

3B Incredibly short stories

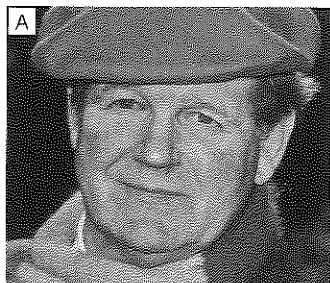
1 READING

- a Read the article about different writers and their writing styles.
Which one of them only works in the morning?
- b Read the article again and match each writer (A–D) to a sentence.
Who says / said that...
- 1 he / she exercises after writing? _____
 - 2 he / she has days when they do not write anything? _____
 - 3 he / she writes a minimum number of pages every day? _____
 - 4 he / she finds they can concentrate better when they are in bed? _____

- c Look at the highlighted words and phrases in the text and try to figure out their meaning. Then use them to complete the sentences.
- 1 My sewing machine wasn't working, so I had to mend my skirt _____.
 - 2 I gave my son the jug and told him to _____ with water.
 - 3 I was so late I only had time to _____ my coat and rush out of the door.
 - 4 The psychologist gave her some _____ advice on how to deal with her teenage son.
 - 5 He finds it difficult to study at home because there are too many _____.
 - 6 She's in a very confused _____, so she doesn't know whether to stay or go.

How do writers write?

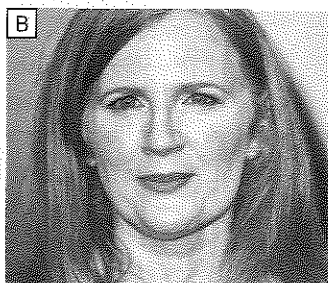
All writers have their own particular ways of getting words down – a favorite pen, a special place, even a certain time of day. Four famous writers reveal their secrets.



Michael Morpurgo

British children's author

I had problems some years ago sitting at a desk because I got pains in my wrist and shoulder, so I decided to copy my writing hero Robert Louis Stevenson instead and found his way worked. Now, when I have a story in my head I go to bed with a small notebook, like the one children are given in elementary school, and fill it up. I keep my manuscripts in the refrigerator just in case the house burns down.

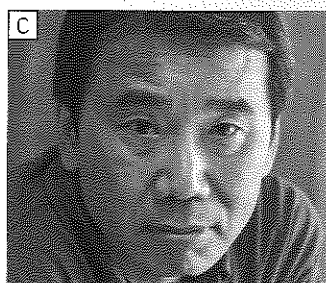


Suzanne Collins

American screenwriter and novelist

I grab some cereal and sit down to work as soon as possible. The more distractions I have to deal with before I actually begin writing, the harder focusing on the story becomes. Then I work until I'm tapped out*, usually sometime in the early afternoon. If I actually write three to five hours, that's a productive day. Some days all I do is stare at the wall. That can be productive, too, if you're working out character and plot problems. The rest of the time, I walk around with the story slipping in and out of my thoughts.

* *tapped out* – tired, exhausted



Haruki Murakami

Japanese author and translator

When I'm in the process of writing a novel, I get up at 4:00 a.m. and work for five to six hours. In the afternoon, I run for 6 miles or swim for 1 mile (or do both); then I read a bit and listen to some music. I go to bed at 9:00 p.m. I keep to this routine every day without variation. The repetition itself becomes the important thing; it's a form of hypnotism and it helps me reach a deeper state of mind.



Philip Pullman

British author

I sit down to write by hand, in ballpoint, on A4 narrow lined paper, after breakfast, and work through till lunch with a break for coffee and reading mail. Then I have lunch and watch *Neighbours** (invaluable). In the afternoon I read or take the dog for a walk or do something physically constructive. In the evening I finish the three pages, which is my daily task, or if I finished them in the morning, I do whatever journalism or reviewing or lecture-planning I have in hand.

* *Neighbours* – an Australian soap opera