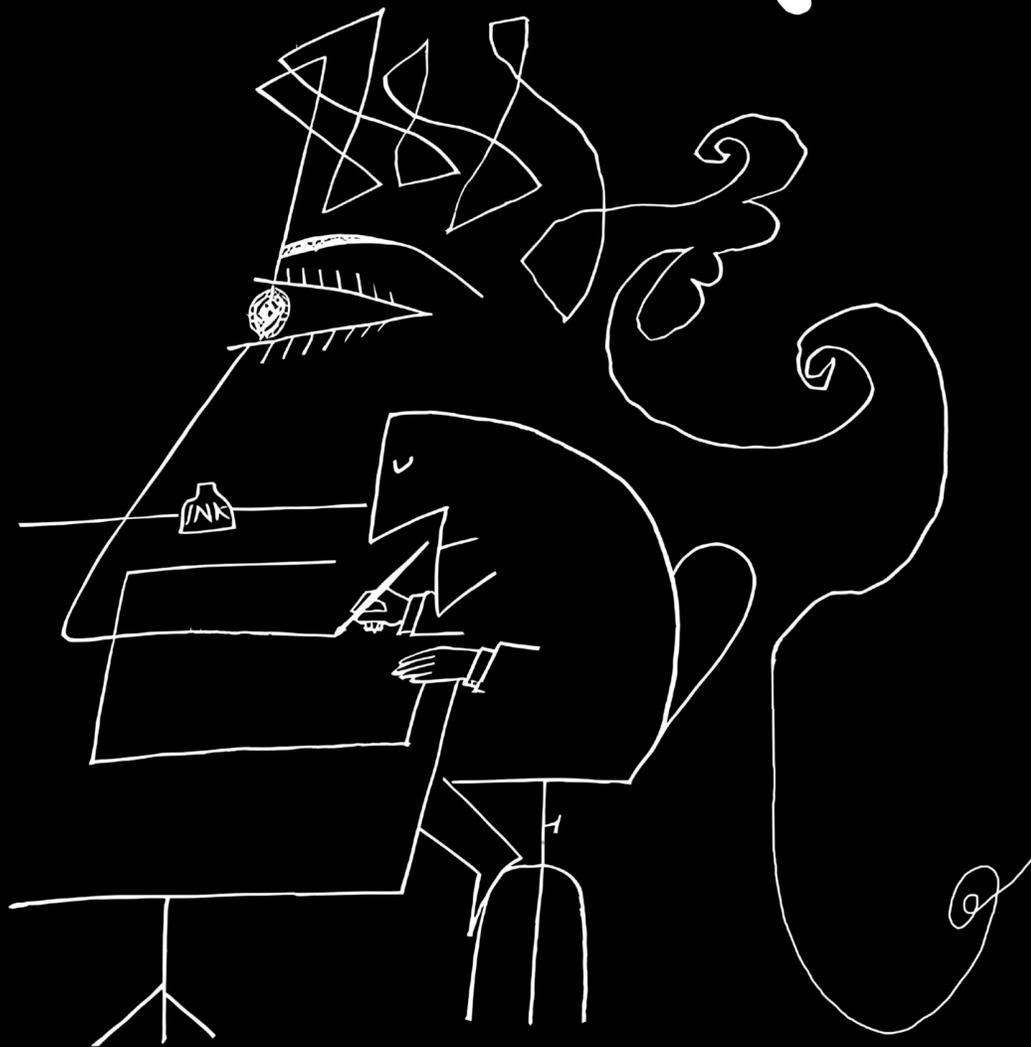


DARKNESS OF AUTHOR



VIBHAV

DARKNESS
OF
AUTHOR
a nonfiction

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A. Finding Story – Significance of story to an author

To an author, a story is like a child that they have brought into the world. It is a creation that they have nurtured and brought to life through their imagination and hard work. Like a parent, an author has a deep emotional connection to their story, and its significance goes far beyond just the words on the page.

A story is a reflection of an author's innermost thoughts, feelings, and experiences. It is a manifestation of their creativity and a representation of their unique perspective on the world. It is a labour of love that they have poured their heart and soul into, and they hope that others will see its value and appreciate it as much as they do.

