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Get into character for Writers of Kern meeting

BY MANDY WALLACE For The Californian

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Author Joan Raymond will discuss how to create realistic characters at the next Writers of Kern meeting on Saturday.

Courtesy of Joan Raymond

It isn't news to writers: Great storytelling is built on great characters. Yet that's not always an easy process. For this month's Writers of Kern meeting, Joan Raymond will walk writers through the easy steps and fun questions that lead to those realistic characters in breakout stories.

Great character development goes beyond description and outer appearance, according to Raymond.

This workshop will show writers "how to get inside a character's head and discover hidden secrets and emotions and how they would react in different scenarios," she said.

Raymond teaches creative writing through Bakersfield College's Levan Institute and served as Writers of Kern president for four years. Her short stories have been published online and in print.

Writers of Kern offers workshops like this one for professional and emerging writers most months of the year. Their annual writer conference, funding for writers, Young Writers of Kern essay competition, scholarships, publication opportunities and mentorships are designed to discover new writers, support established ones, and grow the talent and skills of both.

Catch this month's meeting and character development workshop from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Hodel's Country Dining, 5917 Knudsen Drive. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for members, and can be paid at the door or online. Cost includes a buffet breakfast.

Questions? Email events@writersofkern.com or visit writersofkern.com.

— *Mandy Wallace is a member of the Writers of Kern*