

Think.

— *An Our Place Anthology* —

Think
Is a space and time set aside
To consider the world
and our place in it.
It is a resting place
for the mind
And a haven for initiative.

Think is a writing workshop
philosophy club. Our centerpiece
is Joseph Campbell's *Hero's Journey* —
the idea that we are all the heroes of our
own lives — finding, following and
creating our paths every day.

The following anthology celebrates
the work of eight writers, and marks our
first year anniversary of Think
at Our Place.



Dan Cohen

Dan Cohen is a loving, caring, and good friend, and this comes across in his writing. His key to success is not being overly analytical in his writing style.

His advice to other writers is,

“You and you alone determine your style. Others can advise you on how to make your work better, but the base style of your work is only yours to develop.”

Cohen loves helping others develop their work through mentorship and positive constructive criticism. Fellow writers count on Cohen’s generous feedback and insightful comments to improve their own writing.

Cohen is a cornerstone of his Writers’ Roundtable. He is always willing to lend an ear as well as offer helpful advice. Cohen is a thoughtful writer. He is a leader, coach, and model.

*“Follow your bliss and the universe will
open doors where there were only walls.”*
~ Joseph Campbell

Life is what we make it to be.
Not what others tell you it is.

*“The meaning of life is whatever you ascribe
it to be. Being alive is the meaning.”*
~ Joseph Campbell

You bring to your life what you want to
bring to it not what you need.
Perfection does not exist.
It is what we perceive it to be.

I am a
Friend
Son
Volunteer
Employee
Boyfriend
Family Member
Rider
Community Server
Writer
Metra Helper
Public Safety Helper
Transit Helper
Peer Advocate and Advisor
Brother
Bowler



Patrick Rees

Being an open-minded, flexible thinker is Patrick Rees' key to his success as a writer. He considers himself a glass-half-full person and concedes that it's okay to be critical as long as you're open to new things. Rees' recommendation to other writers is,

"Don't over-think. Focus on the now."

Rees' checklist for life includes: empathy, bold individualism, and his watch and glasses.

Fellow writers consider Rees to be a great conversationalist as well as a good friend who always has something interesting to say. His writing partner says,

"Who Patrick truly is at the core comes through in his work. And that core can be a great asset in making determinations and communicating."

Ambassador to Space

I'm really good at details. My brain connects two pieces of non-related information together in two different scenarios. I also remember details reliably because I have a photographic brain. I would be able to connect information from earth and relate it to space. I would also definitely be able to export information intuitively. I am really good with facts and evidence. I don't believe in things until I see them (BigFoot, or the whole multiverse thing).

Untitled

I saw a hat
that belonged to my grandfather.
His name was William.
It was important to me
because it told me something about
who he was.
I did know about his service
in Korea and Vietnam.

Marcello

You and I came together.
The friendship happened.
You and I are in sync.
Your touch on my arm
made me calm.
You don't talk,
but I know what you're thinking
and I could be your voice.



Jennifer Van Treeck

Jennifer Van Treeck describes her journey experience as through the woods — a life of woods. Van Treeck never fails to take her fellow readers on a journey that is always an other-worldly adventure. Her bright imagination brings a lot of color to her writing community. You can always count on Van Treeck’s stories to take you “Into the Woods”

My Checklist for Life:

1. As always — smiles
2. I sometimes bring magic being
3. And surviving-food
4. Kindness, and
5. My princess be-effect wand

Reflection

Some things I care for myself.
I like being more happy of my
beauty-life of the woods.

I am a suffering and caring person
and also a loving person pursuing my
dreams of the woods. More happiness
woods magic will last forever.

If I could face my experience of the
woods. More happy it is to me.

Think

My Think experience
is more resting
and considering being
in the world around me.

The motto means to me
to always think about my dream
and relaxing more
into the woods.



Frank Craven

Frank Craven is an outdoors kind of guy who likes to have fun, travel, and vacation with friends. He is a self-proclaimed funny guy and family man. Craven's easygoing personality is refreshing and contagious.

He is not only as a writer but as a person always approachable. Craven has an appreciation for the simple things in life. He puts a smile on everyone's face and is lovable because he's even willing to laugh at himself.

A Series of Prompts

1.

Write a list of things you'd like to write about

A story about a boy or girl

A story about a girl's life

A true story about an artist

Or one of my favorite singers

2.

I believe in

But the Reality is ...

I am believing in the magic of friendship but the reality of friendship is that you are not always in a good mood or not in a good mood all of the time.

3.

What is your lucky charm?

I make my own luck. I don't need a lucky charm at all.

4.

*What is in your
Garden of Authenticity?**

I am nice and caring and giving and also kind and easy to get along with and I am a kidder at times but I am only kidding not a real joker. My family is nice and caring and we support one another and we love one another and like each other and we like to see one another on Friday nights for dinner.

5.

*What is something so good about yourself,
that you're so sure of, you don't have to
work on it, improve it, or even think about
it?*

I am a good worker and I am very good at it and I improve at what I do at work — all the work that I do.

**phrase credited to Will Foster*



Mandy Junewicz

Fellow writers credit Mandy Junewicz with having a fun vibe and always being able to come at things with a smile on her face. As a writer, she's very much able to ground the community and bring realism to our Writers' Roundtable.