Just as a parent watches their child grow and develop into a unique individual with their own personality, an author watches their story take on a life of its own as readers engage with it and interpret it in their own way. The story becomes a part of the literary world and takes on a significance that goes beyond its creator.

Overall, a story is a deeply personal and meaningful creation to an author; much like a child is to a parent. It is a testament to their creativity, hard work, and unique perspective on the world and its significance extends far beyond the page.

But what about an author without a story? 

Not long back ago, I found myself in a big problem: I had absolutely no story to write! This was not just writer's block or a case of temporary creative drought. No, this was something far more serious - a complete lack of imagination, inspiration, and ideas. I tried everything to come up with a story. I read books, watched movies, talked to people, and even went on a three-month journey across the world to find inspiration. But no matter what I did, I just couldn't come up with a single good idea.

At first, I tried to ignore the problem and just pretend that I had a story to write. I would sit down at my desk every day, stare at the blank page in front of me, and try to will a story into existence. But this

approach didn't work for long. I quickly realized that I couldn't write a story out of thin air, no matter how hard I tried. Then, I tried to write a story about not having a story. I thought that this might be a clever and funny way to address my problem while still producing something that people might want to read. But this idea quickly fell apart too. I realized that writing a story about not having a story was just as difficult as writing a regular story - maybe even more so!

In a fit of desperation, I tried to write a story without any plot, characters, or conflict. I figured that if I could just get words on paper, I could worry about making sense of them later. But this approach led to a disjointed and confusing mess that nobody wanted to read. Finally, I decided to take a break from writing altogether. I went for long walks in the park, played video games, and binged on Netflix shows. I figured that if I couldn't write a story, I might as well enjoy myself in other ways.

But even this approach didn't work for long. I soon realized that I missed writing more than I thought I would. I missed the thrill of coming up with a new idea, the satisfaction of putting words on paper, and the joy of seeing a story take shape. I knew that I had to find a way to get my creative juices flowing again. So, I decided to try something new. I signed up for a cooking class, joined a dance troupe, and started practicing meditation. I figured that by learning new skills and experiences, I might be able to find inspiration in unexpected places.

And you know what? It worked! One day, while I was doing a headstand in my yoga class, an idea suddenly came to me. It was a story about a yoga instructor who falls in love with a student who can't do a headstand. I was ecstatic - I finally had a story to write! Of course, I had no idea where the story would go from there. But that didn't matter. For the first time in months, I had something to work with. I went home and started writing feverishly, tapping away at my keyboard until my fingers ached.

And you know what else? The story was terrible. It was clichéd, poorly written, and full of plot holes. But I didn't care. I was just happy to be writing again. I knew that with a little work, I could turn this terrible story into something that people might actually want to read. And so, I did. I rewrote the story, added new characters and plot twists, and polished the writing until it shone. And you know what? It turned out to be pretty good! Not great, mind you, but good enough to get published.

The moral of the story? *Sometimes, when an author doesn't have a story, they just need to take a step back and try something new. Whether it's learning a new skill, experiencing a new hobby, or just taking a break and enjoying life, inspiration can come from unexpected places. Writing is not just about putting words on a page. It's about living life, having experiences, and being open to new ideas. The best stories come from a place of authenticity, and that can only come from living a rich and full life.*

So, if you're an author who's struggling to come up with a story, don't give up hope. Try something new, explore new experiences, and be open to inspiration in unexpected places. Your next great story might be just around the corner.

An author finds inspiration in places, things and situations where nobody else can:-



The life of an author; sitting alone in a room, staring at a blank page, waiting for inspiration to strike. But not just any inspiration, no. The kind of inspiration that comes from places, things, and situations where nobody else can find it. It's a gift, really. Some might call it a curse, but those people are just jealous that they can't tap into the same well of creativity as us authors. We're like magicians, conjuring stories out of thin air, weaving words together in ways that make our readers laugh, cry, and sometimes even question their very existence.

But where does this magic come from? Well, my reader friend let me tell you. It comes from the most unlikely of places.

