October 2014 Writing Prompts

Prompt #1 (inspired by Andrew Miller who sent on this quotation)

From Michael Herr's *Dispatches* Herr, born in our very own city of Syracuse, was a war correspondent in Vietnam. His book *Dispatches* (1977), is an account of his experiences as a correspondent for *Esquire* (1967–1969).

“...I didn’t know, it took war to teach it, that you were as responsible for everything you saw as you were for everything you did. The problem was that you didn’t always know what you were seeing until later, maybe years later, that a lot of it never made it in at all, it just stayed there stored in your eyes. Time and information, rock and roll, life itself, the information isn’t frozen, you are.”

Respond to this quotation in any way you like: Ex: Respond through a dialogue with this quotation or with a story or scene from your life that captures the essence of what Herr is addressing.

Prompt #2:


“I invite you to reintroduce yourself as though you didn’t know yourself. If there were only one story in your life that you could write about today, what would it be? Look for something new to develop, a change, an element of the unknown. What story do you want to leave? A story you haven’t told before? There’s a sentence I’d like you to begin with: I have something to tell you and I will tell it to the best of my ability and with all of my heart.”

Prompt #3:

Rebel against the writing prompts and write your own writing prompt and then respond to it.
November Events:

November 11: Veterans’ Day SVWG Reading on Moral Injury, Art Rage Gallery, 505 Hawley Avenue, 7-8:15 p.m.
Readers: Len, Pete, Bob, Jen, Tim, Marissa, Don (?)
Come out and support our group members for a meaningful veteran-led event on Veterans’ Day. Bring friends and family. 
Co-sponsored with Hendricks Chapel of SU’s Moral Injury Project
Street parking available at the Syracuse Cultural Workers lots at 408 and 414 Lodi Street. The small parking lot to the left of the entrance does not belong to the Gallery.
http://artragegallery.org/visit-artrage

November 20: Brian Turner
“My Life as a Foreign Country: An Evening with Poet Brian Turner”
Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m. Humanities Center/DWC event
Downtown Writer’s Center of the YMCA Arts Branch (340 Montgomery St.)
U.S. Army veteran Brian Turner reads from his critically acclaimed memoir My Life as a Foreign Country (Jonathan Cape/Random House, 2014), recounting his wartime experiences in Iraq and Bosnia. Turner is also the author of the two award-winning poetry collections: Here, Bullet (2005) and Phantom Noise (2010), both published by Alice James Books. His appearance is part of the Downtown Writer’s Center’s Visiting Author Readings Series.

November 21: Opportunity to meet Brian Turner
The Downtown Writers Center is partnering with the Syracuse Symposium to host noted veteran-poet Brian Turner. He is the author of two acclaimed books of poems, and a brand-new memoir that is making waves: My Life as a Foreign Country.

The DWC has invited our group to meet with Brian Turner on Friday, November 21st, from 12:30-2:00 PM at the DWC. Free of charge. This will be a Q&A/discussion session. Let me know if you want to attend.

November 22: Next monthly meeting of our group