

Dec. 15th

The Spirit Wheelbarrow

My wooden chair was rickety and I rocked back and forth in it, trying to jumpstart my creative process. If any environment were conducive to writing, it was there, in the Turk cafe, where I sat in my usual corner, with a row of French windows on the left, and a room full of caffeinated people.

In front of me, on the clean and smooth, slate tabletop, was my much-loved laptop. A layer of plastic was worn away in circles just below its keyboard, where my palms rubbed while I typed. My new moleskin sat bored beside it, its binding still stiff.

A blank, white document glared at me from my computer screen. I glared back, but was the first to look away in defeat. I exhaled so loudly that, a rather unsightly, mustached gentleman at a neighboring table uncrossed his legs that were pointing toward me, and then crossed them away from me. He glanced in my direction, and punctuated the glance by stabbing the air with his pointy chin, before returning, to his copy of *Great Expectations*.

Who read Dickens, anymore, anyhow?

My moleskin waited anxiously for a fresh idea or a witty one-liner.

I slipped my hand into my backpack and felt around for a pen. A pencil stabbed me and my hand recoiled, then courageously plunged back into the dark void, pushing the pencil out of the way. There was no way I was going to ruin my new moleskin by writing in it with a pencil. Moleskin's are sacred, meaning only pens (non-ballpoint, of course) should be used on their crisp, clean, beige pages.

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Tasha Shayne 2/5/11 5:59 PM

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Tasha Shayne 2/5/11 6:07 PM

Comment: The sentence will read more emphatically if this is placed before "bored"

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Tasha Shayne 2/5/11 6:17 PM

Comment: The word "pointy" is used in the next sentence, so say this a different way. Consider: "sticking out"

Tasha Shayne 2/5/11 6:14 PM

Comment: This sentence is tedious. Consider: "...gentleman who'd been sitting at a neighboring table with his legs crossed and pointing toward me, uncrossed his legs and re-crossed them away from me."

Tasha Shayne 2/5/11 6:18 PM

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Tasha Shayne 4/19/11 12:38 PM

Comment: It's hard to tell if the hand is the subject or the instrument. If it's the subject, then the previous sentence would say "My hand slipped into my backpack..."; if it's the instrument the subject's using, this sentence would say, "...then I courageously plunged it back..." Either way, the clause, "my hand recoiled," may stay as is; a hand has the ability to can recoil instinctually, which is an action independent of its agent.