Strategies

We need growth — something to help us learn about our instincts, emotions, and feelings. We need to help and to understand each other. This is hard work. It requires cooperation, seriousness, and moments of deep thought to solve the idea of how to be better people.

Use breaks if you're unable to respond in time. Don't just get through it. Take time, pull yourself together and make time for things. Don't just try to beat time. Make time for something. Ask for help; relieve the pressure.

Love Languages

I care about people who are sick or have injuries. I care for those who work in the office. I have had falling injuries so I try to make those who are hurt happy and better. The world can be dangerous so I help others. I use words like, *get better*, and I say a prayer for them. I show I care by having conversations with people I love.

What is something you would always do?

I always touch base with my family. I am always helping others especially poor people in trouble. I always go on special outings with my family whenever I can. My Grandmother always asks me if I'm happy and I ask my Grandmother if she is happy.

What is something you would never do?

Want to have a wild beast stay in my house.



Jason Kaplan

Jason Kaplan identifies as a funny guy with a good memory who works hard and gets along with other people. He likes having a good time and his hobbies include music, watching movies, going on YouTube, and going to the library to check out CDs and DVDs.

Kaplan is relatable. He's got a conversational style of writing and a distinct, easily-identifiable voice. Kaplan has a lot of confidence in his writing.

You can always count on Kaplan to get recommendations — whether it's from music or movies — and you know that if he's listening to something it's going to be good.

*Council Room of Your Heart**

I am a nice person with a good sense of humor. I'm easy to get along with and treat others kindly and with respect. Sometimes I might do things wrong or get into stuff I'm not supposed to do but that's just me. I'm also a hard worker because I volunteer at the food pantry a couple days a week and at home too with doing dishes, taking out garbage and other various things too as well. But sometimes I wonder how the world reacts when things don't go right. Often I think the economy needs to improve. Our current president is having issues that have to do with the law and gangs but we can only hope for the best of what's to come from him.

**phrase credited to Antonia Dodge*

Personal Narrative

I'm glad that Our Place is helping me out with my instincts and independence — trying different things which I might not like but try anyway. I can get used to doing stuff I haven't done before. And I'm learning a lot of different skills too — such as working at the pantry twice a week, putting away the donations and the inventory, and putting stuff onto shelves.

Our Place is growing so much — getting more people, and the staff they do their best to help me too in ways of standing up for myself and saying no to things or telling me things I don't want to hear. But it's something I'm working on though. So yep.



Keenan Pappano

Keenan Pappano hopes to travel to China one day. In his spare time he enjoys collecting model trains, writing lists of Disney villains, making Lego houses, playing games, and spending quality time with friends.

Fans of Pappano's work say he's very focused and the work is strong. He knows what he likes and what he doesn't like. He has a ton of confidence. He is somebody who is predictably unpredictable. There's never a dull moment when Pappano is around. His writing partner says,

"Keenan is probably the most interesting person I've ever met."

Timelines

When I was a kid I went to school. I enjoyed history class and learning about American heroes. For fun I would watch Disney movies, and go on train rides with my family. I enjoyed volleyball with friends and I ate a lot of American food.

Now my voice is deeper. I'm a grown man. I act like an adult now. My name is still the same and I still like to ask questions.

For Aidan

You are as funny as I am
You are as hardworking
as workmen should be
You make me as happy
as if I could drink beer
You are average,
but extremely kind
You are as easy to get along with
as Roger Rabbit
You make me laugh harder
than funny scenes
from Disney movies.



Sean Waterbury

Sean Waterbury is wise in his works and words. He is a young undiscovered poet who hopes to shine a light in the world with his clever pieces and kind personality. Waterbury is an experienced bowler who loves to take photos, and who enjoys the company of his friends. Ultimately, he hopes to become an established writer one day and is currently following the path to get there. You can find him relaxing at home or with his friends at Our Place. Waterbury is the poet laureate of Our Place. Although his talent appears effortless, Waterbury is as hardworking as he is gifted. His wisdom and brilliance are inspiring.

His writing partner says,

“When you see him putting pen to paper, you know the product is going to be something incredible. It’s always an honor to read his work and even to share space with him.”

The Creature

A silent still pond
Awakens a jump of little life
It's eyes swirling of burning red embers
It's bright sky body stands out against
the murky waters.

Then the creature leaps into action
Like a vehicle driving to it's destination
The tongue stretches out
Seeking the deal
For the frog's next meal.

Personal Narrative

I keep going back to the Hero's Journey because it is intriguing and it is everywhere. It is a way that surrounds us and is a part of us. The Hero's Journey is a part of the secret of life and is one of the keys driving us even if we don't even know it. The Hero's Journey is the journey of life. This grand adventure with you as the architect of your story, your journey, and your purpose on this planet. But remember, you are never truly alone on this journey as help will be there when you need it. This is why we fall, so we can learn to rise again. Though we don't know where we are going, we do know where we've been and what we've done. Overall, this journey is the one that never ends. Even beyond death. But isn't that the start of a new beginning? What do you think?

*Until we meet again,
Always remember that*

*“The privilege
of a lifetime
is being
who you are.”*

~ Joseph Campbell