Take, for example, the time I found inspiration in a bowl of cereal. Yes, you read that right. A bowl of cereal. I was sitting at my desk, staring at a blank page (as usual), when I decided to take a break and make myself some breakfast. As I poured the milk over my Cheerios, something stirred inside me. A voice whispered, "What if the Cheerios were actually tiny aliens, and the milk was their spaceship?"

And just like that, I had my next bestseller (in my wildest dreams)

Or how about the time I found inspiration in a traffic jam? I was stuck on the highway, bumper to bumper with a million other cars, when I noticed a seagull perched on a nearby telephone wire. It was just sitting there, watching the chaos below, and suddenly it hit me. What if the sparrow was actually a spy, gathering Intel on the humans below? And what if it had a partner, a pigeon who was working for the other side?

That one went on to win the Pulitzer (another crazy dream)

But my greatest inspiration came from the most unlikely of sources. It was a dreary day, the rain pouring down in sheets outside my window. I was feeling particularly uninspired that day, and I couldn't even bring myself to open my laptop. So, I did what any self-respecting author would do in that situation. I took a nap.

But as I slept, something strange happened. I had a dream, a vivid and fantastical dream that was unlike anything I'd ever experienced before. When I woke up, I grabbed a pen and paper and started scribbling down everything I could remember. It was the beginning of a new book, one that would change the world.

The book was about a man who could control the weather with his mind. He started off using his powers for good, bringing rain to drought-stricken areas and stopping hurricanes in their tracks. But as he

gained more and more control, he became corrupted by his own power. He created snowstorms in the middle of summer, and he caused tornadoes just for the fun of it.

The book was a massive success, and it even inspired a Holly-Bolly blockbuster. But the most amazing thing was that people started reporting their own dreams to me, telling me about the strange and fantastical worlds they'd visited while they slept. It was like I'd tapped into some kind of collective unconscious and I was the only one who could bring these dreams to life. So, you see, my readers. Inspiration can come from the most unlikely of places. It can come from a bowl of cereal, a traffic jam, or even a nap. And as authors, it's our job to be open to these moments of magic, to be receptive to the whispers of the universe.

But don't worry if you're not an author. You can still find inspiration in your own life, in the everyday moments that might seem mundane. You just have to be willing to look for it. For example, have you ever been stuck in a long line at the grocery store, staring at the candy bars and magazines near the checkout? Maybe you've noticed the people around you, the way they stand and shuffle their feet, or the things they've placed in their carts. Maybe you've wondered about their lives, their dreams, and their struggles. Well, my friend, that's inspiration right there. Those little moments of observation and curiosity can lead to some of the most powerful stories.

Or maybe you've been on a walk in your neighbourhood and noticed something peculiar. Maybe it's a house with a unique garden, or a statue in the park that seems to have a secret story behind it. Maybe you've seen an animal doing something unexpected, like a squirrel stealing a slice of pizza from a trash can. Again, that's inspiration. Those little moments of surprise and wonder can spark your imagination and lead you down unexpected paths. And if all else fails, just remember that inspiration can come from the most ridiculous things. Maybe it's a weird dream you had, or a random thought that popped into your head while you were brushing your teeth. Maybe it's a pun you heard on a TV show, or a typo in a newspaper headline. The point is, inspiration is all around us. It's just a matter of being open to it, and willing to let it guide us on our creative journey.

Of course, as authors, we like to think that we have a special connection to these moments of magic. We like to believe that we're the chosen ones, the ones who can take these sparks of inspiration and turn them into something beautiful and profound. But let's be real. Sometimes, we're just making stuff up as we go along. And that's okay. Because at the end of the day, it's not about where our inspiration comes from, or how we turn it into a story. It's about the joy of creation, the thrill of putting words on a page and seeing where they take us.

