



The Newsletter of West Texas Writers, Inc.

DECEMBER 2011 www.westtexaswriters.org 432-634-0139

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY TO ONE
AND ALL!**



**LOCATION FOR MEETING:
MIDLAND COUNTY LIBRARY MEETING ROOM – UPSTAIRS-
ELEVATOR AVAILBLE
301 W. MISSOURI
MIDLAND, TEXAS**

**Our next meeting will be:
JANUARY 7, 2011**

**OUR SPEAKER WILL BE:
LYNDA CURNYN**

A little bit about Lynda:

Lynda Curnyn is the author of the novels *Confessions of an Ex-Girlfriend*, *Engaging Men*, *Bombshell*, and *Killer Summer*, which have been translated and published in more than ten countries. She has also contributed short stories to various anthologies, including the USA Today bestselling anthology, *Girls Night In*. Before becoming a full-time writer, Lynda spent over a decade in book publishing, editing some of the industry's bestselling authors. A native New Yorker, she moved to Odessa two years ago, where she is currently at work on her fifth novel. She is also an Creative Writing Instructor with the Continuing Education Department of UTPB.

HER PROGRAM WILL BE:

About the publishing process, how to survive in today's competitive marketplace, tips for landing an agent and catching an editor's eye and what you must do to give your book the best chance to succeed!

OUR SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER

Annett Presley was our speaker for November. She has lots to share on the rights and wrongs of eating. The things they say you should eat are not what you need. Please see Annett at Natural Grocers in Midland and let her show you what will help you feel better and maybe see the Doctor less.

WE HAVE A VERY LOYAL MEMBER THAT NEEDS OUR COMPANIONSHIP AND LETTER.

Leon Thompson is a WWII veteran, living alone with many disabilities. He has had many surgeries, but has always shared his stories (I shared one about his encounter with the story of Amelia Earhart) And has sent monies when he could.

**I believe it is time for all of us to give back. Please write him a letter, use West Texas Writers address if you wish as a return address.... he will write back often.
Leon Thompson - 1211 E. Chicago Street - Kent, WA 98030-6262**



Demystifying Writers' Demons©
One at a Time - by Joan Upton Hall

USAGE - A lot/ allot

- **a lot** – informal for “a large amount” or “a great deal,” (either of which would be better word choices for more formal usage) as in:
“Thanks a lot for all your help.”
“I like peach cobbler a lot.”
“A lot of people were at the concert.”
- **allot** – to distribute or set aside for a share, as in:
“Mrs. Pendergast allots a certain portion of each paycheck to charity.”
“The lieutenant’s wife receives an allotment check as a dependent.”
“Most of us allot equal portions of our estates to each of our offspring. A king, on the other hand, could not allot equal acreage to all his children without weakening the kingdom. Therefore the first born was allotted the whole thing.”

Memory Tip: It’s either one word with two “l’s” – or two words with one “l.”



Demystifying Writers' Demons by Joan Upton Hall

Quotation marks with commas & end marks

- **With comma or period** – Place these before quotation marks whether or not the words or phrases are part of the quote, as in:
She misspelled the word “memoir.”
He said, “She misspelled the word ‘memoir.’ ”
“Here,” he said, “is a copy of Mindy’s Memoirs.”
- **With question or exclamation marks** – Do NOT enclose these in the closing quotation marks when a **word is used as a word**—only when it’s part of the quote—same for phrases and quotes within quotes, as in:
I can’t believe she misspelled the word “memoir”!
“Did you read her memoirs?” she asked.
“Did she really say, ‘Play it again, Sam?’”
He whispered, “Whatever you do, don’t yell, ‘Fire!’ ” (part of the quote here)

NOTICE: Single quotation marks for quotes within quotes. (American English convention; opposite for British English). Please notice how quotes within quotes are shown above.

Do demons bedevil your writing? Similar, confusing words? Grammar, punctuation, or capitalization rules? “The Demystifier” will clear up the mystery (primary reference unless otherwise noted: Garner, Bryan A. *Dictionary of Modern American Usage*. N.Y.: Oxford University Press). Address questions and comments to freelance editor, **Joan Upton Hall** at: jmuHall@aol.com. More problems like the one above are demystified in the booklet, *50 Writers’ Tips*. Find a few of them at

