

Day 11

Today, let your writing be permeated by your environment. If you can, take yourself somewhere visually or sonically rich and write there, allowing the sights or sounds and energy of that place to seep into your language. Even if you can't schedule an excursion, write in a new spot within your normal radius.

Warmup: Minute List Pairs

Choose four or five minute-list categories but do them all as word pairs (orange car, velvet jumper, etc.).

Tuning Your Monster

Somewhere once I came across the phrase, "He gave birth to a monster of his imagination," I think in reference to a philosopher. As a tuning, seek out resident images or seeds of images in your imagination that you could nurture into something monstrous. Look for traces of inchoate smashers, destroyers, squashers, devourers. You could think of this in relation to writing temperament, as a pathway into embracing wrongness, going against whatever rules of good behavior you've absorbed. Or you could use this to conjure a monster, in which case you should give your monster a name and then think about how the monster might teach you something or help you notice possibilities that your non-monstrous writer mind wouldn't.

Use this tuning exercise as a way to ask yourself about what good behavior and bad behavior mean to you as a writer, about internalized rules and about impulses you rarely allow yourself to follow.

Generator: Monster Soliloquy

Start with the tuning exercise above. Then let the monster soliloquize, if you conjured one. If you instead found a monstrous inclination to follow as a writer, then try picking a short passage from your writing at random and expanding it, letting it become slowly infused by your monster temperament, your disregard for all that is right and proper.