

## Introduction:

I invite you to create a map of 'all that might be possible over the next year' in your writing life. The graphic and prompts below are designed to get you started. The pen is designed to produce amazing results when grasped in your hand and then pressed on paper and asked to scribe the thoughtflow that issues from your imagination. Trust me. This pen to paper stuff really works.

## So what are you supposed to do?

Print off the graphic organiser (next page) and write directly on it. Take the general idea and tailor it to your own shape and style. Use the contents and discard the box. I don't mind. Do what you like. After all, this is creative work and the only rule I pay much attention to is that you make it your own, and you make it meaningful to you. No gold stars from me. I'm not that kind of teacher.

As you can see from the graphic, I've suggested five areas to brainstorm, doodle, and dream about. Below are guiding prompts to get the ink flowing on each. The **blank page** is there because in any template that attempts to encompass a great big idea on one sheet of paper, the best part always comes from what I forget to include and you couldn't live without. So, tell me: What's on your blank page? And how are you going to tend it?

 **Writing Practice** - What areas of craft and creation will I highlight this year?

 **Editing** - How will I be developing and improving my existing work?

 **Submissions** - Where will send I work for a wider audience to read?

 **Community** - Who are my writing community? How do we support each other?

 **Blank page** - What is an area of my writing life that isn't listed? How will I tend it?

## IMPORTANT:

This is not a to do list. It is not a instrument of deferred torture where you write down potential starry achievements that you return to next December only to beat yourself up over for not completing. No no no. That's not my game. Go play that game with someone else's year planner.

Instead, think of this as a menu. When you sit down for a meal at your favourite restaurant, you wouldn't start at the top left hand side with the first starter and work your way through, dish by dish, eating and drinking to completion (at least I hope you don't). You choose what looks most appealing, what suits the season, the time of day, your fancy. And then, you enjoy all the subtlety and flavour of that dish for that meal on that day. You don't worry about all the food you didn't eat. Soon enough, you'll get hungry again and return. Likewise, when you sit down for a writing meal, choose something from this menu of possibility. From the delicious offerings that you've dreamt up, what will you choose that nourishes your writing life?

# All that might be possible for my writing in 2017

