



DEIDRA LOVEGREN

Deidra has written and published over one hundred short stories. Her novel *The Medicine Girl* debuted in July 2022 with the sequel *The Medicine Woman* expected in Fall 2023. Deidra co-hosts “Read Lots Write Lots,” a podcast featuring writers from around the world with her Australian co-host, Russell Norman. In addition, she is a judge for Reedsy Prompts and competes regularly in domestic and international writing competitions. She has been a teacher for decades, teaching scores of English and writing classes to students from preschool to college. After being exiled to Florida for far too long, she has returned to live in her home state of Virginia, where she resides with her husband of 30 years, her three children, and her black cat, Van Halen.

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The Importance of Comic Relief

Comic relief is a plot device used to lighten the mood and keep the reader engaged. Commonly used in dialogue and description, comic relief is essential in diffusing tension before, during, or after a difficult scene. Executed properly, comic relief can underscore themes in all genres—including nonfiction!

Join us for a rollicking discussion on how we can best use humor in helping our readers both think and feel more deeply when reading our texts. We will also examine comic relief in classical literature; investigate the elements of satire, irony, wit, and sarcasm; determine what makes a scene humorous or contrived; and learn how to avoid breaking a reader’s willingness to suspend disbelief.