

# BLOG BYTES



by Kristopher Zgorski

First up this issue is a newsletter I encourage everyone to sign up for. *Wondercade* (<https://www.wondercade.com>) is the creation of Neil Patrick Harris, and it is just plain fun from start to finish. If you sign up on the website, an e-mail newsletter will arrive every Wednesday with a plethora of fascinating links, news items, and general goofiness. Each week, Neil provides a look at things he finds interesting and inspiring—with topics ranging from food trends to design, as well as the more expected looks at the entertainment field and hot new book releases. Sometimes you will find an interview with an expert in a field or maybe a recipe for a delicious new cocktail. You just never know what you will find, but you know that Neil Patrick Harris is not going to lead you astray. By giving newsletter fans a glimpse into his life, he hopes readers will discover the fun and excitement in their own lives. Oh, and just in case you were wondering, Neil just made up the word *Wondercade*; you won't find it in the dictionary . . . yet.

*Famous Writing Routines* (<https://famouswritingroutines.com>) is exactly what it sounds like. A website dedicated to the thousands of ways writing happens. From past luminaries such as Mary Higgins Clark and Joseph Heller to modern-day bestsellers like Louise Penny and Ocean Vuong, the website documents how writers create—how they start, when they work, where they are most productive, and so much more. There is a pearl of wisdom in each writer's method that will allow other creative folks to mix and match, try and drop, until finding the perfect method that works for them. Who knows, maybe someday you'll be on the website sharing your tips and tricks. The website also includes interviews with working writers in a host of different fields who address such things as working through the pandemic, their first breakthrough, or their thoughts on daily word counts.

*Black Guys Do Read* (<https://blackguysdoread.blogspot.com>) is a review blog run by a Caribbean-born and Los Angeles-based gentleman intent on breaking down the ridiculous stereotype that Black males don't read fiction. While the posts here are much less regular than some review blogs, the reviews themselves are always honest, informative, and definitely worth checking out. Unlike in the majority of blogs, here readers will find both positive and negative reviews, with each book receiving a letter grade based on the standard grading scale. In yet another differentiating aspect, *Black Guys Do Read* is not dedicated to any one particular genre, so readers will be exposed to titles they might have otherwise missed. In fact, some of the books reviewed on this blog would be considered backlist titles, which rarely get covered on other blogs, which tend to focus only on the newest releases.

Lastly, why not start off your new year with a commitment to expanding your vocabulary. *Grammar Word of the Day* (<https://www.grammar.com/wotd.php>)

is an easy quick stop every morning where you will find a new word and its definition. If you don't have the time to stop by daily, there is an archive of the words so you can check—and learn—at your convenience. © 2022 by *Kristopher Zgorski*