

396 Books & Other Resources Writers Recommend...



...to Kickstart Your Writing,
Stand Your Thinking on Its Head,
and Vastly Increase Your Ability to
WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW

Holly Lisle

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NONFICTION

About the Author

Holly Lisle, professional novelist since 1991 and author of more than 30 commercially published novels, as well as short fiction, indie-published original fiction and reprints, and many classes on writing, **built her writing to teach writers who want to write for a living how to do exactly that.**

She's sold science fiction, fantasy, paranormal suspense, romantic suspense, humor, YA fantasy, and more.



She writes her courses based on her own methods, and teaches from her years of successful experience writing and supporting a family as a full-time novelist, and from a decidedly *sideways* perspective:

She was a newspaper ad rep, restaurant singer, sign painter, McDonald's counter girl, guitar teacher, and — for ten years — a registered nurse **before** figuring out how to sell her work to major New York and international publishers.

She has a weird sense of humor, a decidedly dirty mind, an ADN in nursing, and no degree whatsoever in literature or fiction — and in every respect but one, these facts helped rather than hurt her writing career.

The one place where they didn't help? Literary snobs don't like her. But she's okay with that.

Want a whole bunch of free information on writing fiction?

[Sign up for her somewhat irregular but long-running writing newsletter.](#)

Her other writing courses and workshops in her writers' shop include:

- FREE: [How to Write Flash Fiction That Doesn't SUCK](#)
- [Create A Character Clinic](#)
- [Create A Plot Clinic](#)
- [Create A Language Clinic](#)
- [Create A Culture Clinic](#)
- [Create A World Clinic](#)
- [How to Write Page-Turning Scenes](#)
- [How to Think Sideways: Career Survival School for Writers](#)
(announcements when available)
- [How to Revise Your Novel](#) (announcements when available)
- How to Write a Series (announcements when available)
- [7-Day Crash Revision](#)
- [How to Write Dialogue with Subtext Workshop](#)
- [How to Motivate Yourself Workshop](#)
- [21 Ways To Get Yourself Writing When Your Life Has Just Exploded](#)
- [How To Find Your Writing Discipline](#)
- [How To Beat Writer's Block, And Have FUN Writing From Now On](#)

This guide was created from the suggestions and recommendations of members of my Writing Updates newsletter:

<https://hollyswritingclasses.com/go/writgoodfiction.html>

About once a week, you'll get:

- get answers to fellow readers' writing questions
- learn ways to write better, more regularly, and more happily
- get inspiration (and occasionally give some)
- participate in creating cool site freebies like this one
- receive members-only pre-sales, discounts, and beta-test opportunities for [HollysWritingClasses.com](https://hollyswritingclasses.com) courses, workshops, and more
- and much more
- [Please join us. We're doing cool writing things.](#)

In The Beginning

This long list of recommended books and other writing resources started with my mailing list, and with the following e-mail I sent out.

It probably should go without saying that successful writers are readers first, but it doesn't.

I don't tell people who don't know me that I'm a writer (in person, I'm a lot shyer than I am online), but people who find out frequently mention how much they want to write a book. So, always happy to be in the company of a fellow writer, I ask them what they read.

More times than I can count, they laugh and say they read magazines, or their professional journals, and then throw in something like, "I haven't read a book since [I was in high school/ I was in college/ never...I hate to read]."

How can they ever hope to write if they don't read?

You have to have read a whole lot of books to have any idea at all what makes one interesting. You have to read fiction to get a feel for the shape of a genre and what's already been done, and done to death (Celtic high fantasy; medieval high fantasy; cats in mysteries; vampires in romance; smart-mouthed, street-tough noir detectives) and to get a few ideas of what might NOT have been done to death (Celtic mysteries, medieval vampires, noir fantasy, cats in romance, smart-mouthed, street-tough high fantasy characters).

So I read fiction, all genres—including westerns, horror, mainstream, fantasy, SF, romance, YA, mystery and anything else that catches my eye.

But it might surprise you to find out that more than fifty percent of what I read, and I read a LOT, is nonfiction.

Fantasy is my true love, and to write good fantasy, I need hard facts.

I am constantly expanding my library of books for the intelligent layman, and I read heavily in quantum physics (I love Michio Kaku), earth sciences, genetics, animal husbandry, gardening, history (I started a deep and life-long fascination with the history of the Mayans when I was in seventh grade, but I try to cover everything else, too), anthropology, archeology (I adore ruins, and the echoes of lost civilizations), language and writing systems, religions and philosophies, wars and strategies and tactics, arts, paranormal stuff, survival and pre-industrial technology, and on and on.

Why?

Because to write comfortably about magic, I have to have an instinctive grasp of how it might work. (Quantum physics plus Wicca or Buddhism or the Catholic High Mass all work nicely.) To write about worlds, I have to know how ecosystems fit together, how animals hunt each other and avoid detection, how humans breed plants to be useful, how people make clothing, how silkworms make silk, how a fireplace works, how to find water in the desert, how to break codes, how to dive for pearls, how to investigate ruins and discover who lived there, and a million other things. To write about strippers, I not only need to understand the lives of the women who dance naked, but the lives of the men who pay to see them do it. To write about dragons, I have to know how birds fly. To write about anything, I have to know something else.

About 5% of what I read is fantasy—and that's basically for fun. I don't study the fantasy market, because nobody else writes like I do. Or what I do.

95% of everything I read is fuel to feed what I write.

If you only read in the genre you want to write in, you're missing 95% of of the planet, 95% of the possible ideas you could get, 95% of the jobs your characters could have, 95% of the cultures they could come from, 95% of everything.

The saying "Write what you know," is a call to action. The unsaid second part of it is, "...And know more."

Today or tomorrow, send me a list of your three favorite novels (any genre, any time period), and three nonfiction books you've found indispensable in your own writing. I'll compile the books into a list and send it to you on Friday, so that all of us can broaden our own reading and write more of what we know.

Fifty-seven writers replied...

...quite a few with more than three recommendations. Some recommended whole series, some recommended everything by a particular author. A few websites made the list, as did a handful of TV shows. I was delighted to find some books I personally loved on the list—Gene Logsdon's **The Contrary Farmer**; **Godel, Escher, Bach** by Douglas Hofstadter; the inimitable Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman with **Good Omens**, C.S. Lewis's **The Screwtape Letters**, and **When the Sacred Ginmill Closes** by Lawrence Block, one of my all-time favorite writers.

I'm intrigued by a lot of things I've never seen before, but sort of pleased that I already own a lot of the books on this list, both in fiction and nonfiction, and had already discovered the recommended TV shows and websites. I'm not used to feeling culturally with-it—it's sort of nice.

That's how we got here. Now...what are you supposed to do with this list?

How to Use This List

Write what you know, and know more.

You'll find hundreds of books plus some other goodies in the following pages. Should you read them all? No, of course not. If you're like most writers, your to-be-read pile is already taller than you are, and adding three-hundred-plus more books and series to that pile, some of them pretty stout, would only result in unfortunate injuries when the shelves or floor collapsed or the whole pile fell off your nightstand and crushed you.

So.

Go through the list. Cross out the stuff you've already read. Cross out the stuff you already know very, very well.

DON'T CROSS OUT the stuff you own but haven't yet read, the stuff you're pretty sure you would hate, or the stuff you don't think could teach you anything.