1. An author's journey of going to weird places to find stories?



An author's journey of going to weird places to find stories is like a spelunker exploring deep and dark caves in search of hidden treasures. Just as a spelunker must be willing to navigate treacherous terrain and brave the unknown in order to discover valuable gems, an author must be willing to venture into strange and sometimes uncomfortable places to find the inspiration for their stories. Both must be persistent and courageous, and both will likely encounter unexpected obstacles and challenges along the way. But just as a successful spelunker emerges from the depths with a sense of accomplishment and the rewards of their efforts, an author who ventures into the unknown may return with a rich and unique perspective on the world that can inform and enrich their writing.

An author's journey of going to weird places to find stories:-



Authors are like intrepid explorers, venturing into the great unknown in search of inspiration. Except instead of maps and compasses, they rely on coffee and a good imagination. The life of an author is a journey of constant exploration, a quest for new experiences and perspectives that can breathe life into their writing. And sometimes, the path to inspiration leads down strange and unexpected roads - into the alleys and backstreets of forgotten neighbourhoods, or out into the wilderness where the secrets of nature lie waiting.

For some, going to weird places might be scary, but for authors, it's like going to Disneyland - except with less Mickey Mouse and more monsters. The prospect of venturing into these weird places may be daunting, even intimidating. But for the intrepid writer, it is a thrilling opportunity to uncover hidden treasures and reveal the hidden truths of the world. It is a chance to push beyond the boundaries of the everyday, and to immerse oneself in the strange and the surreal.

As the author sets out on this journey, they may find themselves navigating through unfamiliar landscapes - the gritty streets of a seedy metropolis, the eerie silence of an abandoned factory, the twisting tunnels of an ancient catacomb. But with each step, they are forging new pathways in their mind, exploring the boundaries of their imagination, and opening themselves up to new possibilities. These authors are like Indiana Jones, navigating through ancient catacombs and uncovering lost treasures...except with less whips and more laptops

In these weird places, the author discovers stories that are waiting to be told - tales of love and loss, of heroism and betrayal, of beauty and horror. They encounter characters who are strange and fascinating, who challenge their preconceptions and offer new perspectives on the world. And they uncover settings that are rich and vibrant, that speak to the soul and capture the imagination.

These weird places authors visit are like a buffet of inspiration - they encounter all kinds of characters and stories that make their mouths water...or their pens write faster.

Through it all, the author is driven by a sense of curiosity and wonder, a desire to see the world with fresh eyes and to tell stories that are bold and true. And as they journey into these weird places, they find that they are not only discovering new stories - they are also discovering themselves. The author's journey into these weird places is like a Choose Your Own Adventure book - except instead of making choices, they make stories.

For the author, Going to weird places is like getting lost in a corn maze - except instead of being scared and hungry, the author is excited and inspired. The act of going to weird places is not just about finding stories to tell, but also about personal growth and self-discovery. As they push themselves out of their comfort zone and into the unknown, they develop resilience, resourcefulness, and adaptability - all essential qualities for a successful writer. They learn to embrace the unexpected, to appreciate the beauty in the strange and the unusual, and to find meaning in the most unlikely of places.

And ultimately, the author's journey into these weird places becomes a reflection of the human experience itself - a reminder that life is full of mystery, adventure, and wonder, and that there is always more to discover if we are willing to take the risk and venture into the unknown, like a spiritual pilgrimage - except instead of finding inner peace, they find inner stories

Emerging from the weird places is like coming out of a cocoon - except instead of turning into a butterfly, the author turns into a published author. As the author emerges from their journey, they carry with them a newfound appreciation for the complexity and diversity of the world, a deeper understanding of themselves and their craft, and a wealth of stories that will inspire and captivate their readers for years to come.

In the end, the journey of going to weird places to find stories is not just a quest for inspiration, but a transformative experience that shapes and enriches the author's life and work. It is a reminder that, in the words of the great writer J.R.R. Tolkien, "not all who wander are lost" - and that sometimes, the most beautiful and profound discoveries come from wandering into the strangest and most unexpected corners of the world. Going to weird places to find stories is like a treasure hunt - except instead of gold, the author finds ideas.

