

WRITING THE EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

Robin Patchen

For greatest emotional impact, start with _____

And make sure you've identified each one's _____, _____, _____

There are three ways to convey emotions in novels:

We can _____ emotions.

We can _____ emotions.

And we can _____ emotions.

Telling emotions: Is it ever okay?

- When the emotion is unexpected.
- When the character is analyzing his emotions, trying to work out how he feels.
- When the emotion is contrasted against something else or someone else's.
- When the author needs to make a point quickly.
- When the emotion can't be shown in another way.

Showing emotions through physiological responses: The pitfalls.

- It's over used.
- The phrases are often cliché.
- It doesn't evoke emotion.
- Some physiological reactions could be in response to differing emotions.
- They only show the surface-level emotions.
- They are often overdone.

How to evoke emotions:

So our goal as writers is to call forth or bring to life emotions in our readers, whether our characters are feelings those emotions or not.

- You start with creating sympathetic characters.
- Put your characters in peril—physical or emotional.
- Use the setting, descriptions, and events to hint at the emotional tenor of the scene

TEA Cycle: _____ lead to _____ which lead to _____.

- Determine what your character would be feeling.
- Brainstorm thoughts the character might have that would lead to those feelings, and find a way to include them in the scene.
- For simpler scenes, a phrase or a line will do.
- For more important emotional scenes, don't be afraid to add a few lines, even a paragraph, to describe how a character feels.