For example, you're a writer of horror or mysteries, and on the list you find what are, let's face it, some pretty girly choices. You don't want to read them. But you realize that the biggest book market of all—bar none—is the romance market, which currently sells about as much fiction annually as everything else combined. You could learn something from these books; what romance readers are looking for, how to create characters that might broaden your audience, tips on creating characters who survive to the end of the book. (Don't feel bad. Long-lived characters are not **my** strong suit, either).

It could happen.

You might also get from the process nothing more than improved aim and a dent in your wall where the book hit it, but that's a risk we all take with every book purchase.

Maybe you're a tender, romantic writer of love lost and found. A Nicholas Sparks in the making, perhaps, or the next Jackie Collins (okay, not tender and romantic, then, but slutty and crude hold a massive market share, too).

Don't even think about crossing out the quantum physics stuff, or anything that might include hunting, fishing, war, or guns.

Great romances happen in the midst of war, and lots of guys love a woman who can bait her own hook. Or build a working time machine out of a dishwasher, a refrigerator, a vacuum cleaner, and the youngest kid's homework project.

Such a woman could be your next great character. Giving that extra thought, such a **man** could be your next great character.

It's getting pretty hard anymore to find guys who can hunt down dinner, kill it, clean it, and know that it's best soaked in a wine marinade for a day or two before being cooked with wild asparagus, morel mushrooms, and new potatoes.

Strategy One

Circle a book, just one book, in a genre or about a subject completely alien to you. Hunt down, buy, and read that book.

- Take notes.
- Mark the book up.
- Make it a point to learn everything you can from those pages, whether it's about plotting, pacing, characterization and dialogue in a different genre, or whether it's about how terrain affects weather patterns.
- Write down ideas on how you could use this information with a character.

- How you could use it with a plot.
- How you could use it with background.
- Scribble down a few lines of dialog in which characters discuss one of the cooler points of what you've come away with, (or in the manner of the book you've read).

Strategy Two

Take the list with you to the bookstore, close your eyes, flip to a random page, and find one book in the store that's on that page. Let it follow you home. Follow the procedures in Strategy One.

Strategy Three

When you have a birthday or other gift-type holiday coming up, pick out three books from the list to suggest to each family member who asks. Make a different three-book list for each one so that you don't end up with duplicates. Follow the procedures in Strategy One.

Remember this little truth that applies to writers, if not to everyone else: **There is NO SUCH THING as useless knowledge.**

Above all, have fun with this. Going out exploring for things you don't yet know is one of life's high points. Whole amazing sections of the universe and of literature are awaiting your discovery, and if you don't get there first, so what? Just think of all the people who never get there at all.

Research with passion, write with hunger, and never give up on your dreams.

My Recommendations

Fiction

1. **The Three Musketeers**, Alexander Dumas
2. **A Tale of Two Cities**, Charles Dickens
3. **Don Quixote**, Miguel de Cervantes

These three novels together and separately influenced my writing career, my writing goals, and (I hope) the quality of my finished work more than any others.

The rich humor, passion, endless adventure, and honor of **The Three Musketeers** are a study in pacing, structure, plotting, characterization, theme, and worldbuilding...

The wonderful complexity of plot, enormous stakes, great characters, and the depth of love in **A Tale of Two Cities** are object lessons on making a book big in scope and scale, giving characters something to fight for, and how to make you... (er, your reader) cry like an idiot at the end...

And the power of questing after dreams in **Don Quixote** shook me out of any remaining complacency I had when I was between the ages of fifteen and seventeen (when I first read these, just for fun and just because they were available).

These three books changed me and my life, in all ways for the better. (Odd to discover that my most recommended books are not by my favorite fiction writers—Mark Twain, Clifford Simak, Theodore Sturgeon, L. Sprague de

Camp and Fletcher Pratt, Fritz Leiber, Lawrence Block, Mary Stewart, Terry Pratchett, ... well, **that** list would get really long, so I'll stop here.)

Nonfiction

4. **Ancient Inventions**, Peter James and Nick Thorpe. My absolute number-one no-questions-asked writing-resource recommendation, no hesitation, waffling, or second guessing. People were smart long before they came up with computers — and this book chronicles the development of ancient Greek robots, Roman fire engines, Chinese magnetic security systems, thousand-year-old brain surgery (the patients survived), and MUCH more. A writer's treasure trove. (One recommendation besides mine, no comment)
5. **Life on the Mississippi**, Mark Twain — I recommend all of Twain's nonfiction for its brilliant glimpses of an era past, some of the best character writing ever done, for its rich humor, and especially for its heart—but this one is special. If you don't read any of his others, read this.
6. **The Penguin Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilizations**, Arthur Cotterell. Well organized and succinct, with good detail on each civilization offered. Though nowhere near deep enough to answer all your questions, it's a great place to figure out which questions you need to ask.
7. **The Art of War**, Sun Tzu. From a personal standpoint, the most immediately applicable and useful book I've ever read. From a writing standpoint, critical in planning out the wars and diplomatic stratagems and Machiavellian characters that dodge, weave, and slink through my books. Reading Machiavelli himself was helpful, and books on military strategies and tactics are great in limited situations, but **The Art of War** is as applicable to one-on-one character interaction in a peaceful setting as it is to ten thousand guys coming over a hill to discover that the enemy has gone around them and is now behind them. With flamethrowers. You gotta, you gotta, you gotta.

(And no, I can't count to six either. Well, I can. I just don't want to.)

Fiction (Alpha by Title)

8. **10,000 Lovers**, Edeet Ravel (great insight into the origins and escalation of the Palestinian conflict)
9. **1984**, George Orwell (Mandatory high school reading when 1984 seemed so far away. I re-read it last year and was stunned. It was chilling reading.) (Two recommendations, one comment)
10. **A Cage of Butterflies**, Brian Caswell
11. **A Child's Garden of Verses**, Robert Louis Stevenson
(Poems about childhood My Granny & Pop gave me an old hard bound copy with beautiful color plate pictures from the early 1900's.)
12. **A Far Cry from Kensington**, Muriel Spark (You want to have a cup of tea with her narrator, Mrs. Hawkins.)
13. **A Little Princess**, Frances Hodgson Burnett
14. **A Vision of Light**, Judith Merkle Riley (or any of her books, Great historical fiction with a metaphysical, magical, and religious twist)
15. **A Wizard of Earthsea**, Ursula K. Le Guin
16. **A Wrinkle In Time**, Madeleine L'Engle
17. **After Worlds Collide**, Philip Wylie (He mostly wrote Detective novels, but wrote only one or two Scifi pieces. Back in the 1950's (?)

they made a movie out of his first book. It was called (of course), " When Worlds Collide." To me, it was a very badly made movie. In fact, awful! But, when I discovered that he had written a second book about after Earth's survivors had landed on the new World - I had to read it. I finally discovered a paperback copy at a Science fiction show. I paid \$10 dollars for it. It was originally only .35 cents! It was great! Maybe if I had read the first book before watching the movie, it would have been better, too.)

