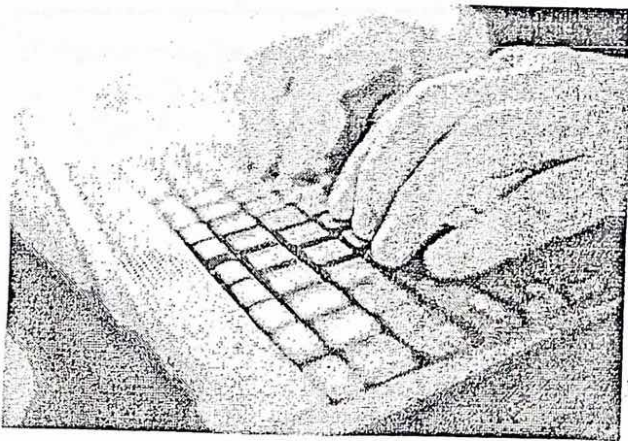


# SMASH JOURNAL

or



# Blog

"...researchers have settled on what they believe is the magic number for true expertise: *ten thousand hours.*"

- Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers: The Story of Success*

You have two choices for this assignment. You can create a "Smash Journal" for your writing or create a blog. You all know what a blog is so I won't define that for you but a Smash Journal is something you may not have heard of. There are some examples later in this packet but we will talk about it and I will show you some examples in class. Essentially it is one part journal and one part scrapbook and one part awesomeness.

Regardless of which option you choose to do, your requirements as a writer are listed below:

- Write 200 to 400 words a week
- Make them personal
- Make them about something in which you are passionate
- In the end your "artifact" (whether it is a blog or a smash journal) needs to be something only you can create
- You need to come to class with something to write about on the last class of each week (I will give you time to write in class)
- And, it needs to be dazzling and something you are proud to share
- It needs to be well-written expository writing. (A pedagogical term for any form of writing that conveys information and explains ideas: exposition. As one of the four traditional modes of discourse, expository writing may include elements of narration, description, and argumentation, but unlike creative writing or persuasive writing, its primary goal is to deliver information about an issue, subject, method, or idea.

Our Objective: To create a venue for you to develop your writing skills using topic(s) that you are passionate about. Your end result should not be an end...but just the beginning to your development as a writer. My assumption with this assignment is that you will all have to write in your chosen careers (which by its very definition makes you a professional writer). However, the "end" of the assignment should leave you with a substantial "objet d'art" or artifact of your writings about something which inspires you or that you are passionate about.

Inspirations for your topics can include hobbies and interests, bucket lists, an "Encyclopedia of Me," famous quotes, etc. I will share a few other tricks for making sure you have possible topics to write about in class such as listservs, Google alerts, etc. I will also provide you with some example blogs, etc. to review for ideas.

## INSPIRATIONS

### 20 Smash Book Page Challenge

- Page 1: Instagram Photos
- Page 2: Favorite Quotes
- Page 3: Favorite City
- Page 4: 10 things about you
- Page 5: Post cards from your city
- Page 6: 10 facts about the city you live in
- Page 7: Favorite Person
- Page 8: Photos from somewhere you used to live
- Page 9: Favorite Recipe
- Page 10: Year you were born
- Page 11: If you had \$\_\_\_\_\_ and had to spend it by tomorrow, what would you buy?
- Page 12: Favorite Hobby
- Page 13: 10 things you enjoyed during a trip
- Page 14: Something old
- Page 15: Magazine Article
- Page 16: Favorite Poem
- Page 17: Use the letters of your name to spell out characteristics
- Page 18: Last movie you saw
- Page 19: 10 reasons why you love someone/something/someplace
- Page 20: 10 favorite songs

# INSPIRATIONS

"The beautiful part of writing is that you don't have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon."  
— Robert Cormier

"If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write." — Martin Luther

"Everyone is born creative; everyone is given a box of crayons in kindergarten. Then when you hit puberty they take the crayons away and replace them with dry, uninspiring books on algebra, history, etc. Being suddenly hit years later with the 'creative bug' is just a wee voice telling you, 'I'd like my crayons back, please.'  
— Hugh MacLeod, *Ignore Everybody: and 39 Other Keys to Creativity*

"If you can't annoy somebody, there is little point in writing." — Kingsley Amis, *Lucky Jim*

"The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug." — Mark Twain, *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain*

"Finishing a book is just like you took a child out in the back yard and shot it." — Truman Capote

"Write what you know." — Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer/Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

"There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all."  
— Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

