

Writing Games:

## **FIELDWORK**

Go for a walk with your notebook and collect the following 'data':

- ❖ two real overheard conversations;
- ❖ three species of birds;
- ❖ two brand names for food;
- ❖ the words from six signs;
- ❖ the name of one planet or star;
- ❖ the name of a lipstick;
- ❖ one time of day;
- ❖ the title of a book of fiction;
- ❖ the title of a painting;
- ❖ the name of a dead politician;
- ❖ two types of onion and one type of potato;
- ❖ the names of three items in a hardware store;
- ❖ a make of gun;
- ❖ and the speech of a child.

Now, open a newspaper at random and write down one short phrase in it. This phrase is the title of your new piece of writing. Write a short story of no more than 500 words or a poem of no more than 40 lines that incorporates all the data you have collected.

Revise this writing until the use of this data seems completely inevitable, and neither random nor forced.

AIM: Force yourself to make connections between disparate things, and your brain answers that pressure by making synaptic connections to make sense of them. This pressure, if applied constantly, will improve your facility with ideas, language and imagery. Force becomes habit; ability becomes facility and fluency.