




The
WRITERS
at Fort Plain

Thursdays • 3 p.m. • The Fort Plain Free Library



May 25th
2023

Poem of the Week

The Author to Her Book

by Anne Bradstreet

Thou ill-form'd offspring of my feeble brain,
Who after birth didst by my side remain,
Till snatched from thence by friends, less wise than true,
Who thee abroad, expos'd to publick view,
Made thee in raggs, halting to th' press to trudge,
Where errors were not lessened (all may judg).
At thy return my blushing was not small,
My rambling brat (in print) should mother call,
I cast thee by as one unfit for light,
Thy Visage was so irksome in my sight;
Yet being mine own, at length affection would
Thy blemishes amend, if so I could:
I wash'd thy face, but more defects I saw,
And rubbing off a spot, still made a flaw.
I stretched thy joynts to make thee even feet,
Yet still thou run'st more hobling then is meet;
In better dress to trim thee was my mind,
But nought save home-spun Cloth, i' th' house I find.
In this array 'mongst Vulgars mayst thou roam.
In Criticks hands, beware thou dost not come;
And take thy way where yet thou art not known,
If for thy Father askt, say, thou hadst none:
And for thy Mother, she alas is poor,
Which caus'd her thus to send thee out of door.



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Story Starter

“Listen here,’ I said to the empty room, ‘I don’t care if you’re a ghost or not. You *have* to start paying rent.”

Where can you imagine this story going next?

Quote of the Week

“Always work (note, write) from your own interest, never from what you think you should be noting, or writing. Trust your own interest. I have a strong interest, at the moment, in Roman building techniques, thus my notation above, taken down in the Cluny Museum in Paris. My interest may pass. But for the moment I follow it and enjoy it, not knowing where it will go. Let your interest, and particularly what you want to write about, be tested by time, not by other people—either real other people or imagined other people. This is why writing workshops can be a little dangerous, it should be said; even the teachers or leaders of such workshops can be a little dangerous; this is why most of your learning should be on your own. Other people are often very sure that their opinions and their judgments are correct.”

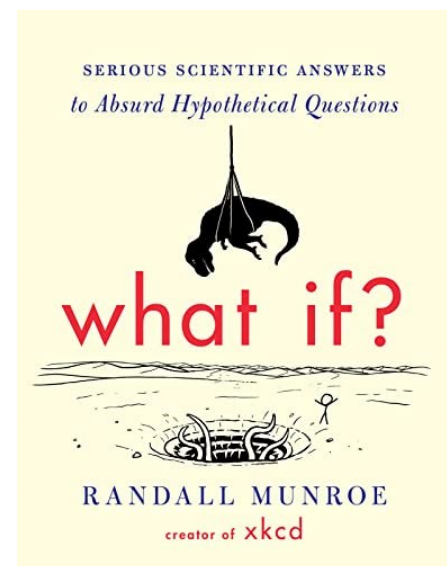
-- Lydia Davis

Book Recommendation

What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions

by Randall Munroe

The creator of the cult hit webcomic XKCD answers all the questions you never knew you wanted answered (What if everyone on earth aimed a laser pointer at the moon at the same time? What if you could drain all the water from the oceans? What if all the lightning in the world struck the same place?) in this playful journey through the fun side of physics.



Have a book or poem suggestion? Want to see something new featured, or even have your own story printed? Stop by the Writer’s Group, or email the library at fpfl@mvls.info!