



The Pocket Muse: Ideas and Inspirations for Writing

Monica Wood

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The Barnes & Noble Review

Sparkling with delightful, witty, thought-provoking morsels for today's writers, Monica Wood's dreamy yet realistic writer's companion will encourage your muse to take flight. The stimulating visuals laced throughout the book uniquely capture the essence of the literary imagination and provide salve for the writer's soul.

Wood delves below the surface of a writer's life and illustrates her apt points with both pictures and words. She says, "Treat yourself! Buy an expensive pen, a box of colorful paperclips, a fine, handmade notebook or a leather bookmark." In other words, allow yourself a moment to luxuriate in your gift of words. She also reminds us of the need to be disciplined and to avoid being sidetracked by those little distractions -- for example, you might hold off on checking your email in the morning until you've written at least three pages.

In relation to character development in fiction, the author points out that a good plot complication will either thwart or alter the character's desire. She reminds you to instill your characters with life. And, she offers an extremely useful tool -- using differently colored markers to highlight action, reflection, and dialogue in your prose. This ingenious technique will assist you in knowing when you are telling rather than showing and will allow you to create vivid action that will involve the reader in your characters and plot. All in all, Wood has authored an innovative, inspirational pocket muse that is produced in a handy carry-along size and is so unique it doesn't even require numbered pages. It is all about inspiration, digging deep, and keeping the faith as you spin out prose that will long be remembered. (*Evie Rhodes*)

The Pocket Muse: Ideas and Inspirations for Writing Details

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Author : Monica Wood

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Aimee says

This is extremely easy to simply pick up and read cover-to-cover when you feel like it. While I haven't yet used it for the prompts themselves, it's certainly a great way to get you thinking about writing again and perhaps lift you out of any writing funks you may have fallen into. But even for someone who isn't currently seeking inspiration with writing, it definitely provides that little fuzzy feeling. The author makes you feel like you CAN and SHOULD do it. And while some of the prompts do seem a bit basic for what they are, the way the book is laid out and the style it is written in is inspiration in itself.

Definitely worth picking up and flicking through if you have a free hour, or working through steadily if you're in need of inspiration. Lovely book.

Mary says

Whether you are a published author or someone like me, who writes a lot of fanfiction and the occasional original work, or even just an avid lover of words, this book is a must-own. It's written in such a reader-friendly way - you can feel free to open the book to any page and get some inspiration, but it's also great to read cover-to-cover. It just makes me want to write whenever I read any of it, and that makes it invaluable. Monica Wood's writing advice is compassionate, but real.

Patti K says

3.5 stars. This is the kind of thing you own as a writer, so I will probably purchase it someday and use it much more than I did while borrowing it from the library. Lots of writing prompts, suggestions, etc, to help you get going, get unstuck or find a way to look at your writing in another way. I mostly got it from the library because I wanted to know if it would be worth buying. The answer is yes.

Annemieke Windt says

My collection of books with prompts on writing started when I taught Writing at the institute I work at. The *Pocket Muse* by Monica Wood is one of those books and it's one of the most fun books in that department that I own. It's the combination of the design, the variation in prompts, quotes on writing by famous authors and small assignments Woods gives the budding author.

One of the prompts in the books set my off on a small adventure of my own. I read the prompt: „Imagine a coat. Imagine the pocket of that coat. Imagine what's in it." I was lying in bed, jumped out and started writing what I saw in my mind's eye. It doesn't matter if it's any good or not. The book brought back to me the joy one can find in the imagination.

The images, the photos and the small prompt can really get you going. Therefore, writing or not, I would recommend this book for anyone who wishes to look at reality with more creativity.

Cornelius says

A lot of books on writing tend to at some point centralize on the author and how awesome he/she is. This book does not do that. Rather, the author keeps it random and just posts random thoughts throughout the book that are for the most part useless.

I highly recommend this book for prospective writers with ADD. That's about it.

Joseph says

Monica Wood has put together a mash-up of various writing prompts. Some are photographs, some are questions, some are scenarios and all are aimed at helping you get through your writer's block or giving you ideas for new stories.

This volume is pretty helpful, as far as these types of books go. There aren't any page numbers, which can make it hard (if you're using it in a class or something) to keep track of certain prompts you need or might like.

A lot of the prompts are fun but they seem like they could have been a lot cooler. Some feel more like wasted page space.

You can find many prompts for free online, so the asking price of \$20.00 is a bit steep. I got mine for free so I didn't have to worry about it (I won it) but I can picture a lot of people being turned off by its price. Look for it in used bookstores and in libraries.

