

Cultural Daily

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Kurt Vonnegut: How to Shape a Story

Adam Leipzig · Wednesday, November 9th, 2011

Wise Words From One of the Best – Kurt Vonnegut

Happy birthday week, [Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.](#) (November 11, 1922-April 11, 2007). Kurt Vonnegut bent and shaped his stories in unexpected ways. He experimented. His stories and novels are full of gaps and swerves, seemingly unconnected bits, and illustrations mixed in with the words. Yet his stories – in novels like *Cat's Cradle*, *Slaughterhouse 5*, *Breakfast of Champions*, *Sirens of Titan* – always work. Perhaps that's because he understood that though the absurdity of life throws us curveballs, which his prose readily emulated, there is always an underlying form to hold on to.

Why should I talk? Let him explain it...

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