18. **Alchemist, The**, Paulo Coelho (A beautiful story about a young boy has to learn to listen to – and sometimes ignore - the callings of his heart. Sometimes our treasure is right next to us, but we have to go away in order to find it...)
19. **Alchemist's Daughter, The: A Novel**, Katharine McMahon (A scientific period romance set in the time of Newton)
20. All titles by Karl May (a German author writing fiction about red-Indians, Arabs, slave trading, German history, Christianity; as far as I know he is rather unknown in the US)
21. **American Gods**, Neil Gaiman. (Another doorstopper, Shadow's quest through an amazing number of pantheons left me breathless and wanting to "Write a book like that, only mine!" Neil is just freaking brilliant.)
22. **And Then There Were None**, Agatha Christie
23. **Andrew Lang Color Fairy Books**, Andrew Lang
24. **Animal Dreams**, Barbara Kingsolver
25. **Anthem**, Ayn Rand

26. Any kid/YA series book by K.A. Applegate - convinced me to try out the waters of 1st person POV alternating between books of a series (book 1 is my NaNo novel)...I've always written 3rd in the past
27. Anything by Christopher Paolini (Can't wait for the last one)
28. Anything by CJ Cherryh. (She's truly a phenomenal writer.)
29. Anything by Tanya Huff. (Pretty much anything she wrote, for completely revamping the way I understood dialogue and characterization.)
30. **Arc of Triumph**, Erich Maria Remarque (For beauty of language. And sadness.)
31. Artemis Fowl, Eoin Colfer
32. **Atlantis Rising**, Clive Cussler (Cussler has a good grasp of history. He uses real life facts for background material. I've read several others in the last few years - all good.)
33. **Atlas Shrugged**, Ayn Rand (To keep me on the straight when the shades of grey between the black and the white are too tempting.)
34. **Banshee's Honor**, Shaylynn Rose
35. **Barbed Coil. The**, J.V. Jones (My favorite fantasy novel, despite the fact that a big chunk of it is about war...taught me that I have broader interests within the genre than I thought)
36. **Bartimeus Trilogy**, Jonathon Stroud
37. **Belgariad**, David Eddings (I know, but the first one was fresh and entertaining)

38. **Between, Georgia**, Joshilyn Jackson
39. **Black Jewels** series, Anne Bishop
40. **Book Thief, The**, Markus Zusak
41. **Bootlegger's Daughter, The**, Margaret Maron
42. **Brothers Majere** (Dragon Lance), Kevin Stein (I feel this was a good mystery, in a fantasy setting)
43. **Budayeen** stories: George Alec Effinger-- **When Gravity Fails**, **A Fire in the Sun**, **The Exile Kiss**, and **Budayeen Nights** (published posthumously, this last contains Budayeen related short fiction including the never finished fourth novel Word of Night. Well rounded technology and setting woven throughout. Interesting characters. Flawed POV character that you can't help but root for).
44. **Charity**, Paulette Callen
45. **Christmas Strike, The**, Nikki Rivers
46. **Chronicles of Narnia**, CS Lewis
47. **Cinderella Pact, The**, Sarah Strohmeyer
48. **Clementine**, Sara Pennypacker
49. **Conan** stories, Robert E. Howard (His writing style will completely engross you)

50. **Conan**, Robert E. Howard
51. **Council Wars**, John Ringo (Fun stuff)
52. **Curse of Chalion, The**, Lois McMaster Bujold (Bujold's ability to give each character a unique voice is reason enough to study this book, but the way the plot, which starts out deceptively safe, builds and evolves makes the book an unforgettable read.)
53. **Dark is Rising, The**, Susan Cooper (This (series) of books defined my childhood, and cemented my love of Arthurian mythology, Celtic mythology, and solid old-world British fantasy. Long before Potter, and long before the god-awful travesty of a film ("The Seeker" - completely divergent from Cooper's text) that's been produced this year. Far more intelligent, both emotionally and in fantasy terms, than anything else produced for this age group. Everything in Cooper's work feels real, rather than the cartoonish elves-and- dragons young adult fantasy produced by many others. If you want to read these, persist until at least book 2 (The Dark is Rising) which is where the story really starts - book 1 is a lot more child-oriented (and is almost standalone).)
54. **Darkfall**, Isobelle Carmody
55. **Darkness at Noon**, Arthur Koestler
56. **Darkness Take My Hand**, Dennis Lehane (Anything by him actually. A great mystery writer.)
57. **Debt of Honor**, Tom Clancy
58. **Demons and Angels**, Dan Brown

59. **Discovery of Heaven, The**, Harry Mulisch
60. **Doctor Who: The Clockwise Man**, Justin Richards
61. **Double Indemnity**, by James M. Cain
62. **Down the Long Hills** and all his Sackett family novels, Louis L'Amour
63. **Dr. Zhivago**, Boris Pasternak
64. **Dracula**, Bram Stoker (for epistolary form, feel of the historical period, and general enjoyment)
65. **Dragon Bones series**, Patty Brigg (Which I found in a backwards sort of way through her Mercy books, which I love, which I probably never would have read if I hadn't enjoyed your **Last Girl Dancing** and **Midnight Rain** books so much.)
66. **Dragon Prince** trilogy, Melanie Rawn (utterly captivated me. Even today more than a decade later, I can still see the scenes she painted vividly as well as her incredible characters.
67. **Dragoncrown War Cycle**, Michael Stackpole (Good mix of magic & technology)
68. **Dragonsinger**, Anne McCaffrey
69. **Dresden Files series**, Jim Butcher (Any book. Book one is **Storm Front**)
70. **Dune**, Frank Herbert (#1 It doesn't get more epic than this!) (#2 My absolute all time favorite, I never get bored to read this one over and over again! Scifi-novel) (Two recommendations, two comments)

71. **East of Eden**, John Steinbeck (It was a close run thing between this, **Of Mice and Men**, and **The Grapes of Wrath**. I love Steinbeck and have since I was nine and read **The Red Pony**. Not normally considered a book for children, but I picked it up in the library because it looked like it was about a horse (nine-year old girls and horses -- need I say more?) I read it over and over. I knew I didn't understand a lot of it, but I kept going back. Weird!)
72. **Eternity Road**, Jack McDevitt
73. **Egypt Game, The**, Zilpha Keatley Snyder **Elfquest Graphic Novels**
74. **Ender's Game** (and sequels), Orson Scott Card (Some of the best use of Multiple Third Person POV I've read. Great character work.) (An amazing story about a young boy's mission amongst the stars. This book has been perhaps the single most influential book that I've ever read; I adore it to death :) (Four recommendations, two comments)
75. **Eve Dallas series**, J.D. Robb's (Nora Roberts) (a little sci- fi, a little romance, a little mystery, with a hint of noir - genre busting)
76. **Faded Sun trilogy**, C.J. Cherryh (One that has stood the test of time for me, also **Arafel's Saga**.)
77. **Faking It**, Jenny Crusie
78. **Finding Francesca**, Melina Marchetta (A YA story about an eldest child who is forced to grow up when her mother contracts depression. This story really resonated with me, being an eldest child also, and being able to empathise with the trials of high school. And I just love Melina's writing style :))
79. **Firebird**, Kathy Tyres
80. **Flowers for Algernon**, Daniel Keyes

81. **Forever War, The**, Joe Haldeman
82. **Foundation** series, Isaac Asimov
83. **Fox Woman, The**, Kij Johnson
84. **Golden Compass** Series, Phillip Pullman
85. **Gone With the Wind**, Margaret Mitchell
86. **Good Earth, The**, Pearl S. Buck
87. **Good Omens** (or the true and accurate prophesies of **Agnes Nutter, witch**), Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett
88. **Green Rider**, Kristin Britain, which was my very first adult fantasy. The story is simple, but interesting and engaging, with a strong heroine.
89. **Guns of the South, The**, Harry Turtledove
90. **H.M.S. Ulysses**, by Alistair MacLean (Courage and redemption on the Arctic convoys of World War II.)
91. **Hammer's Slammers**, David Drake (Fun stuff.)
92. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling, which shows the incredible amount of forethought she put into the story before even being to write it and amazing depth of character.)

