

The Architecture of Prose

Examining Structure

Things I've Noticed from your Reading Responses (so far)

- ★ Exciting experimentation with forms that the writers are engaging with to produce work that is uniquely your own
- ★ Variations in approaches in some cases and consistency in others -- I suggest mixing it up. If you know how to respond in one way, try to push yourself to write differently than you normally would.
- ★ Seeing some summation rather than focusing on the -how- of writing -- keep working on moving beyond summary of what the work is -about- to get into -how meaning is produced-

Things I've Noticed from your Reading Responses (so far)

- ★ Use this space to also generate your own writing -- take advantage of the ability to respond with your own work too
- ★ Experiment with approaches you wouldn't normally take
- ★ Don't be afraid to extend your concept of what a response could be

Workshop Group 2
(group 3 posts by midnight tonight)

Collaborative Assignment Working Session

Story Shapes

Try following one of the shapes Jack Hodgins discusses in his article on Structure, writing a super short story literally as a concrete form.

Waiting Room Jennifer Zilm

Experiment with one of the forms Zilm uses:

- Sonnet (14 line poem)
- Three line list featuring 12 items
- Use two columns
- Include dialogue in a poem or write story consisting of only dialogue

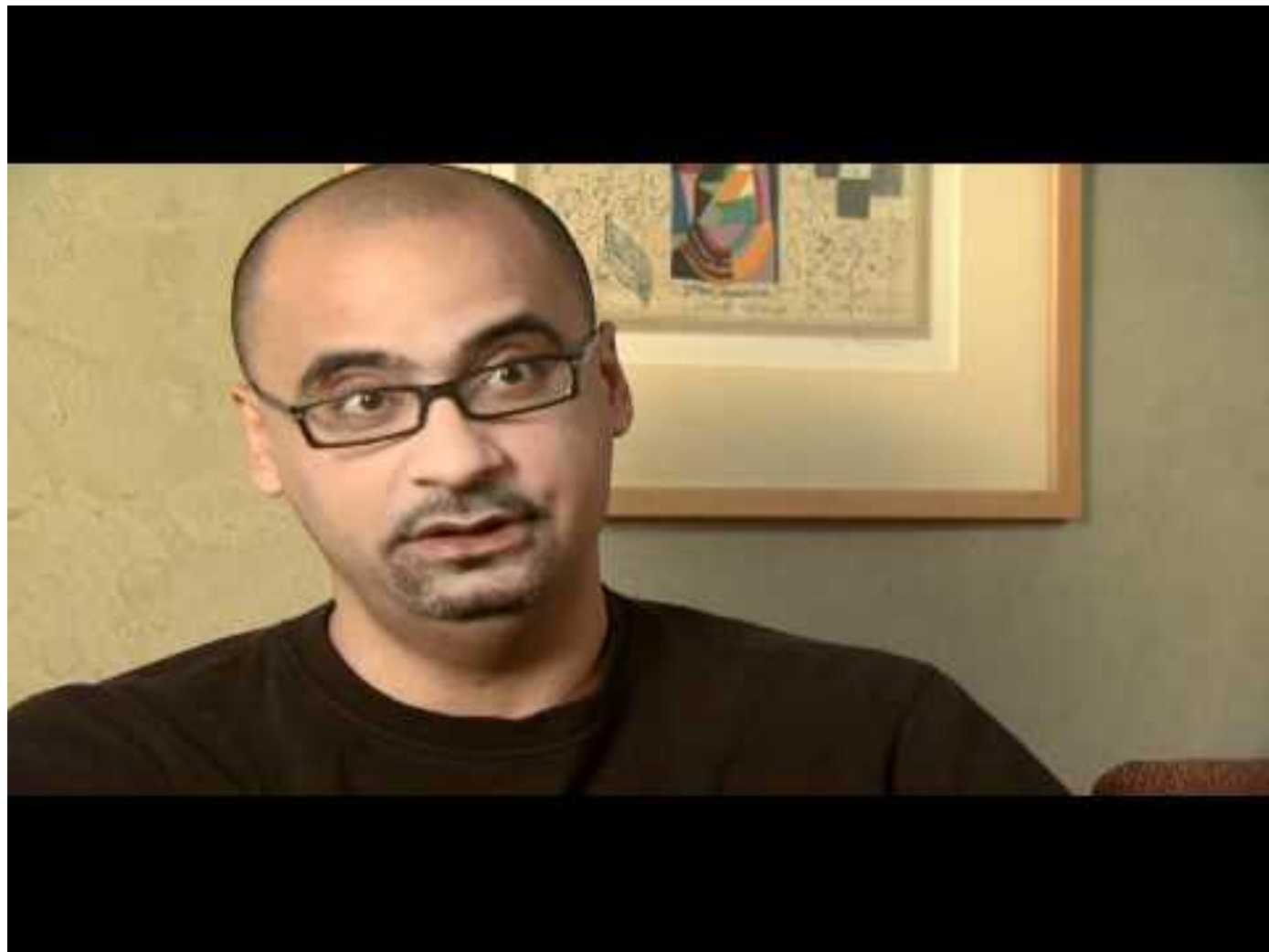
Time as Structuring Device

Write a story with a diary timestamp. Think of a significant set of dates from your own life, but then let the story move fictively.

How does the structure shape what you write?

Does time get infused into the content of your story? How do form and content connect?

Discuss: world building with Junot Diaz



Beginnings and Endings: Bridging Exercise

Sheila Heti:

"There is so much beauty in this world that it's hard to begin."

At the bottom of your page write the last line:

"Yes, it would. It would solve them all."

Use these constraints to experiment with patterns

- Write a short story that is only one sentence or a poem that is one continuous line.
- Write a short story 26 sentences in length where each sentence begins with a word that starts one of the letters of the alphabet - in order. - A stricture.
- Exercise in precision: write a complete story/poem in 55 words, first line 10 words, second line 9, third 8 and so on.
- Write five short-short stories. Each should be three sentences long. The five can be connected by character or place, although they don't even have to be connected.

Next week: workshop group 3

**Read: Damian Rogers + Miranda
July**

**Bring: 2nd draft of collaborative
project**