

Secret Big Class: Day 2

written by Holly

June 29, 2023

By Holly Lisle

Today's objective was 1000 words on Ohio 4, and both starting and finishing Secret Writing Class Worksheet #1.

It always amazes me how much harder it is to build a worksheet than to write the actual lesson it supports.

It also amazes me that I forget this fact. I decided to do the worksheet before my fiction today, because "It's just the worksheet, and I know what my writers have to be able to do... I can put that out in half an hour, maybe an hour tops..."

And I thought this because it's been a while since I've built any worksheets... and I FORGOT how difficult it is to build a good worksheet that walks someone through a complex process a step at a time.

So... I did not finish the worksheet.

I'm maybe 25% through it.

Which meant that I did not get any words on the Ohio Novel today... because I did the worksheet first, and the worksheet is kicking my ass.

I made **good progress** on the worksheet.

I'm hoping to be able to finish it tomorrow.

BUT EVEN IF I DON'T, tomorrow I'm not working on it until AFTER I get my words on Ohio 4.

Live. Learn. REMEMBER what you learn.

My motto for the rest of this time when I'm writing a novel and building a class.

Want to be invited to the secret Big Course launch?

And get updates on how it's coming along, and how close I am to taking it live? (It's closer than you think...)

□

Add yourself to the **Secret Big Class Updates** list..

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The Secret Big Course For

Writers and DAY ONE: 4769 words

written by Holly

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Yeah, I went big today.

BIG IN A LOT OF WAYS.

Have spent the last few weeks after getting my fiction words secretly outlining this Fiction-Writing Big Course, and building out my lesson blanks for the class.

Today I wrote Secret Writing Class Lesson One, and got all the words for it (at least in raw first draft). 4769 of them. Tomorrow, after I get my FICTION words, I'll build the first set of Secret Writing Class worksheets.

To do this, I'm getting up way early, and alternating days between a day of writing fiction, a day of writing nonfiction, three times each week, working a six-day week.

And I'd kind of like to start publishing the first book or two of the Ohio Novel series at about the same time as I have this class ready to take live.

FICTION WRITERS! Sign up for Holly's Thursday Writing Tips – This will also get you the invitation to the new Writing Class

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Get Holly's Free Fiction Sampler, plus Weekly-ISH Fiction Updates, and when THE OHIO NOVELS go on sale, *get invited to the launch.*

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Tuesday: 1080, and a nice bit of twisting things

written by Holly

June 29, 2023

By Holly Lisle

I'm pleased with today's words. I got to go deeper on one important series character, and I managed to frustrate my MC with this guy at the same time that I got to know him better.

Always fun.

Going to work for a while now on the OTHER PROJECT, which is nonfiction, and which shall not be named.

But I'm getting close to the halfway point on OHIO 4... and still getting good things about the creepy goings on in my little town, and the fact that so many people are so happily and obviously embracing all the creepy as a "gee, isn't this wonderful, and how do we get more of it?"

Left myself at a fun point for diving back in tomorrow, too.

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To quote Meatloaf, “Some days it don’t come easy...”

written by Holly

June 29, 2023

By Holly Lisle

It *is* a Monday.

I’m trying to be objective by keeping that in mind.

Mondays can be a bit tricky sometimes, and this was one of those.

So... I got words...

They fit, they moved the story forward, they let me build out the obstacle my characters are facing, and I genuinely like what I got.

I just didn’t get as MUCH of it as I wanted...

Turns out, this simply was not one of those “Red Bull Gives You Wings” flying-fingers, galloping plot kinds of days. I’m wrapping up, and hoping that tomorrow, the story will take off for me a bit more smoothly.

Because frankly, the “wings” days are a whole lot more fun.

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launch.

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A truly solid writing day today...

written by Holly
June 29, 2023
By Holly Lisle

I am grateful for days like this one, when there's a cool breeze blowing in the back window while I write, where I can hear birds singing and the leaves of maples and oaks rustling.

Days like this feed the fiction, because the fictionalized town is a magical version of this town, and the sounds and smells and bits of things going on around me get worked into the story.

Just in tiny pieces. But I think those pieces matter.

