



Creative Wordshops

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storyteller facilitator speaker writing-coach poet

# Writing Letter

## July 2024

re-story, re-create, re-  
imagine you

for this letter, a weekly story  
and ongoing opportunities -  
[dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za](http://dorianhaarhoffblog.co.za)

Dear writer, storyteller, reader, lover of words, images, silences...

*We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master.*  
(Ernest Hemingway)

### Apprentice to the words within

#### A Sonnet in Wrought Iron

If you aim to be a blacksmith, boy,  
You'll need fittings built to last.  
So, know that if the anvil rings,  
It's been forged instead of cast.  
You'll need to stand the heat regardless  
How the bellows feeds the draft,  
And hammer down apprenticeship  
While mastering your craft.  
You'll need to tend to all specifics  
As to tolerance and measure.  
And fashion every masterpiece  
As a temporary treasure.  
A puddler turns out iron by the ton.  
A blacksmith makes the tools that get things done.  
( Michael Kalavik)

Writers and musicians have long been intrigued by the apprentice ethos. Goethe's narrative poem *Der Zauberlehrling* tells of a sorcerer who can turn a broomstick into a servant. The sorcerer's apprentice overhears the magic formula and, one day when the old man is out, tries it out. The broomstick does his bidding and brings water from the nearby river. As the apprentice does not know how to turn off the spell, the water in the house rises. In

desperation the boy axes the broom into pieces. Each bit sweeps in more water. In the midst of the flood, the sorcerer returns. "Sir, my need is sore," the apprentice pleads. "Spirits that I've cited/My commands ignore." The sorcerer utters the magic word and restores order.

Based on Goethe's narrative, Paul Dukas, a friend of Debussy, in 1897 composed *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* where musicians orchestrate the theme. Clarinet, oboe, and flute intone the unstoppable broom and brass booms the spell.



In the Middle Ages, apprentices, entered into a contract with a skilled craftsman, a master of a trade, who guided them, passing on skills and attitudes - sometimes for 7 years. The apprentice often lived in-house. Guilds of skilled craftsmen oversaw a quality education, also hosting communal activities. An apprentice could begin at 12 and any who reneged on duties could

be imprisoned for 3 weeks.

As metaphor, apprenticeship has long intrigued me. This written in 2006:

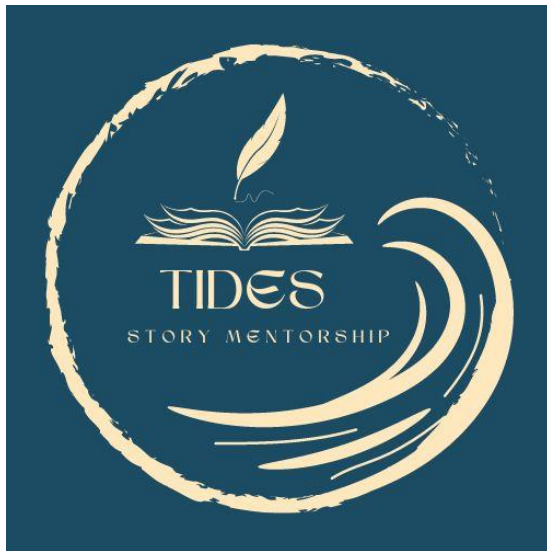
### **The Storyteller's Art**

the Great Storyteller knows when  
to tap his pipe on the boot of creation,  
to roll the drama down the mountain,  
flood the plain, trumpet down walls,  
arrest a man with a burning bush,  
fly chariots across the sky.

bring in the who of story,  
a snake, he, she, the apple core.  
fireword prophets, lusty Kings,  
queens and pomegranate lovers,  
brother-betrayers, fishermen  
a whale who coughs up a man.  
knows how to arrange the tale

choreograph the where,  
three crosses on a hill  
a leading star lighting a stable  
a broken-open tomb  
a ghostwalk with a stranger.

so the story mounts on eagle wings.  
spits sight, eye to eye  
in the lightening flash, the love look.  
in the once upon a miracle play.  
the divine teller entices us  
to his art, to apprentice us.



