

Day 9

Today, let something jump into your writing from a skew line, a weird orbit, a region otherwise in your blind spot.

Today, let something old and familiar and beloved also show up in your writing. Welcome your old friend and introduce it to the newcomer.

Warmup: Ostentatious Labeling

Draw a map of the room you are in including its many objects. Label each one in a baroque, ostentatious manner. Where you could use one word, use four. Let this serve as your vocabulary warmup for the day. Perhaps publish a few confessions by way of these wordy labels.

Tuning: Self-Interview with Borrowed Voice

Return to the self-interview exercise (see Day 2). Start by asking yourself what's been surfacing in your writing. Try asking yourself that question in the voice of one of your favorite interviewers. Let each successive question follow up on something specific in the prior response, asking for clarification, pushing back or challenging the idea.

Generator: Bookshelf as Image Pantry

Go to your bookshelves and open one of the books you've meant to read but haven't, one that's been waiting for you for a long time. Scan the pages until you find an object or image to borrow from it. Start from that object or image and write two short narratives using the same starting point. Let the first be a fairy tale. Let the second be a voiceover for a fictional documentary, in the voice of someone telling a story about the documentary subject when they were a reckless young person.

