

The truth is...we gather on the Third Monday of each month to practice our writing skills. We listen and share in each other's work. We are small in number and our commitment is strictly to produce and foster creativity among our members.

We started in July 1999 and consist of adults that enjoy writing memoirs, commentaries, essays, poems, and/or prose. Our simple method each month is to use a pre-selected word or phrase as the basis of a story, an idea, an opinion, a derivative of, or an implied essence of and write a 1 to 1 ½ page document. We share our stories, comment, and in that way build up our writing skills through practice and presentation. The atmosphere is friendly and supportive, and the feedback is gentle.

Curious? Always wanted to try writing for fun, entertainment, or even profit? Come visit with us at any of our open meetings. Bring a sample of your work. Sit in and see what we do. If you like it, join us every month and become a member.

Original Works by Members of the Pen & Ink Writers' Group
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June 2017 selection – Crude

Crude or Custom
By Pauline Bastek

Sad to say that the five letter title word is best exemplified by the behavior of our current WhiteHouse occupant. As a former Supreme Court justice stated on the subject of pornography, I know it when I see it.

Crude is in the main uncomfortable it can be defined as actions that are not acceptable in the circumstances. We don't want to go back to the days when the Hays office deemed it crude to show married couples sharing a double bed, but we are not ready at this time or ever, to be comfortable hearing a leader of the free world expound on freely violating females as sport.

In an effort to remove myself from viewing any further discussion or examples show of same, I turned to my old faithful cable channel, Turner Movie Classics, showing the Hitchcock thriller, "The Man who knew too Much," with James Stewart and Doris Day and what do I see in the first hour, James Stewart, portraying a doctor from Indiana with his wife played by Doris Day in Morocco sitting down to a dinner on cushions not chairs and being chastised for using both hands to eat from a common dish.

Now to Midwesterners in the 50s to use hands and not utensils at a formal dinner was crude in the true meaning of the word. In Morocco, it was the custom, but crude in the extreme, unacceptable to use both hands, only the right hand, the left hand was used for other bodily functions, and it was considered extremely crude for this was their society's custom.

In the eras, female tourists complained when visiting Italy of being pinched and ogled by males in the street. The Italians felt that they were showing their appreciation. It was not appreciated and though they felt it was their custom, when it became apparent that tourist dollars would not be frequenting their country, what was their custom became crude behavior that would not be tolerated.

So when does custom become crude, and when is crude accepted as custom. As the esteemed justice said, "We know it when and where we see it."

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Crude
By Elvira K. Castillo

Charlie Brown is my favorite comic stripe character.

Regularly he struggles to obtain confidence and acceptance.

Unfortunately, his efforts are squashed by a crude little girl with a big mouth named
Lucy.

Day after day Charlie keeps trying, often taking comfort in his dog Snoopy or friend
Linus

Ease up, dear Charlie, one of these days you'll conquer them all and be he most popular
boy in the world!

Love,
Your Friend, Elvira

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