



## Write Like the Masters: Emulating the Best of Hemingway, Faulkner, Salinger, and Others

*William Cane*

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Want To Find Your Voice? Learn from the Best.

Time and time again you've been told to find your own unique writing style, as if it were as simple as pulling it out of thin air. But finding your voice isn't easy, so where better to look than to the greatest writers of our time?

"Write Like the Masters" analyzes the writing styles of twenty-one great novelists, including Charles Dickens, Edith Wharton, Franz Kafka, Flannery O'Connor, and Ray Bradbury. This fascinating and insightful guide shows you how to imitate the masters of literature and, in the process, learn advanced writing secrets to fire up your own work.

You'll discover: Herman Melville's secrets for creating characters as memorable as Captain Ahab. How to master point of view with techniques from Fyodor Dostoevsky. Ways to pick up the pace by keeping your sentences lean like Ernest Hemingway. The importance of sensual details from James Bond creator Ian Fleming. How to add suspense to your story by following the lead of the master of horror, Stephen King.

Whether you're working on a unique voice for your next novel or you're a composition student toying with different styles, this guide will help you gain insight into the work of the masters through the rhetorical technique of imitation. Filled with practical, easy-to-apply advice, "Write Like the Masters" is your key to understanding and using the proven techniques of history's greatest authors.

## **Write Like the Masters: Emulating the Best of Hemingway, Faulkner, Salinger, and Others Details**

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# **From Reader Review Write Like the Masters: Emulating the Best of Hemingway, Faulkner, Salinger, and Others for online ebook**

## **Mufasa Martian says**

I am in shock and in awe.

Firstly let me say that I am shaken up a bit. It is as if revelations are being revealed from the Greats up in the heavens.

This book has escaped the notice of it's potential admirers. It's ratings and placement on 'On Writing Book' lists is depreciated. I highly recommend this book to be taken notice, URGENTLY !

Writers like Salinger, King, Melville and coffee crazed Balzacs! A blend of styles, intermixed with that sweetness to detail that is so rare, tinted with a hint of awe-some spice of verisimilitude.

The aspiring writer can pick and chose whatever tools he chooses from this book. This- more concisely- is a list of tricks and techniques that all of us should know.

The narrative by William Cane gives you back stories featuring:

Narcotic addicted Philip K.Dick,  
J.D Salinger harboring words in underground bunkers,  
Balzac consuming copious cups of caffeine like a madman.

To give you some whiff of the craft:

.Dostoyevsky's emotional transitions.  
.Suspense like Stephen King.  
.Symbolism from Ms. Connor  
.Poetry Prose like Bradbury

Combined with the entertaining and informative narration, this is a must read for every reader and author.

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## **Roxana Saberi says**

I found this book to have many helpful writing tips. You don't have to like all the authors analyzed in the book, but still, each one's style has something to teach writers. I particularly enjoyed the critique of Hemingway, which includes advice such as:

- o Interchange short and long paragraphs; break up many long graphs with a short one
- o Use short dialogues back and forth
- o Avoid too much attribution
- o Repeat colors; contrast colors

I also learned something from reading about Dostoevsky and his "secret" to making great transitions (between sections, chapters, etc.) and from going through the chapter on Tom Wolfe and his development of internal dialogue and writing nonfiction like fiction. This book also contains pointers on character and plot development, building suspense (particularly in the chapter on Stephen King), foreshadowing, and types of discourse.

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### **Mary Catelli says**

Which picks apart various authors' works and describes their lives -- some trivia, but a good bit about how they actually wrote.

Has a good number of interesting tricks of the trade. He's a little too fond of using Jungian analysis and tell you to use it too, and tell you to draw your characters from real life; both tricks, BTW, that simply vanish when the use he is talking about doesn't apply, as when discussing Edgar Rice Burroughs's characters. Action and adventure, character change and how little you need, emotional tags, exaggeration -- all sorts of tricks described in here.

He warns up front that useful piece of advice: becoming a writer will change how you read. Forever. And in fact, this book will hurry it up a bit, since it shows you how to dissect the books instead of just reading them. So it's not only the techniques you learn here, but those you can pick up using the tools you can learn here and take to slice up other books with.?

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### **K.M. Weiland says**

Having written a similar book—analyzing a classic author—for Writer's Digest, I know full well how difficult it is to break down even one author's work and come up with enough pertinent insights to fill a book. Cane had the even more challenging task of presenting unique gems from 21 great authors, without risking repeating himself. And he does a fine job.