The size is nice and fits easily inside any backpack and probably some handbags. Wood has also come out with a second volume, so I may get that at some point.

jmjester says

I bought this a while ago, but never got around to reading it. I pulled it off my shelf in anticipation of NANOWRIMO, thinking my students and I might need some help throughout the month. We will definitely turn to this book when both our word counts and will power are waning. It's a super quick read with lots of white space and gorgeous, thought-provoking photographs. It's meant to be dipped into with advice on both generating prose and poetry as well as revising it. I can't wait to see how it changes what we create.

Suzanne says

Pooh-pooh to the lack of page numbers. Bucking that convention does not promote creativity which is the

only reason I can think of for their omission.

What it DOES do is make it a headache when I am trying to locate specific exercises or recommend one to a friend. What should I say? "Do the exercise after novelty chattering teeth picture but before Robbie the Robot?" It's maddening.

Other than that, it's only a mediocre prompt book. Nothing special. Mostly pictures and fluff. And while it is small enough to tuck into my purse I can't imagine wanting to tote it around with me for inspiration.

Marie says

To read full review at mariesbookboutique.wordpress.com/2018...

This little book's front cover reminds me of the old plain note book's you used to get. With the thick black line covering the spine of the book. The rest of the cover is coloured in a darkish green. The title is in what look's like those name tag's on draws you used to get at the library years ago when looking for a book to find its location in the room. Then there is a photo with a guy facing forward holding up a card which has the rest of the title in it. You can see blurred out buildings in the background of the photo. I think books like these need simple covers because they are a reference and a practical book.

The pocket Muse by Monica Wood is a book that I acquired when I took a home creative writing course, I did a few years ago. And what a help it has been since then! It's a book full to the brim with prompts, inspiration, pictures, quotes, tip's and many exercises to really get your creative juices flowing. Monica has compiled this book wonderfully, in a very relaxed and easy to read manner; which is perfect for flicking through and pick out what the writer need's at that time.

For me this little book has given me so much help in my writing and I found the exercises invaluable to really get my creative head on! This little book is one that never far away from me when I'm writing. It's easy just to pick up whenever I find the need for that spark of inspiration. I have also found the illustrations helpful giving me ideas in which to work on and develop.

Would I recommend this book to budding writers? YES I would! It such a useful tool to have by your side!

Randy says

I have started this book many times, but I have finally read it all the way through. I found myself surprisingly pleased with it. It was both instructive and inspirational. I would recommend it for any writer or would-be writer who wants a little push, or a little pull; Ms. Wood works well in both directions. Some people may find it a little pricey for what it offers, but I got it back when it was \$13, rather than the double-sawbuck it currently sells for.

Trisha Williams says

writing prompts are scattered through out the book mingled with advice for writers and topped of with her personal writing and teaching experiences. The useful messages and prompts never exceed the length of a single page so you don't feel weighed by a lecturer. she drops her little gems and then moves on to something else when you turn the page.

Mary Jo says

Borrowed this little pocket book from the library, along with several other writing books. It sat on my desk, then my bookshelf and finally made its way to my bag where I found it one day during my lunch break. I'm so glad I gave this little book a read. I flipped through the book, marking pages, taking notes, mostly prompted with ideas and scribbling happily in my notebook. It gave me energy. It gave me excitement for words and characters and conflict and the whole pulse of writing that had gone cold under my skin. My writer's vein is pumpin' again, and I owe it all to Monica Wood. I'm planning to use some of her prompts in my Young Writers' Summer Studio, as well as some challenges on my blog in the future.

Weeee! writerinspired.wordpress.com

Aboringtuna says

Cute book, but I doubt that it's worth the asking price. There are certainly cheaper ways to find prompts, and aside from the little quotes and occasional bits of useful advice, it really doesn't offer anything that you can't already find elsewhere.

I suppose that it might make a nice gift, at least.

Edna Wallace says

According to the notation on an inside page, I picked The Pocket Muse up in 2003. It's still one of my favorite books to thumb through when I'm facing a blank page and casting about for some place to start. It's also fun to open a page when in a writing group, pick a topic, and write for fifteen or twenty minutes.

Curt Bobbitt says

This sturdy hardbound, unpaginated collection of ideas for writing has high quality glossy pages. Black-and-white photographs, quotations, fill-in-the-blank ideas, word lists, and explicit advice for revision prompt any kind of creative writing.
