We Wanted to Be Writers: Life, Love and Literature at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop by Eric Olsen and Glenn Schaeffer

The Iowa Writers’ Workshop is the Holy Grail of writing schools, and with its roster of Pulitzer-winning graduates, it’s no mystery why. The real mystery is what goes on inside—which is why we’re so excited by this book. Featuring T.C. Boyle and other graduates and instructors, it offers a lively look into one of the most influential writing programs ever.

“Sherlock”

You can be skeptical. We were, too, when we heard Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s legendary sleuth was being reimagined as a young man who sends text messages and forgoes his trademark pipe for nicotine patches. But then we watched it and discovered a smart, wildly fun adaptation that does what so many others fail to do well: translate a classic to modern times. The BBC program returns for a second round of three 90-minute episodes this fall on PBS.

The Mark Twain Forever Stamp

There’s just something ridiculous about slapping a Dennis the Menace stamp on a query for that Great American Novel you’ve been writing for a decade. So class up your correspondence with the latest addition to the U.S. Postal Service’s Literary Arts series: a stamp emblazoned with Mark Twain.

Page One: Inside The New York Times

When a documentary takes us into The New York Times’ newsroom to witness the goings-on in a time of profound industry change, we pay attention. As Peter Travers wrote in his Rolling Stone review, “For those of us who read—on smudgy paper or a battery-powered screen—Page One is a vital, indispensable hell-raiser.”

Postcards From Penguin

Whether you’re a book lover, a design aficionado or both, there’s a lot to love about these Penguin postcards of 100 book covers, covering 70 years of British design, from the classic to the quirky. Send them to your writing friends, or frame them for some retro inspiration. (http://bit.ly/jLnz00)