"I am aware of being in a beautiful prison, from which I can only escape by writing."  
— Anaïs Nin, *The Diary of Anaïs Nin, Vol. 1: 1931-1934*

"The first draft of anything is s--t." — Ernest Hemingway

"A writer, I think, is someone who pays attention to the world." — Susan Sontag

"I just sit at my typewriter and curse a bit." — P.G. Wodehouse

"Every writer I know has trouble writing." — Joseph Heller

"It is my ambition to say in ten sentences what others say in a whole book." — Friedrich Nietzsche

"I write to give myself strength. I write to be the characters that I am not. I write to explore all the things I'm afraid of."  
— Joss Whedon

"Write the kind of story you would like to read. People will give you all sorts of advice about writing, but if you are not writing something you like, no one else will like it either." — Meg Cabot

"You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club." — Jack London

"If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster." — Isaac Asimov

"Find out the reason that commands you to write; see whether it has spread its roots into the very depth of your heart; confess to yourself you would have to die if you were forbidden to write." — Rainer Maria Rilke

"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself." — Albert Camus

"Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen."  
— John Steinbeck

“Writing well is not just an option for young people – it is a necessity. Along with reading comprehension, writing skill is a predictor of academic success and a basic requirement for participation in civic life and in the global economy.” Graham and Perin.

# WHAT IT IS

*the formless thing which gives things form*

inside

outside

What  
is

an  
Image?

The way in...  
...and out!

DO YOU WISH  
YOU COULD  
WRITE?

DRAMATICALLY ILLUSTRATED WITH MORE

THAN COLOR PICTURES

BY  
*Lynda  
Barry*

quarter of the population flow  
outward again, many of them  
victims of soul-grinding

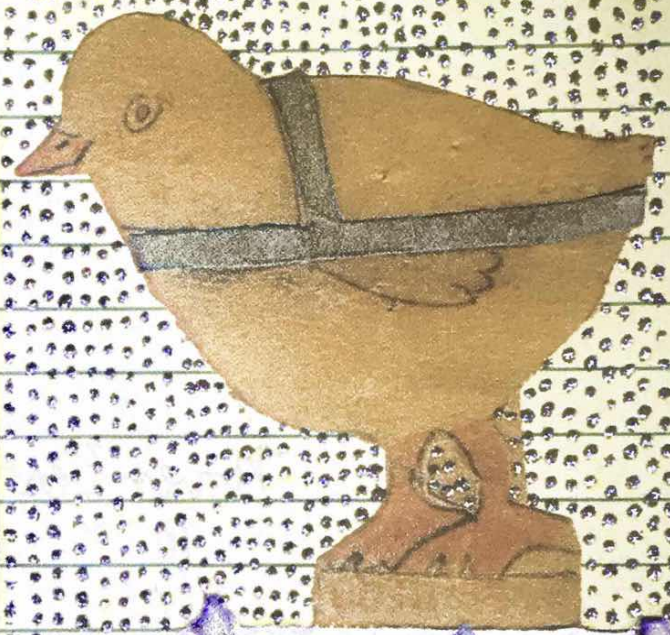
little ghosts come a-knocking with hands like these

# WHAT IS THE PAST?



Howard Child

4000  
 on now. Howard can  
 write Cat, rat, Cars,  
 Cardapant his, Name  
 I will have him  
 write it on the top  
 of this page. Show it  
 to grand~~ma~~ grandpa  
 all  
 With love Coraline



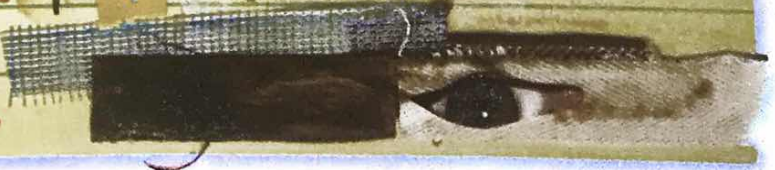
I know a little cupboard,  
With a teeny tiny key,



