



SHARON PAJKA

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Grave Inspiration: Stories that arise from cemeteries and grave markers.

Cemeteries hold a wealth of stories. Mary Shelley used her mother's grave for reading, writing, and lovemaking. Nathaniel Hawthorne frequently used references to gravestones and burial grounds in his writing as did Edgar Allan Poe. This presentation shares how cemeteries and grave markers led to my books and how death could liven up yours.

Whatever your genre, visiting cemeteries can help your writing. For fiction writers, cemeteries are an invaluable resource for character generation and world-building. For nonfiction writers, they hold a wealth of real stories. Time spent in a cemetery soaking up the peace and beauty of nature can boost your writing by creating mental space. Walking through the cemetery among the graves can bring your creativity to life.