

Take-Home Quiz for
“Building Bridges”, “Flashbacks” & “Stranger than Fiction”
By Barbara Westberg

I. FILL IN THE BLANKS.

- 1) A _____ is a bridge that _____ the reader from one _____, time, or _____ to the next.
 - 2) According to Gary Provost, “A good _____ is _____, direct, and almost _____.
 - 3) _____ provide the shortest, most _____ route from _____ to _____.
 - 4) Good _____ move the readers _____ and _____ from one _____ to another without _____ the flow.
 - 5) In _____, a transition connects _____.
 - 6) Often one _____ or short _____ is all that is needed to _____ the _____.
 - 7) _____ is a problem for _____. Not just _____ to write, but _____ time in _____.
 - 8) The easiest way to write _____; whether a _____ story, _____, or a life _____, is in the _____ tense.
 - 9) One way of bringing _____ tense _____ or _____ into a story involves using what is known as a _____.
 - 10) A _____ is an _____ of the _____ of a story to _____ to the _____.
 - 11) The usage of this _____ requires shifting the _____ to the past _____ tense.
 - 12) If the flashback is _____, past perfect _____ can _____ bog down the _____.
 - 13) _____ flashbacks in separate _____ are best.
 - 14) Writer’s Digest recommends, “Better to _____ into a _____ flashback with past _____ for a _____ or so, continue in _____ past, and then wind up with another sentence in _____ to signal the end of the _____.”
 - 15) Another way to avoid _____ tense _____ is to put the flashback in _____ and continue using the _____ past tense.
 - 16) In _____, miracles, strange _____, and absolutely _____ events happen, and the reader _____ every _____.
 - 17) The _____ for _____; it must be _____, not necessarily _____.
 - 18) Fiction, because it is _____ true, must be _____.
 - 19) Often in _____, the _____ takes over the _____ and gets himself in a tangled _____.
 - 20) To satisfy the _____, the protagonist has to _____ the tangle by taking _____, _____ steps.
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II. Write TRUE or FALSE in the blanks provided.

- _____ 1) In fiction anything is believable.
- _____ 2) Fiction has to be believable, while nonfiction can be unbelievable.
- _____ 3) One of the keys to writing a smooth flashback is to “use something memorable.”
- _____ 4) You can tell if your transitions are smooth by reading your writing aloud.
- _____ 5) According to Gary Provost, “A story is not everything that happened, it’s every important thing that happened.”
- _____ 6) If the readers are distracted by the transitions, you can call yourself “a skilled bridge builder.”
- _____ 7) *Therefore, still, later, however, meanwhile, and finally* are all transitional words.
- _____ 8) According to Gary Provost, “An article is not everything that’s true, it’s every important thing that’s true.
- _____ 9) Another way to make smooth transition is to repeat key words or phrases.
- _____ 10) *Consequently, yet, then, next, first, and but* are also transitional words.