93. **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (I liked the mystery element in this book, I feel it was one of the best of the series) (Two recommendations, one comment)
94. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling
95. **Harry Potter**, J.K. Rowling (all of them - is that cheating)
96. **Heart of Darkness**, Joseph Conrad (Exploring the darker regions of the soul)
97. **High Five**, Janet Evanovich (Because it started my novel writing career again)
98. **His Majesty's Dragon**, Naomi Novik
99. **Hobbit, The**, J.R.R. Tolkein
100. **Hornblower** series, by C. S. Forester
101. **How I Live Now**, Meg Rosoff
102. **Huckleberry Finn**, Mark Twain
103. **I Will Fear No Evil**, Robert Heinlein
104. **Island of the Blue Dolphin**, Scott O'Dell
105. **Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell**, Susanna Clarke (Two recommendations, no comments)

106. **Kim**, Rudyard Kipling (The characters jump off the pages and his descriptions of India really make me feel I'm there.)
107. **King of Attolia**, Megan Whalen Turner (I'll cheat and add in it's two prequels, **The Thief** and **Queen of Attolia** :D)
108. **Knife of Dreams**: Book 11 of the Wheel of Time, Robert Jordan
109. **Kushiel's Avatar**, Jacqueline Carey (I love the whole series but the third book was stunning in its worldbuilding and its sweeping, epic quality)
110. **Kushiel's Dart**, Jacqueline Carey
111. **Kushiel's Justice**, Jacqueline Carey
112. **Kylara Vatta** Series (starting with Trading in Danger), Elizabeth Moon
113. **Last Unicorn, The**, Peter S. Beagle
114. **Lathe of Heaven**, Ursula Le Guin
115. **Laws of the Blood** series and **Vampire Romance Series**, Susan Sizemore
116. **Left Hand of Darkness, The**, Ursula Le Guin
117. **Light of Eidon**, Karen Hancock
118. **Lions Gate** trilogy, Francine Rivers (Christian fiction, favorite writer bar none) is my favorite of hers.

119. **Lions of Al-Rassan, The**, Guy Gavriel Kay (a difficult choice between this, **A Song for Arbonne**, and **Tigana**. Kay is my favourite writer of fantasy; he can turn a phrase that can pull at your emotions like no other writer I know. Very few authors have brought me close to tears; Kay manages it in many of his books)
120. **Little, Big**, John Crowley (I love Crowley for the way he blends the techniques and feel of literary fiction with the fantastical elements of fantasy and magical realism).
121. **Lolita**, Vladimir Nabokov
122. **Lord of the Rings, The** (#1 Because Tolkien intended it to be one book) (#2 Commitment to ideals in the face of insurmountable odds. I know it's a trilogy, but it's really all one complete story.) (Four recommendations, two comments)
123. **Magic's Pawn**, Mercedes Lackey. It was the first real fantasy I ever read that was character focused instead of being about some great overall plot.)
124. **Mallory's Oracle**, Carol O'Connor (the perfect anti-heroine)
125. **Memoirs of a Geisha**, Arthur Golden
126. **Meredith Gentry** series, Laurell K Hamilton (The Fae of Europe living in America)
127. **Mister God, This Is Anna**, Fynn
128. **Mistress of Spices, The**, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
129. **Mordant's Need**, Stephen Donaldson

130. **Necroscope/Vampire Worlds/E-Branch** series, Brian Lumley (I know this isn't one book, but it's a series so I thought it was relevant to put them all together.)
131. **Neuromancer**, William Gibson (The definitive cyberpunk novel)
132. **Neverwhere**, Neil Gaiman
133. **Night Shift Collection**, Stephen King
134. **Noble Dead** series, Barb & JC Handee (A new twist on vampires)
135. **Old Man and the Sea**, Ernest Hemmingway
136. **Ombria in Shadow**, Patricia McKillip
137. **On Basilisk Station**, David Weber
138. **One Hundred Years of Solitude**, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
139. **Outlander**, Diana Gabaldon
140. **Persian Boy, The**, Mary Renault (I read it in the Seventies and it haunts me still.)
141. **Pocketful of Names**, Joe Coomer
142. Poetry by Browning, Yates, Maya Angelou, and more than I can even count here. Poetry is my first love and what I first had published in grade school. I have volumes old and new in every nook and cranny around here.

143. **Power of Three**, Diana Wynne Jones
144. **Pride and Prejudice**, Jane Austen
145. **Princess Bride, The**, William Goldman
146. **Rant**, Chuck Palahniuk. (It's quirky, obliquely violent, and amazingly creative, Rant follows the life of a boy who goes from purposely getting himself bitten by poisonous spiders and wild animals to crashing cars and spreading rabies with Nightimers. Just, WOW.)
147. **Raptor Red**, Robert T. Bakker
148. **Ravished**, Amanda Quick
149. **Rebecca**, Daphne DuMaurier (Subtle suspense.)
150. **Redcoat**, Bernard Cornwell (A great story and a fabulous textbook example of how to write an historical novel.)
151. **Riddlemaster Trilogy**, Patricia McKillip (which has been printed in a single volume)
152. **Ring of Fear**, Anne McCaffrey (Though indirectly it sidelined my novel writing career)
153. **Robber Bride, The**, Margaret Atwood
154. **Sackett Brand, The**, Louis L'Amour (I'm married to a guy whose family could be a model for the Sacketts)

155. **Sandman, The**, Neil Gaiman (Cheating here, as it's a series of graphic novels rather than a novel per se - but Sandman is a masterclass of how to draw on almost any source imaginable and to weave all of those legends, tales and stories into a cohesive, believable, magical story. Gaiman is the master of the throwaway reference; every word hides a hugely rich background (or the impression of a hugely rich background). I myself am fascinated by the 'truth' that lies behind legends and tales; Gaiman goes a good job of inventing it.)
156. **Saving Francesca**, Melina Marchetta (YA realism)
157. **Screwtape Letters, The**, C.S. Lewis
158. **Secret Life of Bees**, Sue Monk
159. **Secret Texts** trilogy, Holly Lisle (Yeah, I know. Another bunch of books instead of just one!)
160. **Semper Fi**, W.E.B. Griffin
161. **Shadow of the Wind, The**, Carlos Ruiz Zafón (a mystery novel about a book)
162. **Shakespeare's Landlord**, Charlaine Harris
163. **Shibumi**, Trevanian
164. **Silmarillion, The**, J.R.R. Tolkien (My single all-time favorite is the **Silmarillion**. I keep it on my desk and re-read snips all the time. I'm pretty much a Tolkien-geek (I actually read the HOME series, **Morgoth's Ring** is mind-blowing in a lot of deep ways, but I'm not sure it counts as a novel.), but, to me, the **Silmarillion** really shows the heart of it all.)

