

## Commercial Fiction and the Rule of Three

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 07 August 2011 10:33 - Last Updated Sunday, 07 August 2011 08:23

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**By Randy Russell**



ASHEVILLE—I love talking story structure with other writers. To create a novel that will find ready acceptance in the commercial marketplace, I've learned that you need to pay attention to and define your story structure from the get-go.

You already know how to write. And perhaps beautifully so. By using a simple Rule of Three, you will learn how to construct a novel that will be an “easy sell” from tagline to query to final chapter, allowing your literary talents to find the widest audience possible.

The author's guidelines for writing and pitching a successful novel for today's competitive marketplace are designed to get you an agent quickly and to make a sell to a commercial publisher without pre-contract revisions. My story-structure Rule of Three was featured earlier this year at Writers Digest editor Chuck Sambuchino's website [www.guidetoliteraryagents.com](http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com)

The Rule of Three provides a structure and focus for commercially successful book-length fiction in any genre. Be prepared to describe your work-in-progress during this dynamic course and to participate in the detailed discussion of making your work perfect for the marketplace. It's easier than you think.

To read more about the Rule of Three, click [here](#) .

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RANDY RUSSELL will lead a Sunday workshop at the 2011 Fall Conference. He is the Edgar-nominated author of five published novels for adults, two books of short stories about ghosts, [Ghost Dogs of the South](#) and [Ghost Cats of the South](#), and two volumes of Southern Appalachia folklore.

Earlier this year, Randy saw the publication of his sixth novel [Dead Rules](#) (HarperTeen), which received a starred Kirkus Review, was a Junior Literary Guild high-interest selection, and will be published by Quercus Books UK and by Aufbau Books in Germany. He lives in Asheville.

Registration for the 2011 Fall Conference, Nov 18-20, hosted by the North Carolina Writers' Network, will open in September. Keep an eye on [www.ncwriters.org](http://www.ncwriters.org) for more details.