I love this place where I live, and I'm so happy to be able to use it as a backdrop for the magic and the danger and the mystery of the stories I'm writing.

I won't be using it by NAME, because the name of my town is WAY long to type ten thousand times.

But I'll make sure to give credit in the novels to the real town that made me love it back when I was nine, and made me love it again when I returned here fifty years later.

Today it was the Joy of Words

written by Holly

June 29, 2023

By Holly Lisle

I love writing in my fantasy small-town Ohio world.

Because while part of it is absolutely deep fantasy with really good magic, part of it is my house, and my street, and my little town right here...

And I love my house, and my street, and my little town, and the folks who live here.

I love the sounds of the place, and the smells. I love the wildflowers (AKA weeds to those in town who are – unlike me – obsessed with Utterly Perfect Lawns).

I came to loathe Utterly Perfect Lawns in South Florida.

I reserve the right to love my wild violets and my dandelions and all the other weedy little flowers in my soft green grass that give the bees something to make honey with.

And I love being – at long last – home, where it isn't ninety degrees with ninety percent humidity, but a cool and breezy fifty-eight. In June.

And I love writing my crazy magical version of my little town in Ohio, with its hills, and its river, and its wonderful four

seasons.

I got the words.

I'm happy.

And now I'm going off to do the other work of the day.

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The Mystery Deepens... Ohio 4 and Important People Lying

written by Holly

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By Holly Lisle

Some days, writing is like flying – it's effortless, and exciting, and maybe a bit scary and windy, especially when the ground seems a long, long way down.

But these are the days when you have to pull yourself away from the words when all you want to do is keep going.

I managed to make myself stop, because... Real Life.

I now have 9420 words total on Ohio 4 (VERSION 2) – every one brand new, and fresh, and right at the moment, running right between funny and scary.

But I cannot WAIT to get back into this tomorrow.

God, I love this job!

So... TODAY was epic...

written by Holly

June 29, 2023

By Holly Lisle

Still working from my line-for-scene outline, today the scene i started yesterday just took off.

I now have 9245 words done on the first draft. I got 1432 words today, AND discovered the thing I needed to see, and it was completely different than I'd been imagining... but I love it so much.

Some days writing fiction can take a lot out of you.

Some days, though – like today – it gives you energy, and excitement, and surprises – and on days like this, you just fly.

I love this job.

FICTION WRITERS! Sign up for Holly's Thursday Writing Tips

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Good writing day. Not epic, but...

written by Holly
June 29, 2023
By Holly Lisle

Not every day CAN be epic.

I had to do something hard thinking, and some outlining, and some worldbuilding, and none of that stuff counts as words.

But it's all essential.

However, the part I got, I love.

So now I have to go out into the world and DO STUFF.

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'Twas a fine day in writing land... with vengeance...

written by Holly

June 29, 2023

By Holly Lisle

You know how you have heroes who you watch take a beating from the world, and get trampled by minions who've taken over something they've created? And you watch the over-throwing bastards who trample them ruin all the good stuff they made, and make a complete mess of this wonderful thing they put into the world that you loved?

No?

Well... for me, that's a thing. And today I told a bit of that kind of story in Chapter 2 of Ohio 4 – and while I got angry all over again that stupid arrogance of that sort is endemic in businesses, and that anyone who dares to take a company public and put it into the hands of a board of directors is ASKING for disaster, and begging to see whatever he or she made wonderful turned into absolute crap...

It does happen.

And I figure the world has a place for cautionary tales, too, doesn't it?

So while today's little episode is just a tiny, minor, couple-of-scenes side story in the novel, I was very happy to write it.

And I am very happy to give this secondary character guy of mine a second chance, fueled by the knowledge that the people who didn't build the company (those boards of directors) couldn't give a shit about the company they were put in charge of. And he loves what he did, and will love it again.

To this fictional board of directors, that company is just stock options, and cutting costs, and raking in their own profits at the expense of employees and customers.

Meanwhile, my secondary-character guy has love, and passion, and crazy-wide knowledge, and brilliant skills, and drive.

And now, he has a good friend in LOW places. (Little in joke. It will make senses when the books come out.)

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