Narrative Writing Workshop
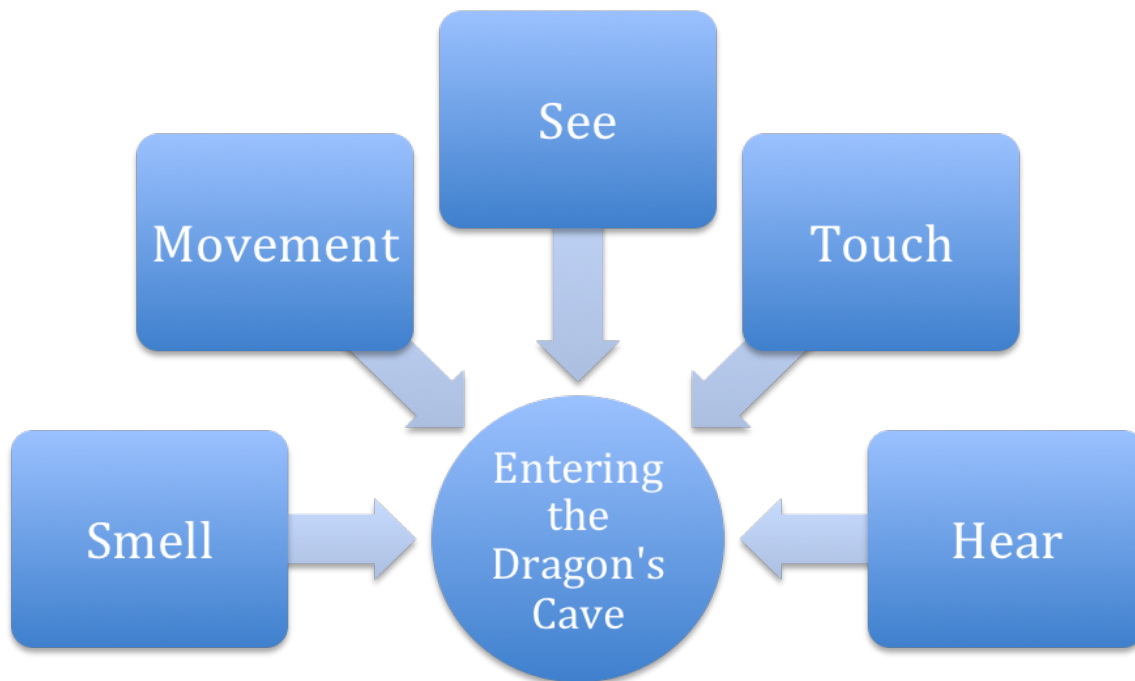# With Artist Cathy Beverage

The 4 S's of Good Writing

1. **Specific**
2. Strong Verbs (ventured, veered, dashed, bolted)
3. Sensory Details (taste, smell, sound, touch, see)
4. Show vs. Tell (don't use the words 'was' of 'is')
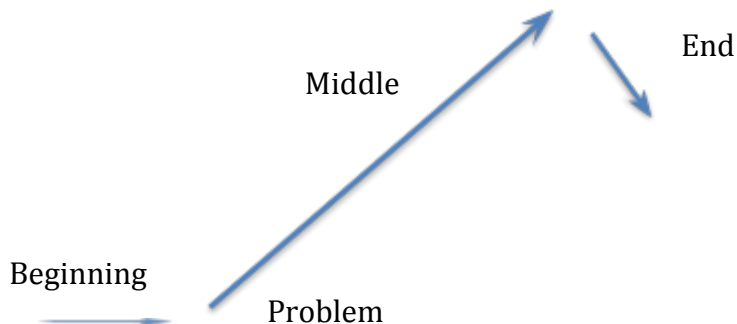5. If its not one of the above – skip it!

How to story plan

- work scene by scene – don't jump ahead or you'll miss the important details!
- Words are the most important thing in story writing
- If words aren't able to create an image in the mind of the read- skip it!
- Each scene needs its own mind map

Example: Scene 1 of your story is entering the cave of a dragon

Story writing should take on this appearance: think of this line like your main characters blood pressure!

Middle

End

Beginning

Problem

Setting
Background Info

Planning Order:
1) **Problem –** when your character first feels stressed (only ONE!)
    a. Character vs. character
    b. Character vs. nature (natural disaster)
    c. Character vs. self (internal struggles)
    d. Character vs. society (corporations, large groups of people)
    e. Character vs. supernatural (these are normally longer because you have to explain more)
2) **Solution –** when your character becomes unstressed
    a. Never kill off your main character! If you HAVE to kill a character, kill off another character – it is unsatisfying to your reading
    b. Never use 'waking up from a dream to end your story!

3) **Middle** – the most exciting part!
    a. Try and fail model until problem is solved
    b. Gets worse and worse then better
    c. Two attempts at the problem before the character is able to solve the problem (the 3rd attempt is the hardest to come up with!)
4) **Background information** – often very important in strengthening the ability to solve the problem
5) **End** – character should reflect on a feeling
    a. Past
    b. Present
    c. Future
6) **Beginning –** what is your character doing 5 minutes before the problem starts

*Main character needs to remain likeable
**Attempts to solve the problem must be believable and not too easy
***Make sure you write scenes not summaries!