

## More Creative Writing Invitations: Invitations to Go Somewhere New

Borrowed and Adapted From *Room to Write: Daily Invitations to a Writer's Life* by Bonnie Goldberg. Penguin/Putnam: 1996. (Available in the Writing Center)

### The Inner Critic

A critical inner voice taunts you as you create. You can ignore it, try to reason with it, seek counseling, or embrace it. Each of us must learn to live with it if we are going to write. But because strong writing comes from all your faculties, it helps to look at the ways the voice may be helping you write, too. Even though what it says may make you doubt your skill and talent, each time you write in spite of it, your commitment to writing deepens. It's as if having to struggle past the doubt strengthens your conviction. The type of energy it takes to move past it actually taps into the creative process.

Today turn your internal critical voice into a character. What is its gender? How does it look? How does it smell? What does it say? What are its motives?

(From *Room to Write* "Critical Mass" p.13)

### Write About Food

Eating is a universal, recognizable experience. Food and our relationship to it is telling. Those who eat to live rather than live to eat are expressing an aspect of themselves and how they experience the world through their relationship to food.

Write about food. If this is too general a subject, begin by describing your most memorable breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Afterwards, notice whether you spent more time describing the food, the atmosphere, or the company. Or write the word food at the top of the page and go wherever it takes you. Write at least three pages.

(From *Room to Write* "Soul Food" p.156)

### Write About Sleep

We spend about a third of our lives asleep. Watching people and animals sleep suggests that it is a pretty busy activity: we toss, turn, speak, walk, drool, kick, cry out. Since it takes up such a large chunk of our experience of living, it is a topic worthy of exploring in writing.

Write about sleep. Describe your sleeping habits (as you know or imagine them) or the sleeping habits of someone you know well. Describe insomnia. Contemplate napping (on the page—not in the Writing Center!). Conjecture about what the realm of sleep is all about.

(From *Room to Write* "Zzzzzz..." p.160)