

Takeaways...

Tips from the *King* of horror novels.

Candid and littered with salty phrases, King's book on writing never pulls a punch, each aimed at the writer's gut. You're left with no choice but to fight for your dream — *to write a book readers will love.*

But what worked for the king of horror may not work for every writer.



A writer's original assumption about a character may be erroneous, and you'll have to adjust as the story unfolds.

Never stop writing just because it's hard. Finish so you can enjoy the results even if it's only a learning experience.



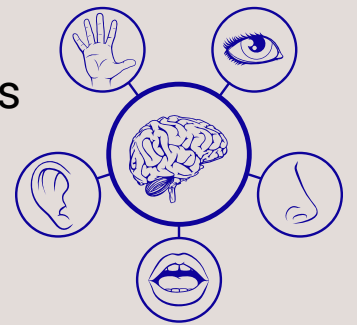
Learn and practice critical writing skills, including vocabulary, grammar, and style, which includes lots of reading and writing.

Understand readers want a good story, something that will first fascinate them, then pull them in and keep them turning the pages.



Put characters into predicaments, and without the author's help, watch them find a way out of the problems even if it deviates from your plan.

Draw readers in by describing people and places using all the senses, and limit the length of descriptions to a few well-chosen details.



Let dialogue cast characters' voices, making clear how one individual differs from another in pacing, tone, and word choice.

Every book worth reading is about something, so make sure you can spot what yours is about *before* you stop writing and editing.



“Good fiction always begins with story and progresses to theme; it almost never begins with theme and progresses to story.” —*Stephen King*