

ACTIVITY GUIDE

Marlon James – Author

Objectives: Author of three novels, Marlon James believes that different books demand a different process. Learn about his shifting writing processes, experimenting with varied writing environments, and reflect on individual processes to reimagine and rewrite a scene from a story or novel.

Tools/Resources: Pen and paper, [Marlon James' Writing Playlist](#), and [Classical MPR Playlists](#).



Video Clip: <http://www.tpt.org/mn-original/episode/marlon-james/>

Activity

- 1) Watch the segment and discuss:
 - a. How does Marlon James prepare to write?
 - b. What inspires him and his creative process?
- 2) Using a recently read story, ask the students to pick a character or scene that didn't resonate because of the ending, a character or a loose end.
 - a. Take 10-20 minutes to rewrite the scene or moment.
 - b. While you are writing:
 - i. Play different kinds of music, also leaving time for quiet work.
 - ii. Stand up and write or move to a different part of the room.
- 3) Discuss:
 - a. How did you change the story?
 - b. Did you prefer to write when it was quiet or when the music was playing? Did the music help with your ideas or was it harder to focus?
 - c. Did you like working sitting at a desk or in some other?