165. **Skeleton Crew**, Stephen King
166. **Slaughterhouse Five**, Kurt Vonnegut (Absolutely brilliant!)
167. **Smilla's Sense of Snow**, Peter Hoeg
168. **Solomon Kane** stories, Robert E. Howard (complete and unaltered versions available in **The Savage Tales of Solomon Kane** from Del-Ray. Vivid, powerful, and emotional. Kane, a puritan, is relentless in his quest to vanquish what he sees as evil. No explanation is ever given for what drives him besides religious fervor.
169. **Song of Fire and Ice**, George R. R. Martin
170. **Song of the Lark, The**, Willa Cather
171. **Sonja Blue Collection**, Nancy Collins (Great reinvention of the supernatural world)
172. **Spares**, Michael Marshall Smith (If I was a book dictator and there was one book everyone in the world had to read, for me, it would be **Spares**. It completely knocked my socks off when I read it a number of years back.)
173. **Stand, The**, Stephen King. (Yeah, I know it's a doorstopper, but it has been an annual read for me since the initial version came out in paperback in '79 or 80. I've read it at least thirty times, can quote huge sweeping passages, and it still sucks me in and keeps me riveted. Hands down my favorite novel. Ever.)
174. **Stranger In A Strange Land**, Robert Heinlein,

175. **Stray Birds**, Rabindrah Tagore (For the art of metaphor.)
176. **Sunbird, The**, Wilbur Smith
177. **Sunshine**, Robin McKinley
178. **Survival**, by Julie Czerneda
179. **Talyn**, Holly Lisle (For itself and for representing solid layered novelization – a good read but so much more with even the faintest scratching of the surface; the reader could take it at its word, but something deeper provokes a more thoughtful response) (I hope that doesn't sound like kissing-up, but it really blew me away.) (Honor and commitment in the face of hard choices.) (Three recommendations, three comments)
180. **Tarzan**, Edgar Rice Burroughs
181. **Terrier**, Tamora Pierce (This, like any of her "The Circle Opens" Quartet, are excellent examples of different fantasy police procedurals.)
182. **Thirteenth Tale, The**, Diane Setterfield
183. **This Lullaby**, Sarah Dessen
184. **Tiger, Tiger**, Marti Steussy (Nortonesque but gritty)
185. **Time of the Great Freeze**, Robert Silverberg (I bought this at an elementary book-buying venue and remember it with great fondness.

I need to re-read it to see if it held up over time)

186. **Time Traveler's Wife, The**, Audrey Niffenegger
187. **Tinker**, Wen Spencer
188. **To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (this one has stayed on the favorites list for fifteen years, so I suppose it's there for good) (Two recommendations, one comment)
189. **To Sail Beyond the Sunset**, Robert Heinlein
190. **Travis McGee** stories (any of them), John D. MacDonald (For good writing, character portrayal, plotting and wry remarks on society and the human condition in general.)
191. **Troll - A Love Story**, Johanna Sinisalo (fantastic Finnish fantasy novel)
192. **Vampire Huntress™ Series**, L.A. Banks. (She's incredible at drawing you into the story. Her work with setting and character makes everything seem so real, it's gripping.)
193. **Watership Down**, Richard Adams (It was my favorite book for all of my teenage years) (Two recommendations, one comment)
194. **We the Living**, Ayn Rand and Leonard Peikoff
195. **Welcome to the Ark**, Stephanie S. Tolan

196. **Welcome to the Monkey House**, Kurt Vonnegut
197. **Well Of Darkness** (Sovereign Stone Trilogy), Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman (Even though I didn't like the following books of the Trilogy, I did like the fact that the main character of this story was actually the bad guy and not the good.) (Two recommendations, one comment)
198. **When the Sacred Ginmill Closes**, Lawrence Block
199. **Witches of Eileann** series, Kate Forsyth (Good worldbuilding)
200. **Witching Hour, The**, Anne Rice
201. **Wizard in Rhyme** series, Christopher Stasheff (The first few books, anyway)
202. **Wolf of the Plains**, Conn Igguilden
203. **World Gates**, Holly Lisle (And no, I'm not sucking up!)
204. **Xanth series**, Piers Anthony (The First 4 books are the best and most original)

Non-Fiction (alpha by title)

205. **36 Basic Plots** (Summaries easily available online) [Ed. Note: If you've read **Create A Plot Clinic** (<http://hollylisle.com/cap.html>), you got my longish rant and know my huge issue with this one. Yes, The 36 Basic Plots are useful. But, no, not as plots. They are utterly worthless as plots.]
206. **A Brief History of Time**, Stephen Hawking
207. **A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness**, by VS Ramachandran
208. **A Distant Mirror**, Barbara Tuchman (absolutely priceless!)
209. **A Fine Romance**, Judith Sills. (A self-help book that provides nice insights into human behavior and why love is so complicated).
210. **A Gentlemanly and Honorable Profession: The Creation of the U.S. Naval Officer Corps, 1794-1815**, Christopher McKee
211. **A History of Britain**, by Simon Schama (I saw the tv show, then I had to get my hands on this book of the three (it's a trilogy). I don't own it, but I periodically borrow it from the library. It's the main thing that got me fired up about history. He makes it so interesting!)
212. **A Short History of Nearly Everything**, Bill Bryson (One of those 'you learn something new every day' books; always rewards a reread.)

213. **AA Book of the British Countryside**, Heather, et. al. (Goes into immense detail of the flora and fauna of the British Isles where I live, but also has sections on history, ruins, villages, building design etc, and sections on various habitats such as hedgerows, lakes, bogs, cliffs, caves etc etc etc. Basically, if it can be found in the British Countryside, it's in this book.)
214. **Abraham Lincoln and Civil War America: Biography**, William E. Glenapp
215. **Adventures in the Screen Trade**, William Goldman (Because Hollywood fascinates me, and it ends up in a lot of my stories)
216. Any number of hymnals
217. Any of the Reader's Digest '**The Earth, Its Wonders, Its Secrets**' series, (All of these are like indexes of fascinating ideas for further exploration.)
218. Any speech collection I come across (we have a dozen or so here, though the internet is increasingly useful for this.)
219. Anything by Jane L. Ott, if you can find it anymore. I have copies of most of it, but even her advertisements and the letters and responses to her letters and advertisements are really good reflections of prejudice, attitudes and trends of that time.
220. Anything historical. I have a book on the history of toilets, underwear and the evolution of wood working tools. Oh yeah, anything to do with Arkansas history.
221. Anything on growing orchids.

222. Anything on Saltwater Fishtanks, Frogs, and Terrariums - great for learning about ecosystems.
223. **April '65: Confederate Covert Actions During the American Civil War**, William A. Tidwell
224. *Archaeology* magazine
225. **Art Of Dramatic Writing, The: Its Basis In The Creative Interpretation Of Human Motives**, Lajos Egri and Gilbert Miller
226. **Art of Subtext, The**, Charles Baxter
227. **Arthurian Handbook, The**, various (ISBN 0815320817) (Still have it a good 10 years after the college course that required it; all kinds of interesting tidbits about Arthurian myths and legends)
228. **Artist's Way, The**, Julia Cameron
229. **Bible, The**, (I'm a Christian so it goes under non-fiction, but I have found a lot of fun names and little story ideas within it hardly related to my faith - others could find similar things in there and even another perspective of religious activities) - also these counts for like 2, it's big)
230. Biographies about Women Artist in the Surrealist movement such as Leonora Carrington, Remedios Varo, and Dorothea Tanning. (rare and hard to come by books, these)
231. **Bird by Bird**, Anne Lamott

