

Jodi Cohen - September 2015 - overview

In my Improvisation for Writing presentation I talked about basic improv principles and how they relate to the process of writing:

- Yes, and
- Accept all offers
- Start anywhere
- Pay attention
- Let go of the outcome
- Be kind

We did three short exercises and free writes afterwards.

- 1 To work on finding/exploring characters, people broke into groups of three and greeted each other as if they were all royalty, then furious, then shy. People were then invited to write a short journal entry from the perspective of one of the characters.
- 2 To work on providing details, people broke into pairs and one person handed an imaginary gift to his/her partner, and the person receiving the gift said thank you and then used details to describe what the gift was. "Thank you for this oak tree stump, this fragrant yellow rose, this golden retriever puppy." People were invited to write a short history of the object, where it came from, etc.
- 3 To work on setting a scenario and then providing details as to what comes next, I set up a short quick scene and then paused at one point and asked people to write, "What happens next." A few people shared what they had written.