# WHERE IS IT LOCATED?



- everywhere
- nowhere
- somewhere
- anywhere
- elsewhere
- here



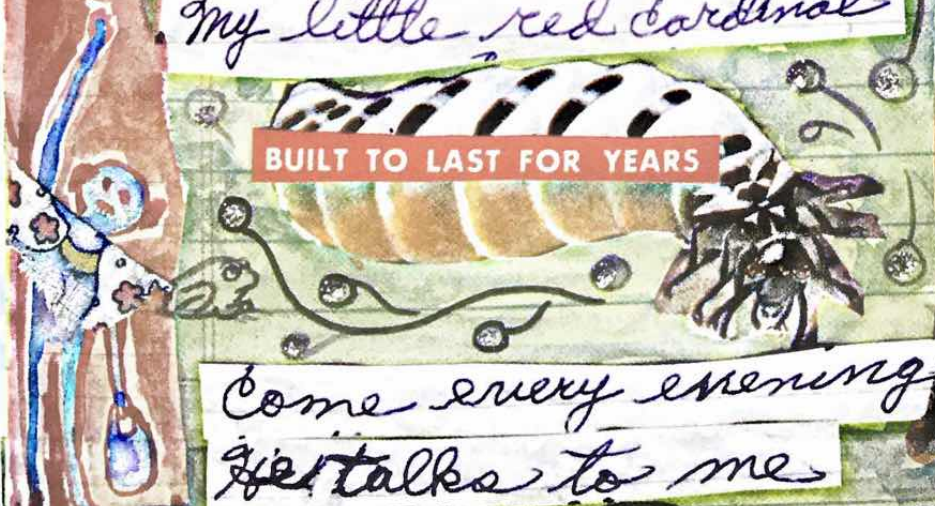
existed first in the imagination



*The Both of Me*

*My little red cardinal*

**BUILT TO LAST FOR YEARS**



*Come every evening  
He talks to me*

HELLO



WHAT CONTROLS IT?

WHEN WE  
IMAGINE THING!  
WE DON'T WANT  
TO IMAGINE, WHY  
CAN'T WE STOP  
OURSELVES?

a lifelike figure that seems to move



a lifelike figure that

sleeping

answer

row

THOUGH I KNEW SHE DIDN'T EXIST, THE MONSTER I WAS MOST AFRAID OF WAS THE GORGON.

I HATED THE THOUGHT OF HER, BUT SHE WAS OFTEN ON MY MIND.

WHY DO YOU DRAW UGLY FACES? YOU JUST WASTE PAPER!

I MADE PLANS FOR HOW TO DEFEND MYSELF FROM HER, I'D SCARE MYSELF WITH THE THOUGHT OF SEEING HER BEHIND ME IN THE MIRROR-- OF ACCIDENTALLY LOOKING AT HER FACE.

SHE PARALYZES YOU YOU HAVE TO CUT OFF HER HEAD WITHOUT LOOKING AT HER FACE SOME TIMES I MANAGED-- AND OTHER TIMES SHE GOT ME. I'D PRACTICE BEING PARALYZED, AND TURNING INTO STONE



SOMETIMES I DID THIS IN FRONT OF MY MOTHER TO SEE IF SHE WOULD NOTICE. SOMETIMES I TURNED TO STONE IN THE FRONT YARD.

I believe a lot of kids play with monsters in this way. That most of us had a certain something, that really scared us, and seemed to have it in for us. A 'something' we had to defend ourselves against in secret ways. I never talked about the Gorgon.

ONCE I MADE MYSELF FALL OFF MY BIKE AS IF I HAD SEEN HER WHILE COASTING DOWN MY STREET, TRYING TO FREEZE MYSELF EXACTLY AS I FELL.





I CAN REMEMBER NOT BEING A TEENAGER AND THEN BEING ONE. BEING CATAPULTED INTO A NEW WORLD CONTAINED BY THE OLD ONE, JUST BY WALKING TO SCHOOL.

KIDS BURN UP IN THIS ATMOSPHERE. FRIENDSHIPS ATOMIZE BUT THE TEEN PART IS SMELTERING ITSELF TOGETHER ALL ALONG, AND SOON YOU CAN THINK OF YOURSELF NO OTHER WAY.

SOMETHING WAS GONE, BUT I DIDN'T MISS IT. I DIDN'T MISS IT AT ALL.

LAST NAME?

I WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE. I WAS COPYING OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES AND PERSONALITIES, HAIR, CLOTHES, TABLE MANNERS, CONVERSATION-STYLE, WAY OF LAUGHING, WAY OF ANYTHING THAT WAS PART OF THE FUTURE I WANTED TO BE IN.

I COPIED OLD ILLUSTRATIONS, AND ADS AND THEN PHOTOGRAPHS. I COPIED POEMS AND SONG LYRICS. COPIED THOUGHTS OF OTHERS AND TRIED TO CHANGE MY SITUATION BY COPYING MY WAY INTO ANOTHER WORLD. AND IT WORKED.

IN A FAIRY-TALE IT WOULDN'T WORK BUT IN REAL LIFE IT DID.

MY DRAWING GOT SWEETER

AND STIFFER

USE ONLY GENUINE POMADE by Wehrwald