

Congratulations! You've made it all the way through!

The Lifewriting Ten-Week course is designed to give the basics, and then drill them deeply, so that you can begin to use the tools to guide your next stories, the WRITING of your stories, and your life itself. But you will NOT "get this" by merely looking at the videos. You have to actually do the work. As we've said, we can hand you a shovel, we can even show you where "X marks the spot." But what we cannot do is dig for you. This would be similar to a coach who does your push-ups for you. Cannot, even if he wanted to.

And frankly, I don't want to do your work for you. I have enough of my own. Besides, I'd be stealing your fun.

Let's look at last week's homework, THE QUIET MAN:

Hero Confronted With Challenge: Sean Thornton (John Wayne) returns to the land of his parents, Ireland. There, he intends to live out his days in peace.

Refusal: Sean wants to live according to his own rules. But to be part of this community, he is the one who must bend.

Acceptance: Marriage to the headstrong, beautiful Kate Danaher (Maureen O'Hara) forces him to adapt or be seriously miserable.

Road of Trials: Buying his new home, getting to know his neighbors, wooing his wife, gaining allies who plot to force her brother to give permission for the marriage, dealing with the fact that his wife will not sleep with him until she has her dowry and "fortune" which her brother refuses to give him.

Allies and Powers: The entire village in one way or another, collaborates in helping him, partially because they consider the brother a bully. His powers are strength, heart, sincerity-- and a hell of a punch.

Confronts Evil and Defeated: This is a tricky one, but I'm going with the moment he is so frustrated he takes his troubles to the parish priest.

Dark Night of the Soul: Probably the moment when Sean and Kate feel at total stalemate. They love each other, but she cannot give herself to him without her fortune, and he is fed up with waiting. And another issue--everyone in the village thinks that Sean is a coward for not fighting for what is his. What they don't know (and came out in the scene with the priest) is that Thornton is an ex-boxer who killed a man in the ring and has sworn never to fight again.

Leap of Faith: Sean and Kate finally make love. One might say that he takes what is his, but it's pretty clear that she wants him desperately.

Confront Evil--Victorious: Kate forces Sean to take an action he had not wanted to take-- confronting her brother directly. By leaving him, forcing him to come to the train station, the morning after they finally make love, he is angry and frustrated enough to pretty much say to hell with it. Drags her to Danaher's farm and threatens to end the marriage if her dowry isn't given. Danaher complies, Thornton burns the money, and Danaher tries to punch him. Sean hits back, and the fight is on! And it is epic.

Student Becomes the Teacher: Sean's growth and integration as a character changes the incaltrant brother, who becomes a dear friend, and courts his own sweetheart. The film ends on one of the sweetest notes in film. Just terrific.

Now then, the question remains: what do YOU do next? Well, let's run you through the Hero's Journey...

**YOU WERE CONFRONTED WITH A CHALLENGE:** To believe you could improve your writing ability with the LIFEWITING TEN WEEK COURSE.

**YOU PROBABLY REJECTED THE CHALLENGE:** At first. Sales resistance is a perfectly natural thing.

**YOU ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE:** Enrolled in the course, and began.

**YOU WALKED THE ROAD OF TRIALS:** Read the PDFs, watched the videos, listened to the audios, joined the FB group, watched the movies, wrote the stories.

**YOU GATHERED ALLIES AND POWERS:** Tananarive and I are your allies now. And on FB, you gained more. You learned new things about plot, character, theme, and more.

**YOU FACED EVIL AND WERE DEFEATED:** Come on...you know perfectly well there were points where you didn't do what you promised yourself you would.

**YOU FACED THE DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL:** Again, there was a moment when you felt depressed and defeated, in all likelihood.

**YOU TOOK THE LEAP OF FAITH:** If you are reading this, you found a way to motivate yourself to continue.

**YOU CONFRONTED EVIL AND WERE VICTORIOUS:** Whatever amount of progress you've made, it is yours. Do NOT compare your progress to anyone else's. The material here has helped you create your own "garden", your own "machine". If you continue to work it, you will make more progress in the next two years than most people will in ten.

**YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO BECOME THE TEACHER:** And here is where we challenge you. You can start your own writing circle, using the techniques taught in this workshop. All you have to do is write a short story, and then analyze it using the tools we've offered. If you do, and we can see that you know how to apply them, you will be authorized to lead an official Lifewriting (™) writer's circle. Writer's groups are one of the very best way to continue your progress. By meeting weekly, bi-weekly or monthly and sharing work and wisdom, you can contribute to the growth of others while supporting your own dreams.

You can also go to Clickbank, become a Lifewriting Affiliate, and by honestly sharing your experiences with other writers, help them and yourself at the same time, making a 25% commission on every student. Doing well by doing good. <http://affiliateprogram.lifewritingworkshop.com/>

The choice is yours. But what you need to do is appreciate how far you've come, and how much you've learned. It is critical to enjoy not just the destination but the journey. No matter how you slice it, you've come a long way.

There's a lot further to go, of course. How far and how fast you go is up to you.

Write With Passion!  
Steve and Tananarive