

## GROUP GUIDELINES: STORYTELLER WRITING CIRCLE

1. This group is based on the Storyteller Writing Prompts from the book *Fear of Writing* by Milli Thornton.
2. Each week, members choose one of the 112 Storyteller Writing Prompts to write a story with. We write for 30-45 minutes, making sure to leave time at the end for everyone to read his or her piece out loud to the group.
3. All members of the group do the same writing prompt.
4. Please refrain from chatting (or go outside to do it) while people are writing. Cell phones must be switched off during the writing circle. No texting while people are writing or reading aloud.
5. If you arrive late and find that the writing has already commenced, enter the circle quietly so as not to disrupt your fellow writers. Someone sitting near you will use the book to point out the writing prompt we're working on.
6. The group is moderated by \_\_\_\_\_. If \_\_\_\_\_ is not present, elect a group leader for the evening.
7. The job of the group leader is to ensure that (a) a writing prompt gets chosen and started on in a timely manner, (b) that everyone gets a chance to read to the group, and (c) that the group stays focused on the group format and the reason for meeting.
8. Please be conscious about sharing group time. No dominating group time with your life history. Please do not use this group as a platform to preach your beliefs.
9. No one should be pressured to read if they're not ready.
10. Be considerate when others are reading. Everyone should be afforded the attention span you expect for your own piece. Listen deeply. Refrain from creating diversions.
11. We are here as a supportive audience and to have fun! No critiques allowed.
12. The time immediately after each story is read is reserved for remarks about THAT story. Refrain from using someone else's story to switch the attention to yourself.
13. While we encourage a friendly atmosphere, extended social exchanges that make the group run late should be saved for after the meeting.
14. Please respect our host, \_\_\_\_\_, and patronize his/her coffeehouse with your business (hint: buy some coffee!).