Take for example, *Ernest Hemingway* travelled the world to find inspiration, and we all know what they say about travel - it broadens the mind and shrinks the wallet. Hemingway is known for his adventurous spirit and love of travel, which often inspired his writing. In the 1930s, he travelled to Spain to cover the Spanish Civil War, an experience that inspired his novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. He also lived in Cuba for many years, where he wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* and other works. Hemingway's travels allowed him to immerse himself in different cultures and gain a unique perspective on the world, which is reflected in his writing. He was known for his spare, understated style, which captured the essence of his experiences and the people he encountered.

Or, *H.P. Lovecraft's* stories were inspired by his travels to ancient, mysterious places - which just go to show that sometimes the best stories are the ones that have been around for centuries. He is a master of horror fiction who is famous for his vivid descriptions of otherworldly creatures and settings. His writing was heavily influenced by his love of science, as well as his interest in the occult and the supernatural. Lovecraft often drew inspiration from his travels, especially to places with a sense of ancient mystery and history. For example, his visits to New England's old towns and cemeteries inspired many of his stories, including "*The Dunwich Horror*" and "*The Shadow over Innsmouth*." Lovecraft's unique blend of scientific knowledge, occult lore, and vivid imagination has made him a seminal figure in the horror genre.

Overall, these authors demonstrate the power of going to weird places to find stories. By immersing themselves in different cultures and environments, they were able to gain unique perspectives on the world and create works that continue to captivate and inspire readers today. Going to unknown places to find stories is like going on a rollercoaster ride - it's thrilling, it's scary, and it's guaranteed to make you feel alive.

2. Hanging with random people for an author to find stories.



Hanging out with random people to find stories is like casting a wide net in the ocean to catch fish. By interacting with a variety of individuals, the author is able to gather a diverse range of perspectives, experiences, and insights, much like how a wide net can catch a variety of fish species. Just as the fisherman must be patient and persistent to catch a good haul, the author must also be willing to engage with different people and actively listen to their stories in order to find the most compelling ones to write about.

As an author, I find inspiration in the most unexpected places. It's not always easy to come up with new ideas, but I've learned that the key is to keep an open mind and embrace the unknown. That's why I love hanging out with random people to find stories. It's like going on a journey without a map or destination in mind, letting the road take you where it will.

I remember my first time doing this. I was nervous, not sure what to expect. Would people be receptive to my questions? Would they be willing to share their stories with a stranger? But as soon as I started talking to people, I realized that everyone has a story to tell, no matter how ordinary they may seem on the surface.

One of the first people I met was an elderly woman named Madhuri. She was sitting alone in a park, feeding the pigeons, and I struck up a conversation with her. At first, she seemed guarded, but as we talked, she opened up to me. She told me about her life, growing up during the emergency, working as a nurse during Kargil war, and losing her husband to cancer. Her stories were both heartbreaking and inspiring, and I knew I had to write about her.

Meeting Madhuri was just the beginning. Over the years, I've talked to people from all walks of life – cab drivers, baristas, construction workers, and retirees – and each one has taught me something new about the world and myself.

There's something liberating about talking to strangers. It's a chance to shed your preconceptions and biases and see the world from a fresh perspective. When you're with people you know, you tend to fall into familiar patterns and routines, but when you're with strangers, anything can happen. You might discover a hidden talent or passion, or you might be challenged to rethink your beliefs and values. Of course, not every conversation is a home run. Sometimes I strike out and fail to connect with the person I'm talking to. But even those experiences are valuable, because they remind me that not everyone is going to like me or want to talk to me, and that's okay. It's all part of the journey.

One of the most memorable people I met was a young man named Aman. He was homeless, living on the streets of Gurgaon, and I spotted him sitting on a bench, reading a book. I approached him and asked if he would be willing to talk to me, and he agreed. Aman was incredibly intelligent and well-

spoken, and we talked for hours about everything from politics to literature to philosophy. He told me about his struggles with addiction and mental illness, and how he was trying to rebuild his life. I was struck by his resilience and optimism in the face of such adversity. After our conversation, I bought him a meal and gave him some money, and we parted ways. But I couldn't stop thinking about him. I knew I had to write about him, to share his story with others who might not have the chance to meet someone like him. Writing about Aman was a challenge, but also a privilege. I wanted to do justice to his experiences and struggles, to capture the depth and complexity of his character. It was a humbling reminder that everyone has a story, no matter how difficult or painful it may be.

