

Prewriting or Hatching

New Ideas



How do I start you may ask? Where do ideas come from? Anywhere. Everywhere. Still no ideas? Here are just a few possibilities: A line of dialogue. A title. A character, either fictitious or based on someone you met or read about. A historical event. A theme or issue. Anything you have seen... even what may seem uninteresting like seeing a woman wait for the bus or a little boy walking his dog. An object or photograph. Something in the newspaper. Your own life or perhaps someone in your family (like that crazy great Uncle Freddie).

Anything you care about and that's the point. **You can not write about something which isn't in some way really REALLY important to you.** If you don't care about the story, who else will? Plays come from experience, imagination and knowledge. You've got all three. Mix them together and **write about what you know**, deep inside. Plays that work, regardless of their genre, style or structure, give the audience a sense of truth.

1. Sources of Inspiration: How do I get ideas in the first place?

- ? Magazines or newspapers
- ? Conduct an interview based on a certain topic
- ? Radio, TV, Internet
- ? Personal experiences or interests
- ? Film – movies and documentaries
- ? Music
- ? Visual art – observing or creating
- ? Dreams or memories
- ? Discussion and brainstorming
- ? Role playing
- ? Research
- ? Imagination

2. Tips – What ways can I pre-write?

- ? Free writing, journaling, or writing exercises
- ? Image streaming (*imagine yourself in another place or time and describe from a first person point of view*)
- ? List
- ? Visualization
- ? Brainstorming – individually or as a group
- ? Topic or word chart