of plotting, dialogue, and action. Bring your imagination and watch your writing flow!  <u>Exercise:</u> Five Words a Story Makes.
Sunday, 9:45 to 10:00 a.m.	Break	

<p>Sunday, 10:00 to 11:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Group Debriefing: A Writer's Life</b></p>	<p>Let's talk about living <b>A Writer's Life</b>, honing your writer's voice, and moving forward.</p> <p><u>Exercise</u>: Reflections on Writing</p>
<p>Sunday, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Brunch</p>	<p>Over another sumptuous meal, Jane will offer observations and reflections on our your next steps in your writing journey.</p>