

310 words, column #28  
Java Talk  
(for November 1, 2007 to November 7, 2007)

## Every Age Is The Best Age

*Who Will I Be and What Will I Write: The Five Ws*

The first entry in M. H. Abrams' *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, **Absurd. Literature of the**, is about how "the human condition is essentially absurd and that this condition can be adequately represented only in the works of literature that are themselves absurd."

I've heard enough times that the five Ws are who, what, when, where, why; and that it is not the destination but the journey that counts. However, for someone like me whose whole journey has been to be a writer, this is too disappointing to accept, if my goals as a literary fiction writer are to become nothing more than a carrot at the end of a stick that seems so close but is always going to have some string attached. Being a walking donkey is not who I want to be!

Perhaps my story is destined to be a **Tragedy** which, according to the *UVic Writers' Guide*, "depicts serious incidents in which protagonists undergo a change from happiness to suffering, often involving the death of others as well as the main characters, and resulting from both the protagonists' actions and the inescapable limits of the human condition." Or maybe my works will be classified as **Romantic**, like the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century writers including British poets, William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge; or the American writers and thinkers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller. They held the idea that there is something higher and grander than what seems to be the human condition.

After I completed my B.A. in English literature and had begun my Writing degree with a major in literary fiction, one professor/author told us that whenever anyone said they planned to become a writer, too, after they retired, he told them, when he retired, he planned to become a brain surgeon.

Of course, this was absurd. Writers don't retire.

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