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Book review

The Little Red Writing Book

Mark Tredinnick

University of New South Wales Press 2006

ISBN 0 86840 867 0 262 pp. \$29.95.

This beautiful little book is about writing. It's interesting and well written. That in itself makes it unusual for a book about writing. It's easy to read. You will want to read it and learn how to write. You will want to read it to learn how to express yourself so you can be easily understood. Reading this little book will inspire you to want to become a writer. You will learn to be creative, to express yourself through words, to be an individual – to be yourself. You will definitely want to read ***The Little Red Writing Book***.

Learn how to write in a conversational style. Learn how to develop your own unique style that is truly yourself speaking.

What's the difference between a good writer and a bad writer? A good writer gets published. A good writer will use short, punchy sentences, with the proper use of verbs, and few adjectives. What are they? Read the book.

And a bad writer? Read government publications to find out how a bad writer writes. Technical reports are usually examples of unimaginative, uninspiring works. They're boring. Take them to bed with you if you suffer from insomnia. They're usually written badly, by bad writers, read by people who can't write better themselves and who don't expect any more from the creators.

You will definitely want to read ***The Little Red Writing Book*** if you aspire to write better than your colleagues. I will be recommending it to all my online writing students. Anyone

who writes for a living will benefit from reading this book and applying its many examples.

If you write reports in your job, you will soon make those reports stand out from the piles of paper on your boss's desk. If you write letters, your correspondence will shine. If you write technical papers, others will find out what you do for a living, because they will understand your writing.

Are you interested in writing for magazines? This little book will tell you how.

And that Great Australian Novel you have been talking about for all those years? Again, this book has the answers. Learn how to create your characters, make them live, and breathe, and have lives of their own.

Apply for a job that is worth applying for. Learn how to write that winning resume so you see what's on the other side of that door.

But perhaps if you are a public servant, you might not be appreciated if you apply what you will learn through this book. You'll show up the shortcomings of all those in the empires around you. Better still, get them to write as well as you will ... clearly ... concisely ... with imagination ... saying in just a few words all that has to be said.

As the author points out, writing is not a simple art that can be learned over a weekend. It's hard work to get published, to be successful at this craft. Take your time, and be patient. Be very patient if you want to succeed. Don't give up, and never stop writing.

Graham Andrews
Flairnet Online Writing Courses