



Story Guide

NOTHING INTERFERES WITH THE TIMED WRITING!

BY

Donald Davis

Watch the video of storyteller Donald Davis live at the 2019 National Storytelling Festival [here](#).

(Right click on link to open it in a new tab.) All videos include ASL interpretation.

Story run time is 37:35 - 56:47.

Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



explore it

- Make a list of some of the exaggerations Donald uses to add humor to the story, like his saying that Miss Lois Harrell taught second grade for 188 years. Try creating some exaggerations of your own.
- Donald teaches his audience about a different time in history when he was a child. What have you learned from this story that you never knew before? What other kinds of things can be taught by using a story?



think it

- Describe the inspection ritual with students at the beginning of typing class with Miss Sloan.
- What happens to a student when Miss Sloan catches them looking at the keyboard when they are typing? Why do you think learning to type without looking is important?
- Why are the last 10 minutes of typing class on Fridays a "sacred moment?"
- Describe the things Donald and his freinds do to test Miss Sloan's theory that "Nothing interferes with the timed writing." Why did they surrender trying to disprove this theory?



create it

- Draw a picture of Miss Ethel Sloan - the large-boned typing teacher who wore big, tailored, double-breasted grey suits, thick-soled teacher shoes, and had grey hair coiled on top of her head in a beehive.
- Learn about Miss Sloan's favorite typist, [Mr. George Hossfield](#). How many times did he win the World Typing Championship? Who beat his record? Take your own [typing test](#) to see how your skills compare to Mr. Hossfield's. What was your word per minute (wpm) typing speed?



tell it

- Donald jokes about teachers going to the Teacher's Ripening Center before they can teach. Imagine what it is like to be a teacher. Journal about the rewards of teaching and the difficult aspects of the job. Would you like to be a teacher when you grow up? Why or why not?
- Think about a time when you learned a new skill that required daily practice, like when Donald learns to type or when a musician learns a new instrument. Share a story about your new skill, how you practiced, and the person who inspired you to learn it.