232. **Bondage Breaker**, Neil Anderson (A Christian book examining depression, spiritual warfare, and such. It's great for exploring emotional struggles characters go through, while giving a simplified glimpse into basic psychology and such.)
233. Books about Llama and Alpaca farming
234. Bookson Psychology, Evolution and Biology
235. **Brotherhoods, The**, Guy Lawson and William Oldham (True crime story about Mafia and crooked cops in New York City, lots of color and facts about the bad old days in New York when the mob ruled and everyone was on the take).
236. **Byzantine Revival, 780-842, The**, Warren T. Treadgold. (This book gave me so many plot ideas! There is a reason the term "Byzantine" means "highly complicated; intricate and involved".)
237. **Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language, The**, Dave Crystal (Marvelous! I can't say anymore!)
238. **Chuang Tzu**, Chuang Tzu (The classic text on Taoist philosophy)
239. **Climates of the World**, Barbara Linde
240. **Collapse**, by Jared Diamond (How and why societies collapse)
241. **Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln**, William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall, and David Winfred Gaddy

242. **Contrary Farmer, The**, Gene Logsdon
243. **Creative Writing Coursebook**, Andrew Motion and Julia Bell
244. **Cross-Sections**, Stephen Biesty (For kids, but great for when you don't want to do a ton of research)
245. Crossword books, (I learn a lot of new words and interesting facts while trying to find the answer to crossword clues. They also good practice for finding synonyms.)
246. **C-Span** (television channel) though I stopped watching when I literally started having Political, end of the world, nightmares)
247. **Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Magical Herbs**, Scott Cunningham
248. 250. **Curries and Bugles**, Jennifer Brennan (A memoir and cookbook of the British Raj)
249. **Daily Life in Medieval Times**, Frances and Joseph Gies. (A compendium of three books that are also available separately. Those books' titles are **Life in a Medieval Castle**, **Life in a Medieval Village**, and **Life in a Medieval City**. Sources include land and title records, court records, maps, archeological data, and so forth for a specific location that typifies the castle, village or city of the Middle Ages – Cheptsow Castle, the village of Elton, and the city of Troyes.) (Two recommendations, one comment.)
250. **Daily Life in the Middle Ages**, Paul B. Newman

251. **Dark and Tangled Threads of Crime-San Francisco's Famous Police Detective, Isaiah W. Lees**, William B. Secest
252. **Daughters of Isis: Women of Ancient Egypt**, Joyce Tyldesley
253. **Descriptionary**, Marc McCutcheon (For when ya know what it is but not how to say it)
254. **Developing Person though Life Span**, Kathleen Stassen Berger (Developmental psychology)
255. **Dictionary of Ancient Deities**, ed. Turner & Coulter (Invaluable for information on tons of different cultures' gods, goddesses and such, including alternate names and aspects).
256. **Did God Have a Wife?**, William Dever (an exploration of Israelite folk religion, including a detailed analysis of the evidence that the ancient Israelites worshipped the Goddess Asherah as consort to Yahweh)
257. **Dirty Jobs** (television show) (Great ideas on potential jobs for my characters and me, too, if I never get anything published)
258. Documentaries, (Anything from the creatures of caves to a short history of the Incas, documentaries are wonderful!)
259. **Dog Whisperer** (television show) (Learn the power of Animal Psychology and how the animals in my books are supposed to act)
260. **Dogpile** search engine (<http://www.dogpile.com/>). Currently Wikipedia and Dogpile helping me figure out the environmental impact of taking honeybees away from my fictional world, and what

crops my people would have to rely on as a result.

261. **Don't Murder Your Mystery**, Chris Roerden
262. **Drinkers of the Wind**, Carl Raswan, (A 'creative non-fiction' autobiography and ...)
263. ..the **Raswan Index** which I don't even take off the shelf unless I have hours and hours because I get lost in it.)
264. **Eats, Shoots and Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!**, Lynne Truss and Bonnie Timmons
265. **Element Encyclopedia of Magical Creatures, The**, John and Caitlin Matthews
266. **Elements of Style, The**, W Strunk and E.B White (As recommended by Orson Scott Card - invaluable in times of grammatical crisis!) (Two recommendations, one comment)
267. **Emotional Blackmail**, Susan Forward
268. **Encyclopedia of Serial Killers, The**, Michael Newton. (I have formed every one of my novel concepts from casually skimming this book. It's a great starting point to get into the mind of a killer, and to get a murderous idea burbling in your brain.)
269. **England under the Norman and Angevin Kings 1075- 1225**, Robert Bartlett (It's expensive but worth it.)

270. **English Grammar**, a Collins Gem pocket edition (English is my second language but even if I was writing in my native Polish I would still want some good grammar book on my desk)
271. **Everyday Life During the Civil War**, Michael J. Varhola
272. **Fairies in Tradition and Literature, The**, Katherine Briggs
273. **Fall of Carthage, The**, Adrian Goldsworthy
274. **Fearless Girls, Wise Women, Beloved Sisters: Heroines in Folk Tales from Around the World**, Kathleen Ragan, editor (folk tale collection/translations)
275. **Fiction Writer's Brainstormer**, James V. Smith Jr- some really good ideas on structure and outlines
276. **Fighting Techniques of the Ancient World (3000 B.C to 500 A.D.): Equipment, Combat Skills, and Tactics**, Simon Anglim, Rob S. Rice, Phyllis Jestice, and Scott Rusch
277. **Fighting Techniques of the Medieval World: Equipment, Combat Skills, and Tactics**, Matthew Bennett, Jim Bradbury, Kelly DeVries, and Iain Dickie
278. **Five Love Languages, The**, Gary Chapman
279. **Forgotten Arts & Crafts, The**, John Seymour. (Ever want to know how to make a saddle? Need a hedgerow or a thatch roof? How about drawing water, molding butter, or the difference between a laundry brush and a sink brush? This book shows how things were

made, used, and repaired before the industrial age. Lots and LOTS of photos and drawings.)

280. **Freelang Online Dictionaries** (<http://www.freelang.net/online/index.html>) (dozens of languages and dialects freely available for download and upgrading)
281. **From Stonehenge to Samarkand: An Anthology of Archaeological Travel Writing**, Brian Fagan
282. **Fundamental Virology**, by Fields, et al. (I really need to get a new edition of this, as this book is at least a decade old, making it monstrously old for this field; it's a text book, so it's not quite a non-fiction book to read from cover to cover, but it's an excellent reference for throwing real and imagined bugs at your characters.)
283. **Games Mother Never Taught You**, Betty Lehan Harragan (A book on corporate politics—if you can get the original version, you can be really amused by the Harragan's belief that all women should automatically be on the same team. Among the fascinating (correct) information, that stands out as an incredibly blindered mistake.)
284. **Garden Primer**, Barbara Damrosch
285. **Geography of Religion**, Susan Tyler Hichcock with John L. Esposito* (It's a National Geographic book so, great pictures, great maps and great discussion about Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.)
286. **Ghost with the Trembling Wings, The**, by Scott Weidensaul ("Science, wishful thinking, and the search for lost species")

287. **GMC Goals, Motivation and Conflict**, Debra Dixon (Two recommendations, no comments)
288. **Goddesses and Gods of Old Europe, The: 6500 - 3500 BC**, Marija Gimbutas
289. **Godel, Escher, Bach**, Douglas Hofstadter (An in-depth exploration of the human mind, logic, music, and the many relationships between them.) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gödel,_Escher,_Bach (Two recommendations, one comment, one link)
290. **Grace of Great Things, The**, Robert Grudin (A celebration of creativity.)
291. **Guide to Fiction Writing**, Phylis Whitney. (Awesome book. it was in this book that I first learned about the novel notebook. This book is really old and may be out of print, but if one can find it, it is well worth the search.)
292. **Guns, Germs, & Steel**, Jared Diamond (incredibly helpful in understanding the geographical elements necessary for developing civilizations)
293. **Hacker Ethic and the Spirit of the Information Age, The**, Pekka Himanen (For passion.)
294. **History of Art**, by H.W. Janson (This was a college course book (yes, I kept it, I am a geek). This is a good one for art, architecture and history lessons as well and has given me some good ideas for cultures.)

