



Eilene Lyon
Author, Speaker, Family Historian

Thank You!



I'm a huge fan of saying "Thank You." I look for reasons to send a handwritten note for any small favor. (I also enjoy receiving them.)

Last month I took a trip to Albany, New York, during the government shutdown. My flight out of Durango was delayed more than an hour, but fortunately I had a long layover in Dallas, so I made my flight to Albany.

When it was time to go home, I received an email just as I arrived at the Albany airport. My flight to Charlotte was delayed more than an hour. I checked my bag and the ticket agent asked me, "Do you know you're spending the night in Charlotte?"

Oh. No, I wasn't aware of that. I asked if she might be able to at least get me to Dallas for the night. Tika-tika-tika, went her fingers on the keyboard. "Hmm," she said, "Looks like I can reroute you through Washington." More tikas. Then, "Here's your baggage tag and your new boarding passes. The flight boards in 15 minutes."

Hallelujah! Even though the Washington flight was slightly delayed, I made both my connections and got home that night. I agonized all the way home, thinking I might not have properly thanked the ticket agent. And I didn't get her name, either.

So I'm thanking the ticket agent in absentia, and even more especially, the air traffic controllers and TSA agents who were working without pay that day.

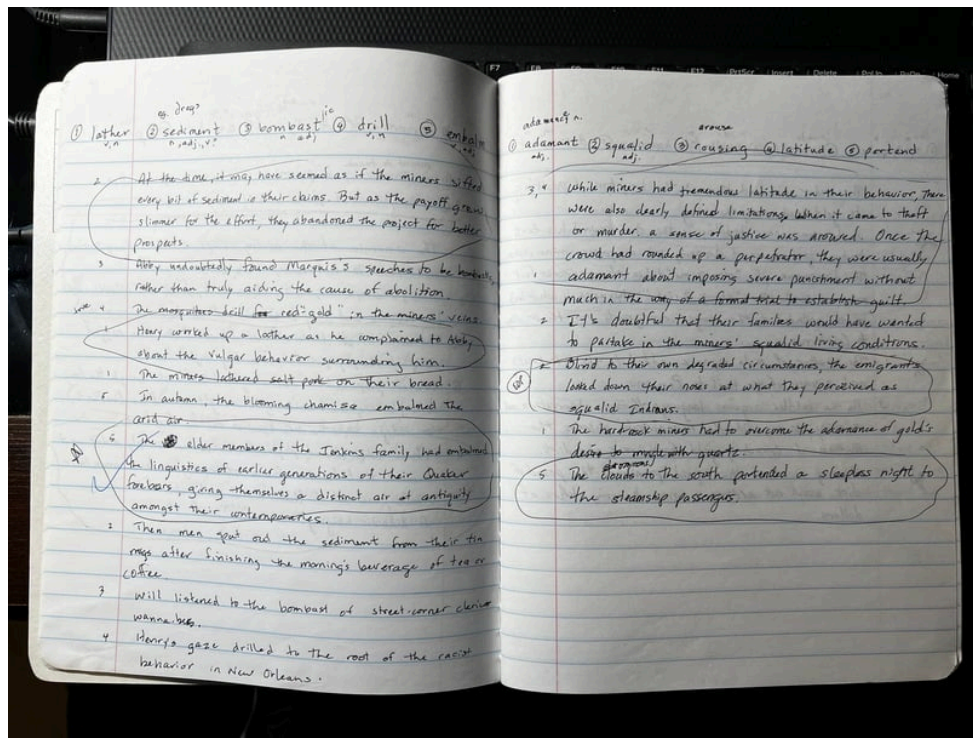
I also want to thank YOU, my readers. I'm so grateful to everyone who has supported my journey as an author, attending my speaking events, buying my books, telling friends, writing reviews, and getting me publicity. Hugs to you all.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Eilene

On Writing

Vocabulary - Part 2



Another way I build both vocabulary skills and creative writing skills is with a word-exercise notebook. At the top of each page, I write five words. Some I get by paging through the dictionary. Others come from my reading.

These aren't necessarily difficult or new words. Sometimes they are quite ordinary. Samples from a random page: palpable, modicum, spark, quirk, plummet. I use the rest of the page to construct sentences that use some form of each word. I might use one, two, or even three of the words in a particular sentence. "A palpable spark of anger roused the mob and led to the lynching."

As I'm doing this exercise, I consider my work-in-progress and think about scenes and how I might use these words in a slightly different manner than I usually would. Can I use a verb in a metaphorical way? Can a noun be used as a simile for something else?

My goal is to use all five words as many times as possible to fill the entire page. It can take a half hour, but thinking hard and writing well go hand in hand. Some of the more memorable sentences in *Fortune's Frenzy* came from this workbook.

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Ann's Adventure's--Part 1



Of Spiders and Hawks



Historic Hotel Colorado

On Philosophy

The Tao de Ching Verse 81

The sage does not hoard,
and thereby bestows.

The more he lives for others,

the greater his life.
The more he gives to others,
the greater his abundance.

Reviews and Event News

Events

My presentations in October went well. I had a good crowd attending my talk on "What Lies Beneath Colorado" at the library in Glenwood Springs. They especially appreciated that I had debunked an ugly online rumor about one of their celebrated pioneers, "Mother" Katie C. Bender, owner of the Commercial Restaurant from 1886 to 1917.

I also did a Zoom presentation for Women Writing the West's annual conference. A technology glitch set me back a bit, but I did get a chance to finish my demonstration on Zotero 7, an excellent tool for managing research material.



Aurora Splashes the Country

I always thought I'd have to travel near the Arctic Circle to see the Aurora Borealis. But nearly the entire country – even Florida! – had an opportunity for a viewing on Veteran's Day. I took this shot from the deck of our home. I've heard the red color is the rarest, but that is all we saw. Our high altitude may have accounted for that. This is one of the dimmer shots I got, but more in focus than brighter ones. Taken with my iPhone 13Pro.

ICYMI: The U.S. recently ended production of the 232-year-old penny. This article in *The Atlantic* (gift link) is both humorous and informative.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/2025/11/pennies-circulatio...>

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