



July Theme: What is the most important creative habit or attitude to establish?

Barbara Ehrentreu -- Probably the most important thing to learn when you are writing is not to ignore any idea you have. If you are writing your first draft just put down whatever comes into your mind. You can always delete it later but for now you need the steady and free flow of ideas to keep you writing. I'm sure the same applies to drawing and painting and music as well. Also, when you are writing fiction you should always ask yourself, what if. This question helps to move your plot. Once you have your characters developed and you know their motivation then this question, what if, will give you the plot. It will also help you see how to move it along. The main thing is always to keep your mind open to possibilities.



Lynn Garelick -- The best and most creative habit is to have an open mind and show up at all creative painting sessions offered to me.

Adrienne Reddy provided such an opportunity within the last month to arrive at the Treetops estate in north Stamford to observe, draw and paint the thousands of daffodils in bloom on the rolling hills. What a glorious day it was, sketching while listening to the harpist play from her wonderful repertoire. I finished the painting of my sketches in my studio this past week: *Treetops Daffodils No. 1* and *Treetops Daffodil Field No. 2*.

Leigh Grant -- There are two sources on which to base creativity: whatever brings you knowledge and whatever brings you experience. I'm not sure I would call them habits or attitudes. I know from a career of thirty-five years in illustration that research is key. It is the springboard to creativity. In writing fiction, besides research and experience, once you know your characters, truly know them, you encounter having the book write itself. That's a very exciting and rewarding aspect of telling a story. The creative process is just like building a house, you have to start with the foundation.

Doris Mady -- 1) Show up! 2) Clean your brushes

August Theme: If you met your hero or heroine, what would you ask that person?



GUIDELINES --- Original artwork and photographs: Jpegs no larger than 500 kb. Proofread stories, essays and poems: 150 words *more or less*; photographs related to your story are permitted. Music: one page scores only, with text. Send your submission no later than the 20th of the month for the upcoming month. i.e., for January send Dec. 20th; February send Jan. 20th, etc. Email: dorismady42@gmail.com.

Let's hear from YOU!

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