

Writer's Block Detox

Task 7: exploring ideas

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Go through everything you've written on the bootcamp up to now. Highlight anything you are particularly drawn to and would like to explore, then note the things you're most interested in here – you can choose ideas to explore, characters, settings, phrases, anything.

Pick 2 or 3 of these things to focus on, and explore them. Grab a pen, write your inspiration in the middle of a piece of paper, then spend 10 minutes speed-writing as many ideas as you can around them in an old-school spider diagram. Ask yourself questions: where might this story go in one line? What is it about? Who is in it? What are they trying to do? What is the conflict or the central problem? Write everything you can in 10 minutes and don't censor your ideas.

There's a rather excellent drawing of an spider overleaf that you can use as the basis, but a page of your notebook will do nicely too.