Over time, I've learned that hanging out with random people is not just about finding stories to write about. It's also about connecting with others on a human level, about recognizing our shared humanity and empathy. When we take the time to listen to others, to really hear their stories and understand their perspectives, we become better people ourselves. We become more compassionate, more understanding, more tolerant.

There have been times when I've been tempted to retreat into my own bubble, to stay within my comfort zone and avoid the uncertainties of meeting new people. But I know that this would be a mistake. The richness and diversity of the world can only be fully appreciated by stepping outside of our own narrow perspectives and experiencing it firsthand.

In a way, hanging out with random people is like a form of meditation. It requires a willingness to be present in the moment, to let go of any preconceptions or judgments, and to simply be open to whatever arises. When I'm talking to someone, I try to give them my full attention, to really listen to what they're saying and to be curious about their experiences.

It's amazing how much we can learn from each other when we approach each conversation with an open mind and a sense of wonder. I've discovered new hobbies, new perspectives, and new ways of looking at the world simply by talking to people I might never have met otherwise. Of course, there are also risks involved in hanging out with random people. Safety should always be a top priority, and it's important to be aware of potential dangers and to take precautions when necessary. But as long as we're mindful and responsible, the rewards of connecting with others far outweigh the risks.

As an author, hanging out with random people has given me an endless source of inspiration for my writing. But more than that, it's enriched my life in countless ways. It's reminded me of the beauty and complexity of the human experience, and of the importance of empathy and understanding in a world that can sometimes feel divided and hostile.

I remember everyone I've met on my journey – the ones who have touched my heart, challenged my assumptions, and inspired me to be a better person. They are the ones who have given me the courage to keep exploring, to keep seeking out new stories and new experiences, and to never stop learning and growing.

And as I reflect on my experiences, I'm struck by how much the world has changed since I first started hanging out with random people. Technology has made it easier than ever to connect with others from all over the globe, to hear their stories and learn from their perspectives. But at the same time, it's also made it easier to retreat into our own echo chambers, to surround ourselves with people who share our beliefs and values. In a time when the world feels more divided than ever, I believe that hanging out with random people is more important than ever. It's a chance to bridge the gaps between us, to find common ground in our shared experiences and struggles. It's a reminder that despite our differences, we are all human, and we all have a story to tell.

IF you're ever feeling stuck, uninspired, or disconnected from the world around you, I encourage you to take a chance and hang out with a random person. You never know what you might discover, what stories you might hear, or what connections you might make. It might just change your life – and the lives of those around you – in ways you never imagined.

Negative effects of meeting people for Stories



While meeting new people can be a wonderful experience, it's important to acknowledge that there can be negative effects as well. Here are a few potential drawbacks to keep in mind:

- *Safety concerns:* Meeting people you don't know can be risky, especially if you're meeting them in an unfamiliar setting. It's important to take precautions to protect yourself, such as meeting in public places, telling someone where you're going, and trusting your instincts if something doesn't feel right.
- *Emotional toll:* Hearing other people's stories can be emotionally draining, especially if they involve traumatic experiences or difficult struggles. It's important to take care of your own emotional well-being and not take on more than you can handle.
- *Exploitation:* As an author, it's important to be mindful of the power dynamic between you and the people you're interviewing. It's important to obtain informed consent, respect people's boundaries, and ensure that they're not being exploited for your own gain.
- *Misrepresentations:* It's also important to be honest and accurate in your representation of other people's stories. Misrepresenting or sensationalizing someone else's experiences can be harmful and unethical.
- *Cultural appropriation:* It's important to be mindful of cultural differences and not appropriate other people's experiences or stories for your own gain. It's important to approach other cultures with respect and humility, and to not make assumptions or stereotypes based on limited knowledge or understanding.

While meeting new people can be a valuable source of inspiration and growth, it's important to approach it with caution and respect for others. By doing so, you can minimize potential negative effects and ensure that your interactions with others are meaningful and positive.