I'm thinking about apprenticeship this July-Sept as three of us (Igno van Niekerk and Tina Konstant) present a third Zoom Story apprenticeship (see Radar below - only 2 place left).

*The lessons I have learnt from each of you have been invaluable and I do wish you strength and wisdom as your life journey/story unfolds. Happy ever story telling my fellow pilgrims. (Gail Taukhehe)*

*A people are as healthy and confident as the stories they tell themselves...  
Stories can conquer fear. They can make the heart larger. (Ben Okri)*

The more I know about story the less I know.  
May we live storified lives.

Dorian

## Writing Retreat Radar – Winter into Spring 2024

detailed flyers on request

### 1. Magic Carpet Writers (Somerset West)

last Wed of the month writeaway

a fun-loving supportive thinking/being group of aspirant writers.

2

**STORY APPRENTICESHIP**



on Zoom  
6 Sun p.m  
2 hour  
sessions  
July-Sept

**THE TALE IS WISER  
THAN THE TELLER**

R2250 10 PLACES  
DORIAN 082 873 6802

3



**Learning Organisation**  
...where things change people

**STORY TELLING FOR THE AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

We live in times of crisis and accelerated cultural and technical change. What kind of personal and professional leadership is called for to meet these challenges? This storyshop is about how narrative can reinvigorate, inform and direct the kind of personal and professional leadership that these times crave.

**OBJECTIVES**

This Authentic Leadership Storyshop will:

- help you develop and practice authenticity in the everyday
- redefine your leadership agency, role and application
- explain the power and effect of good storytelling in the workplace
- show you how stories impact on a company's health, wealth and wisdom
- help you reframe a personal and professional leadership story
- give you an understanding of how stories influence work performance and ethics

**ROADMAP**

**Tapping into the Stories of Organisations**  
Abansi the Spider: The great African story tradition applied to leadership

**The crisis of our times: Understanding stories as change and transformation agencies**  
Answering the Call: The many faces of Leadership Ethics and Images: How stories transform Organisations

**Practical Application**  
Story structure: A template  
Challenging assumptions and belief systems  
Creating a leadership story relevant for work  
Sharing the learning: Action plan and Evaluation

DATE <b>28 MAY</b>	TIME <b>9:00 AM</b>	RATE <b>1,950</b>	VENUE <b>LA PALM ROYAL BEACH HOTEL, ACCRA</b>
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**FACILITATOR**



Dr Dorian Haarhoff is a story-teller and a writer with a range of publications to his name. He is a former Professor of English (Univ. of Namibia) with a passion for and a keen understanding of the power of stories in professional and private life. Dorian, through his skills, experience and insights, uses story-telling as a means of creating new realities. For the past seven years, he has been involved in teaching and evaluating the Executive MBA program at LIC's Graduate School of Business where the emphasis has been on leadership development.

FOR MORE ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: 020 834 1255 | roberta@learningorganisation.net

Postponed till 13 Aug

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**Writing Workshop**

part of FFC Festival  
Somerset West  
join the conversation  
beginners & writers welcome



Thurs 8 Aug  
14.00-16.30

find your voice  
with writer  
& mentor  
Dorian



**R290**

082 873 6802

5

**Writer's Retreat**  
writeway in  
Pringle Bay



23-25 Aug  
swim in  
a sea  
of words  
9 places

with writer & mentor  
Dorian

**R990**  
082 873 6802 for flyer

**6 BRC Ixopo**

Fri 13 - Sun 15 Sep Thoughts, Words, Breath And Blood - A Writing Retreat

Sun 15 - Tue 17 Sep Write Away At The BRC

## **7. ZenPen Retreat (Groot Marico)**

20=25 Oct 2024 **Writing, Being & Meditation**

<https://tararokpacentre.co.za/event/zenpen-writing-being-and-meditation/>

014 503 8901

## **8. Mentoring: ongoing one-on-one attention**

*You help me to sound like myself (numerous clients)*

Like a pair of sandals we walk this road together. Taking in the view. Mentoring involves finding out where you want to go with your writing/story telling/work/life and encouraging you get to there