

## SESSION 5 HOMEWORK

# **YOUR LAST CHANCE TO WRITE A DROP-DEAD POWERFUL ENTRY**

Writers, every day you come to school and I try to do a bit of drumroll to help you write well. Tonight, I'm going to ask you to give yourself that drumroll, to design your own minilesson or work your own magic so that you set yourself up to write the most powerful entry you've written yet—giving you more entries to choose from next week, when you will choose one entry to work on for a very long time.

To do this for yourself, you'll want to decide whether you want to rely on our chart of "Strategies for Generating Personal Narrative Writing," or whether you can just sit, pen in hand, waiting for an idea to nibble. "It's like fishing," as William Stafford says.

The other thing you will need to decide upon are the conditions in which you can do your best writing. Will you be writing alone, doors shut, away from everyone? Will you write at the kitchen table, in the midst of the hubbub? Will you be listening to music? Many writers have almost a fetish about the conditions they need in order to do their best writing. One famous writer writes standing up at a counter. Another needs the smell of sliced roasted apples to do his best work. Some go to busy coffee shops and write amidst the hubbub. Annie Dillard built herself a writing shed so she could be all alone, and even though the shed has a picture window looking out over the ocean, she puts her desk to the wall, looking away from the ocean, because she's desperate to focus.

So do what you need to do to write a smashing entry.