295. **Holly Lisle's Create A Culture Clinic**, Holly Lisle (Lately, this has become my Bible!)
296. **Holly Lisle's Create a Plot Clinic**, Holly Lisle (Single best plotting resource I have found to date [seriously]).
297. **Homicide**, David Simon
298. **How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci**, by Michael J. Gelb (Leonardo da Vinci is one of my heros, but the book is wonderful for aiding with out-of-the-box creative thinking)
299. **How to Win Friends and Influence People**, Dale Carnegie (The classic book from the 30's about what makes people tick, and how to see everything from every point of view).
300. **Howdunit** Series, various authors (Helpful info on crafting mysteries and sleuth stories)
301. **Human Motives**, by Lajos Egri
302. **Ideas That Changed The World**, Felipe Fernandez- Armesto
303. **I'm a Stranger Here Myself**, Bill Bryson (I love his style and as an ex-pat (I'm from the UK originally) I can relate to content.)
304. **In The Living Forest**, edited by John Keeney (An exploration of Australia's forest community)

305. **In the Name of Rome**, Adrian Goldsworthy
306. **Infamous King of the Comstock — William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West, The**, Michael J. Makley
307. **Infantry Attacks**, Erwin Rommel. (This book was written by Rommel in 1935, it describes in detail the many battles he fought in the First World War. This books has excellent descriptions of small unit tactics in a variety of terrains and situations, from fast moving attacks, to mountain assaults, to trench warfare.)
308. **Influence of Seapower Upon History, The**, Alfred Thayer Mahan. (Anyone writing a book about a maritime or interstellar empire has to read this book. It explains why navies exist and what their roles are in both peace and war and how they can (and have) decisively influenced history in both peace and war.)
309. **Internet Sacred Text Archive**, <http://www.sacred-texts.com/> (I know it's not a book, but a collection of books online, but at the moment I couldn't do without it.)
310. **Into Print**, Renni Browne, Dave King
311. **Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts**
312. **Japanese Pilgrimage**, Oliver Statler
313. **Kybalion, The**, by Three Initiates
314. **Lady Anne Blunt: Journals and Correspondence**, Lady Anne Blunt

315. **Legends of the Celts**, Frank Delany (Is a book on legends fiction or non-fiction? I don't know - but this is the ubiquitous book which sits on my (and collaborator's) shelves and which I grab for reference material.)
316. **Library of Congress American Memory Site, The**, (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>) (Everything from Ansel Adams photographs of Japanese Internment camps to letters written by the founding fathers. This site is a treasure trove of original source material that is invaluable for research, for inspiration, and simply as a site to browse through for pure pleasure.)
317. **Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistic Theory**, Fromkin et. al.
318. **Little Guides, The: Dogs, Paul McGreevy Love & Respect**, Emerson Eggerich
319. **Nuclear Age**, Peter Paret ed. (This book is a collection of essays written by some of the best military historians. It covers every era of history from, well. . . Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age.)
320. **Man Who Walked through Time, The**, Colin Fletcher
321. **Many Worlds in One**, Alex Vilenkin (libraries worth of sci-fi ideas in here, in terms an English major can understand)
322. **Master Class in Fiction Writing**, Adam Sexton
323. **Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, The**

324. Modern translations of medieval grimoires, notably the **Key of Solomon, Lemegeton**, Agrippa's books of Occult Philosophy and the **Book of Abramelin**. These are very interesting insights into the minds of occultists who genuinely believed in Heaven and Hell as literal places, and in the powers of God and the Devil to affect mankind, as well as in powers inherent in different aspects of the world. Very useful for developing systems of magic that rely on complex rituals and invocations.)
325. **Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age**, Peter Paret
326. **More Cunning than Man**, Robert Hendrickson (a complete history of the rat, good one!)
327. Most middle-school level atlases and other books on geography
328. **Mother Nature's Herbal**, Judy Griffin
329. My German books on taxonomy, biology, chemistry, physics, meteorology, astrophysics etc. (I hate genetics although I do read it if necessary.)
330. **My Inventions: Autobiography of Nikola Tesla**, Nikola Tesla (Everything about inventions and electricity)
331. **Nachalo, When In Russia** (my college Russian textbook)
332. **Naval Documents Related to the Quasi-War With France (7 volumes)**, Dudley W. Knox, ed.

333. **No Plot? No Problem!: A Low-Stress, High-Velocity Guide to Writing A Novel in 30 Days**, Chris Baty (when I am stuck, stuck, stuck)
334. **Odd Girl Out**, by Rachel Simmons
335. **On War**, Carl von Clausewitz. (Perhaps the best known book that no one has actually read. You can tell who has read it and who has not because the ones who have not invariably get his "war and politics" quote wrong, and worse, take it out of context. It is a tough read, in part because Clausewitz died before he had a chance to revise and polish it. Anyone who wants to understand the relationship of war in international relations has to read at least the first chapter.)
336. **On Writing**, Stephen King (More for its realistic view of a writer's life (one with a happy "ending") than any single writing tip (though those were helpful, too))
337. **One Dies - Get Another**, Matthew Mancini
338. **Oxford Illustrated History of the British Monarchy, The (Oxford Illustrated Histories)**, John Cannon and Ralph Griffiths
339. **Oxford Paperback Thesaurus**, Maurice Waite
340. **Paris Sweets**, Dorie Greenspan (I find good desserts very inspiring, and this book is in constant use in my home)
341. **Perception of the Environment, The: Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill**, Tim Ingold (a great source about anthropological studies and theories on those topics, quite heavy though...)

342. **Plot & Structure: Techniques And Exercises For Crafting A Plot That Grips Readers From Start To Finish**, James Scott Bell (Useful and readable. Tries to cater to all types of writers while still remaining useful.)
343. **Portable MFA in Creative Writing, The**, by the New York Writer's Workshop
344. **Power of Myth, The**, Joseph Campbell (A clear and wise account of world storytelling and religion) (How mythology relates to and moves through our everyday lives.) (No explanation needed!) (Three recommendations, three comments)
345. **Quantum World, The: Quantum Physics for Everyone**, Kenneth William Ford (Good descriptions in basic terms for all of us!)
346. **Religion & Nothingness**, Keiji Nishitani (Existentialism and philosophy of religion from an Eastern perspective)
347. **Russian Word for Snow, The**, Janis Cooke Newman
348. **Sacred Marriage**, Gary Thomas
349. **Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Why The Greeks Matter (Hinges of History)**, Thomas Cahill
350. **Scene & Structure**, Jack M. Bickham
351. **Science and Human Values**, Jacob Bronowski (It starts with Bronowski at Nagasaki—he was part of the first scientific crew to view the damage after the fall of Japan—and goes

on to discuss the ethics and creativity of scientific development in mesmerizing, almost poetic prose. Bronowski's book doesn't help me as a writer, so much as it inspires me as a human being.)

