



Welcome to September 🌸

We tell ourselves stories in order to live.

— Joan Didion, writer and journalist

We have an exciting lineup for September. First, we want to give a shout out to an organization with which we're partnering. We Are Stronger Than Censorship (**STRONGER**). Co-founder and IBPA board member Lee Wind's guest article is linked below.

In this issue, we will also explore how to master the art of subtext and its significance in storytelling, examine the biases of AI checkers, and share our project spotlight, *Roxy the Fox* by Robyn Avery Rennick, with beautiful illustrations by Claire Ratliff. Lastly, our monthly author resource will focus on Dialogue Dos and Don'ts

Happy Reading! 🌸



The Three Myths of Book Banning By Lee Wind

(Lee is the co-creator of We Are Stronger Than Censorship, and the Chief Content Officer of the Independent Book Publishers Association)

Despite the growing number of books being challenged and banned, most people in the United States don't agree with the practice of banning books. The people banning books are a minority, and often it's the same people over and over again. In one analysis by the *Washington Post*, [11 people were behind 60% of their studied 1,065 challenges](#). Last year, one person in Wisconsin challenged 400 books in an elementary school library, and all 400 books were removed for four months while they were reviewed. At the end of that time, most of the books were returned to the shelves, but those school children, they lost access to all of those books for an entire semester.

[Most people](#) (including parents) say they don't want books removed from public libraries or school libraries. [One study in Michigan](#) found that "an 80% overwhelming majority of all respondents agreed with the statement that 'individual parents can set rules for their own children, but they do not have the right to decide for other parents what books are available to their children'."

In the face of this, three myths really need to be de-bunked.

Read On...

👉 **Check out our editorial support services**, as well as a variety of author resources. Click [here](#).



Discovering the Hidden Meanings of Dialogue Through Subtext

One of fiction and narrative non-fiction writing's toughest skills is mastering the art of subtext. If you really think about it, what a character says on the page is often the least interesting part of their dialogue. It's what they *don't* say, or what they *hint* at without spelling out, that pulls readers in and makes them lean forward. That's subtext at work.

We want you to think of subtext as the undercurrent of your story. On the surface, your characters might be discussing the weather, ordering coffee, or talking about the neighborhood dog. But underneath, the characters could be experiencing so much more: they may be in a power struggle, revealing their fears, hiding secrets from each other, or desiring connection. The possibilities are endless.

Why Subtext Matters

Subtext matters because flat dialogue feels more like a script than a narrative that pulls the reader in and holds on tight. Real people don't always say what they mean...or mean what they say, for that matter. Readers instinctively know this.

Subtext, therefore, gives your story authenticity and it makes it come alive. It can create tension, irony, humor, and/or emotional depth because readers get to work a bit (even subconsciously), piecing together the truth behind the words.

A Classic Example

Let's look at a classic example from *Casablanca*. Imagine the scene where Rick and Ilsa reunite after years apart. Their words are polite, almost casual, in fact, but the air practically vibrates with their longing, regret, and all that unresolved pain. The dialogue itself is simple. The scene is powerful, though, because the *subtext* does the heavy lifting. The undercurrent of what is *not* said gives the moment truly unforgettable power.

We have a few tips on how to weave subtext into your narrative. Use them and see how much more powerful a scene can be.

Ways to Weave in Subtext

1. Infuse Conflict Beneath Civility

Two characters can appear to be friendly, while every line carries a jab, a defense, or an unspoken resentment. Think of the family dinner where the roast chicken isn't the main course, but rather decades of sibling rivalry *are*.

2. Consider What's Left Unsaid

Silence is dialogue, too! A character refusing to answer can be louder and say far more than three pages of explanation. Readers infer, filling in the blanks, and often their imagination amplifies the impact— and that's golden.

3. Create a Mismatch Between Words and Actions

A character might insist, "I'm fine," all the while gripping their glass so hard it shatters. Clearly all is not fine, and we see that in the subtext. The contrast between what's spoken and what's shown creates instant interest.

4. Use Symbols and Metaphors

Subtext doesn't always have to come from words. Maybe a character is talking about rebuilding a fence when what they really mean is repairing a relationship. Objects, gestures, and setting details can all act as carriers of hidden meaning.

Nothing illustrates a concept better than putting it into action. Here's a quick exercise to help you practice using subtext:

*Take a scene you've already written and strip it down to "just the facts." What the characters literally say. Then ask yourself: **What do they really mean?***

Now, add in gestures, silences, or conflicting emotions to let readers glimpse the deeper story.

We promise, you'll be amazed at how much richer your dialogue becomes.

The Technica Takeaway

Think of writing with subtext as an invitation for your reader to read between the lines. The words are the cover story, but the real heart of the exchange is happening underneath. Mastering this balance will help you transform your story's dialogue from functional to unforgettable.

So next time you're polishing a scene, ask: *What are my characters really saying, and what are they carefully not saying?* Knowing is where the magic lives.



The Unseen Biases of AI Text Detection Software by Chris Moffitt

AI has revolutionized countless industries, from healthcare to finance to education to the publishing industry. Among the latest applications is AI text detection software, which aims to determine whether a given piece of text was written by a human or generated by an AI chatbot such as ChatGPT or GPT-4. These tools are becoming increasingly prevalent in academic institutions, publishing, and content moderation as more and more authors and reviewers are using these tools to ease their writing burden. However, despite their growing use, AI text detectors are far from perfect. The detectors are a bit of an ouroboros situation and they not only suffer from accuracy limitations but also exhibit significant biases—especially against non-native English speakers and certain writing styles—raising ethical, social, and technological concerns.

AI text detection refers to the use of machine learning algorithms to assess whether a piece of writing was produced by a human or by an AI model. These tools analyze patterns in syntax, vocabulary richness, sentence structure, and other linguistic features. One of the most widely known detectors is [OpenAI](#)'s own classifier, which was released in early 2023; we [previously wrote](#) about the software and how it was later discontinued due to low accuracy. Other tools, like GPTZero, Originality.ai, Turnitin's AI detection, and Writer.com's AI Content Detector, have also been developed with varying levels of success and transparency.

[Read on.](#)

Project Spotlight



Roxy the Fox by Robyn Avery Rennick

Technica Editorial had the pleasure of working with Florida storyteller, Robyn Avery Rennick, on her new children's picture book, *Roxy the Fox* — a truly delightful story that's beautifully illustrated by Claire Ratliff. Technica edited the text, designed the cover and interior pages, and managed the complete project through to final print deliverables.

Need a holiday gift?

The book will be on sale in October on Amazon. To learn more about Robyn and her stories go to www.robynarennickstories.com!



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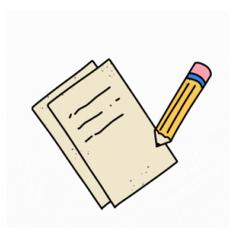
Dialogue Dos and Don'ts

Have you ever read a book where the dialogue just popped? Or a novel where conversations flowed so naturally you felt like you were there—a fly on the wall—rather than a reader curled up on a couch?

If you have, then you understand the power of great dialogue. It can truly bring a story to life.

Check it out [here](#).

Seeking additional guidance or inspiration? Explore our [Resources](#) for downloadable author guides and tools!



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