SAMPLE MANUSCRIPT

3. Thought experiments for an author



A thought experiment is an intellectual playground. A place where authors can let their imaginations run wild and explore the limits of their creativity. It's like a sandbox for the brain, but instead of building castles, you're constructing entire worlds and testing the boundaries of reality. And let me tell you, as an author myself, I've done some pretty interesting experiments. the joys of being an author! It's a wonderful thing, really. You get to create entire worlds and populate them with fascinating characters, all while sipping on a cup of tea (or something stronger, if you prefer). But sometimes, even the most imaginative author can hit a wall. You stare at the blank page in front of you, your mind as empty as your cup of tea. What do you do then? Well, my friend, it's time for a thought experiment!

Now, I know what you're thinking. "A thought experiment? What is this, some kind of new age nonsense?" But fear not, my sceptical reader. A thought experiment is simply a way of exploring an idea or concept in your mind, without needing to physically test it out in the real world. It's a tool that scientists and philosophers have been using for centuries, and it can be just as useful for authors.

So, let's get started! Here are a few thought experiments that any author can try out:

- **The "What if?" Experiment:** This one is pretty straightforward. Just take a scenario from your current work-in-progress and ask yourself "What if?" For example, let's say your main character is a detective trying to solve a murder. You could ask yourself "What if the victim wasn't actually dead?" or "What if the murderer was actually the detective's own mother?" The possibilities are endless!
- **The "Fish Out of Water" Experiment:** Take a character from one of your stories and imagine how they would react if they were suddenly transported to a completely different setting. For example, if you have a character who is a medieval knight, imagine how they would react if they were suddenly transported to modern-day New Delhi City. Would they be amazed? Horrified? Delighted? This can be a fun way to explore your character's personality and motivations.
- **The "Alternate Universe" Experiment:** What if everything in your story was the same, except for one key detail? For example, what if Harry Potter was a girl? Or what if Frodo never met Gandalf? This can be a fun way to explore the consequences of a small change, and can often lead to interesting new story ideas.
- **The "Reverse" Experiment:** Take a scene from your story and imagine how it would play out if everything was reversed. For example, if you have a scene where your protagonist is chasing after a villain, imagine how it would play out if the villain was actually chasing the protagonist. This can be a fun way to shake up your story and keep things interesting.

- **The "What Would [Famous Person] Do?" Experiment:** Take a famous person (living or dead) and imagine how they would react in a scene from your story. For example, if you have a scene where your protagonist is being held at gunpoint, imagine how Gandhi would react in that situation. This can be a fun way to explore your character's motivations and values, and can often lead to surprising insights.

Now, I know what you're thinking. "But Vb, these thought experiments sound silly! How could they possibly help me with my writing?" Well, my friend, the truth is that thought experiments are just a way to get your creative juices flowing. By asking yourself "What if?" or imagining how a character would react in a new situation, you're forcing yourself to think outside the box and come up with new ideas. And who knows? Maybe one of these thought experiments will lead to your next great idea. Maybe your medieval knight will fall in love with a modern-day scientist, or your detective will realize that the murderer was actually their own long-lost twin. The possibilities are endless, my dear reader. Now, the next time you find yourself stuck in your writing, try out one of these thought experiments. Don't be afraid to be silly or outrageous - sometimes the most ridiculous ideas can lead to the best stories. And if a thought experiment doesn't lead to a new idea, that's okay too. The point is to get your mind working and break out of any creative ruts you may be in.

In fact, why not make thought experiments a regular part of your writing routine? Set aside a few minutes each day to ask yourself "What if?" or imagine your characters in new situations. Who knows, you may just surprise yourself with the ideas you come up with. And if all else fails, there's always the tried and true method of staring at a blank page and waiting for inspiration to strike. But let's be real, that's not nearly as fun as imagining your medieval knight in modern-day New Delhi. Now go forth, my fellow writers, and experiment away! And remember, sometimes the best ideas come from the most unexpected places.