352. **Science of Self**, David Wheaton (1892 book)
353. **Seamanship in the Age of Sail: An Account of the Shiphandling of the Sailing Man-of-War 1600-1860, Based on Contemporary Sources**, John H. Harland
354. **Secret Language of Birthdays, The**, Gary Goldschneider and Joost Elffers (Great book about astrology and personality by zodiac and birthdate; good for character ticks in a pinch, lots of extra info about plants and gems and colors that match up with your sign and such.)
355. **Self Editing for Fiction Writers, Second Edition: How to Edit Yourself**, Renni Browne & Dave King (Two recommendations, no comments)
356. **Sheep and Man**, M. L. Ryder — admittedly, I haven't read it all yet because it's more than 800 pages and I've been limited to interlibrary loan access until just this year, when it was finally brought back into print . . . not cheap, but I've been following this book around for several decades so I finally bought a copy. Sample sentence-and-a-half: "My own view is that, though Colchis was known for gold and linen and not for wool, the two theories are not mutually exclusive. A fine-woolled fleece would be more efficient at collecting gold particles than a coarse one. . . ." (p. 147)
357. **Snoopy's Guide to the Writing Life**
358. **Sociopath Next Door, The**, Martha Stout (not just serial killers, eye-opening and something that would benefit everyone in life, not just in

writing) (Two recommendations, one comment)

359. **Solve Your Script**, Jeffrey Sweet (Contains interesting exercises for playwrights that are applicable to any fiction. For example, how to use character negotiations over space or objects to define your characters and establish backstory, in present and future tense.)
360. **Story Structure Architect**, Victoria Schmidt
361. **Story**, Robert Mckee
362. **Streets for People: A Primer for Americans**, Bernard Rudofsky (my trade pb copy . . . not mass market . . . cost \$4.95 NEW)
363. **Survival Handbook**, Ray Mear's, (A very useful resource for how to live in the wild. Although its main focus is on teaching modern people to live comfortably in the great outdoors, it also provides insights into how people have lived off nature throughout history, and can be applied to cultures ranging from the Stone Age up to post-apocalyptic ages.)
364. **Survivorman: Les Stroud** (television show) learn a new way to start a fire in the wild every week, and also get ideas on what to eat and why to eat it.
365. **TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume I: The Protocols**, W. Richard Stevens
366. **Techniques Of The Selling Writer**, Dwight V. Swain (OU prof who really EXPLAINS how to write a scene)

367. **Thought Reform and the Psychology of Totalism**, by Robert Jay Lifton
368. **Thunder and Lightning**, Natalie Goldberg (An exploration of Zen and the writing life.)
369. **Tiger!**, Kailash Sankhala
370. **Timetables of History: A Horizontal Linkage of People and Events, The**, Bernard Grun & Eva Simpson (#1 A year-by-year timeline of major events -- working on a story in the past? Look up the years of your story and quickly see what else was going on. Working on a story in the future? Look to see how past events occurred and get ideas for how they could happen again.) (#2 It's a huge, thick book that, year by year, tells what happened in History & Politics, Literature & Theater, Religion Philosophy & Learning, Visual Arts, Music, Science Technology & Growth, and Daily Life. My copy goes through 1990 - guess i need a new one ;) - and has about 100 pages of indexes to help you find exactly what historic detail you're looking for.) (Two recommendations, two comments)
371. **Tough Guide to Fantasyland, The: The Essential Guide to Fantasy Travel**, Diana Wynne Jones (actually this one is a bit fiction but mostly fun AND information about mythological creatures. Hard to get in Germany though)
372. **Ultimate Visual Dictionary**, DK Publishing (anatomy, machines, etc, all in one volume) (Ever see the Eyewitness Books in the kids' section? Those picture books that name all the parts and pieces of things, as well as variations within families (like different kinds of swords or berries or pliers, all with their individual parts and pieces named)? This dictionary is like that, more than 600 pages of STUFF, all annotated, named, and pinpointed terms for, well, almost everything. As an example, a simple flight feathe has seven different

parts, all named and noted. A GREAT resource for writers who need the little details and terms.) (Two recommendations, two comments)

373. **Upstairs Girls**, Michael Rutter (Old West Prostitution)
374. **VNR Concise Encyclopedia of Mathematics**, Walter Gellert
375. **Waiting for Birdy**, Catherine Newman
376. **War of Art**, Stephen Pressfield (A book about "resistance" [anything that pulls you away from the work that is most important to you] and how to overcome it.)
377. **Weapons: An International Encyclopedia From 5000 B.C. to 2000 A.D.**, Updated Edition by Diagram Group. (An excellent resource that gives descriptions and pictures of all sorts of weapons and how they work. I find that the pictures are extremely helpful as it is hard to describe a weapon if you don't know what it looks like and the diagrams of how they work can help you get the detailed right.)
378. **What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew: From Fox Hunting to Whist-The Facts of Daily Life in Nineteenth-Century England**, Daniel Pool (As the title says, this is a really entertaining look at England in the 19th century.)
379. **When Technology Fails**, Matthew Stein
380. **Wikipedia** (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>) (feels like a book that updates all the time..) (Two recommendations, one comment, one additional recommendation below)

381. Wikipedia's "random page" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:Random>) and the various year pages (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007>) have given more more story ideas than anything else. Did you know that this is the third International Polar Year? I didn't think so. Playing the Click on a Random Link Game is fun, too. The July Monarchy (1830-1848, France) is just three clicks from 2007, via the International Polar Year. I'm an international studies major, and I had never heard of it before (admittedly, I never studied French history, so.)
382. **Winning Office Politics**, Andrew DuBrin (A book on corporate politics)
383. **Woe Is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English**, Patricia T. O'Conner
384. **Women Who Run With the Wolves**, by Clarissa Pinkola Estes (I think this counts as non-fiction!)
385. **World Atlas**, Philips
386. **World is Flat, The**, Thomas L. Friedman
387. **Worst Case Scenario Survival Guides**, Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht (A great source for ideas, as well as providing basic details on how to cope with a wide variety of likely and unlikely situations.)
388. **Write Great Fiction** Series, various authors (4 titles)
389. **Writer's Guide to Character Traits**, by Lynn Edelstein (a checklist for personality types/traits/styles - a good starting point)

390. **Writer's Journey, The: Mythic Structure for Writers**, Christopher Vogler (I have tons of books on writing, but this one is and was pretty seminal as far as exploring Jung's ideas and Campbell's "Hero's Journey" in a way I could really understand) (Two recommendations, one comment)

391. **Writing Fiction**, Janet Burroway

392. **Writing Fiction: The Practical Guide from New York's**

393. **Acclaimed Creative Writing School: Gotham Writers Workshop**

394. **Worst Jobs in History: 2000 Years of Miserable Employment, The**, Tony Robinson

395. **Writing the Breakout Novel Workbook**, Donald Maass. (Both are highly worth buying.)

396. **Writing the Breakout Novel**, Donald Maass (I'm trying to incorporate his suggestions to improve my WIP.) (Fixing what went wrong THIS time) (Three recommendations, two comments, plus below.)

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