The book is nice on several levels, first in presenting some worthy insights into the processes and techniques of great authors such as Dickens, Hemingway, all the way up to King (I especially enjoyed Cane's not-without-criticism chapter on Faulkner, which lines up perfectly with my own love/hate relationship with his works). Just as interesting, however, is the peek Cane offers into the great authors' backgrounds and the "whys" behind some of their story and writing decisions.

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### **E.M. Epps says**

This book made me want to read Balzac. And that's an impressive enough accomplishment that I could stop there. But, no, I won't, because in truth I think this is one of the most useful books on style for fiction writers that I've ever read. It smells distinctly of academia (behold footnotes!) yet it's deeply practical. Each chapter discusses the most distinctive writing techniques of a pleasingly wide variety of authors—from Balzac to King by way of Melville and Philip K. Dick—with each short section elucidating a single technique, analyzing examples, and making suggestions about how the technique can be incorporated into modern fiction. There's a great range of stuff here, from "What you can learn from Tarzan" to "Mesmerizing readers with death and destruction," courtesy of Tom Wolfe. It seems inevitable that any writer will find tricks to inspire them.

SAMPLE PARAGRAPH

Looking at [the fifth paragraph of Moby-Dick], one biographer compared Melville's work to the best of poetry. "In the long second sentence, the range of alliterated initial consonant sounds mimics the 'blended noises' of men laboring on the docks...seven pairs and one triplet of alliterated words that perfectly convey the ceaseless repetition of the dockside work...He achieves here a mastery of verbal effects that one expects from only the most accomplished poetry." A modern writer may wonder whether he has the nerve to dare anything quite so bold. Melville has thrown down the gauntlet though few have been the brave souls who have picked it up. Yet the careful use of alliteration appears in some of the most powerful prose works of the twentieth century, including novels by Nabokov, Bradbury and Roth. Often the best use of alliteration, however, is that which readers do not consciously notice.

This review originally appeared on my blog, **This Space Intentionally Left Blank** .

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### **Reeds says**

Wonderful things to keep in mind while writing.

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### **R. Patrick says**

An excellent book for fine-tuning your writing. It doesn't discuss all the minutia of writing, but uses more of a broad stroke.

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### **Raymond Esposito says**

Authors often are asked, "who do you write like?" Although each voice is different and no one writes like another, Write Like the Masters is a great book to discover the components of some of the best writers. For the writer, this book serves as one part educational overview and one part style guide for emulating the masterful techniques of some of the best.

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### **Kevin says**

I love this informative writing reference! It teaches writers to imitate and emulate the masters such as Dickens, Kafka, Salinger and Hemmingway and learn the methods they incorporated in their writing process. A definite must read for fiction writers!

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### **Mike says**

This is a book I would recommend to anyone who wants to write. Sitting down and trying to write a story in the style of each writer in the series would be like like practicing scales in piano training. It would give any writer practice and foundation. Try it.

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### **Cameron Schy says**

A very helpful tool for writers who want to improve their craft by analysing techniques and elements used by the best\* (Well, a pretty good selection at least).

Also helpful for someone like me who's also looking for different authors and books to explore. There's a few I've overlooked in the past I'll probably go back and others I'd not yet considered.

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### **Tiffany says**

This book saved my life.

Well, speaking as a student in pressing need of useful material - the book contains in-depth analysis of the (arguably) "greatest" writers in history.

It teaches you how to pick apart a piece of work, and though there is a lot of padding the book contains many, many good pointers; allows the reader to extract the specific things that these writers did "right" and implement them in one's own work, however disparate the styles and focus.

(Surprisingly enough, some of the insights aren't trite at all.)

Highly recommended for any writer.

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### **James Cho says**

It was interesting to see how these great masters wrote their famous novels back then, including their writing habits. I thought the analysis on Hemingway was particularly helpful with my own writing, as well as J.D. Salinger. I would recommend this book to those who aspire to become writers.

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### **Clarissa Draper says**

Nothing is better for a writer to learn writing than learning from the masters. This book takes apart the writing of well known authors like Hemingway and Faulkner and discusses what makes that writer excel at certain parts of writing.

The book discusses the main parts of writing like plot, characters, scene development and so on.

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## **Dean Turnbloom says**

William Cane's book, "Write Like the Masters" takes many of the world's finest authors and analyzes their strong points in a way that I've read in no other work. Rather than an in-depth study of any one author, the book offers synopsis-style looks at a wide variety of writers from Balzac to Stephen King. I very much enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone interested in the craft of writing.

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