:- My favourite thought experiments are with formlessness and abstract multidimensional realities. Let me give you a taste

FORMLESSNESS

*Tripping out from sanity,
Colours bouncing from the urbanity,
shapes shedding mundanity,
Intermixing interlocking interesting insanity.*

*Black shades stretching gallantry,
Turning white into red calamity,
Cutting points in the line of formality,
Thankful tranquil tasty tranquility.*

*Stretching lights in the cracks brilliantly,
Tearing thoughts threading into reality,
Bringing adjusting meaning rationality,
Mutually mental mocking morality*

:- I themed this poem around the idea of breaking away from the norms of society and exploring the unconventional, possibly even insane, aspects of life. It is an expression of the tension between the mundane and the extraordinary, and the human desire to break free from the constraints of everyday life in search of something more meaningful or exciting.

From a philosophical point of view, I tried to explore Existentialism, which emphasizes the one's subjective experience of the world and the search for meaning in a universe that may be inherently meaningless.

From a psychological perspective, I added an expression of the human desire for novelty and stimulation, as well as the tension between the rational and irrational aspects of the psyche.

From a scientific perspective, the poem is as an expression of the tension between order and chaos in the natural world. The use of language that is both structured and fragmented suggests a tension

between pattern and randomness, and the use of contrasting colours and shapes suggests a tension between symmetry and asymmetry. The poem is also a representation of the chaos theory, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate phenomena and the unpredictability of complex systems. The use of language that is both playful and chaotic suggests a fascination with the unpredictable and the unexpected, and a desire to explore the edges of what is known and predictable.

Side effects

Writing is a tough gig, and thought experiments can certainly add to the mental and emotional strain. Writing can be a solitary and sometimes serious pursuit. Let's take a trip back in time to 1900s and imagine what some famous authors might have said about the side-effects of thought experiments if they were writing today.

First up, let's hear from *Ernest Hemingway*: "*I don't have time for thought experiments. I'm too busy drinking and fishing. But if I did, I imagine they'd be exhausted. Like fighting a big marlin, or trying to write a novel about it.*"

Next, let's see what *Jane Austen* might have said: "*I find thought experiments quite diverting, but they do tend to take up a great deal of one's time and energy. It's a good thing I have such a quick wit and sharp pen to keep me going.*"

And finally, let's hear from *William Shakespeare*: "*To think, or not to think, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous thought experiments, or to take arms against a sea of possibilities, and by imagining, end them.*"

Okay, maybe that last one was a bit of a stretch. But the point is, even some of the greatest writers in history likely experienced the side-effects of thought experiments at one time or another. And while it's important to be mindful of these effects and take care of our mental health, we shouldn't let them stop us from exploring the boundless possibilities of the creative imagination.

Here are some challenges that may come along while you are wearing your writing cap and thought experimenting.

- **Mental Exhaustion:** Thinking can be a real workout, folks! It's like doing mental push-ups and crunches. And just like with physical exercise, sometimes you need to take a break and let your brain rest. Even *J.K. Rowling*, the queen of wizarding world-building, had to take a breather before she could finally pen the first *Harry Potter* book.

- **Emotional Drain:** Writing can be an emotional rollercoaster, and thought experiments can be one heck of a ride. You may find yourself getting way too invested in your characters' lives and feeling all the feels. And let's be real, it's hard to stay emotionally stable when you're putting your characters through the wringer like *George R.R. Martin* does.
- **Burnout:** Remember folks, slow and steady wins the race. Don't let your brain turn into a burnt-out shell of its former self because you're trying to do too much too soon. Take a nap, have a snack, and do something fun. It's okay to take a break from writing and recharge your batteries.
- **Perfectionism:** Listen, perfectionism is a disease, and it's time we start treating it as such. Don't let your thought experiments turn into an endless cycle of rewriting and revising. You don't need to be *Sylvia Plath* to recognize that sometimes, good enough is good enough.
- **Self-Doubt:** We've all been there, folks. Staring at a blank page and wondering if we're even capable of writing a coherent sentence, let alone a whole book. But don't let self-doubt keep you from reaching your full potential. Just remember, even *Neil Gaiman*, the king of magical realism, had to fight his inner demons before he could write *American Gods*.