# Writing and Editing



# I spend a lot of time thinking about writing

- Full-time Writer/Editor
- Ph.D. in English Literature
- 18 Books Published
- Taught Composition
- Taught Business Writing and Editing
- Playwright. Teach Playwriting 20+ years



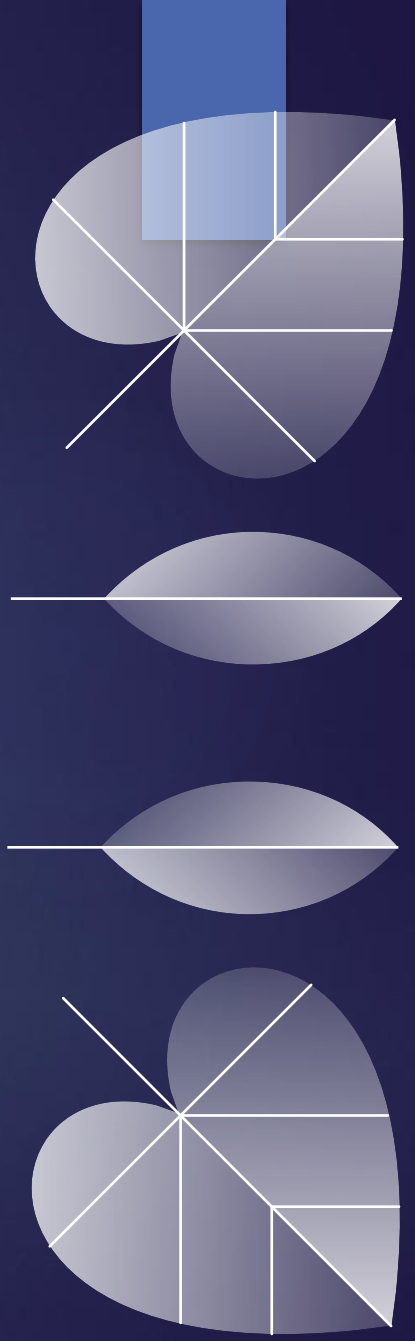
Everyone writes differently.

Writing well is a matter of practice.



# Writing Process

- Outline – some sense of where the story is going. It always changes.
- Write first draft quickly – get everything down on paper. Doesn't matter if it's not great.
- Second draft. More detail. More characterization. Improve the descriptions. Fix plot holes.
- Third draft: Polish the language. More Regency language. Better phrasing.



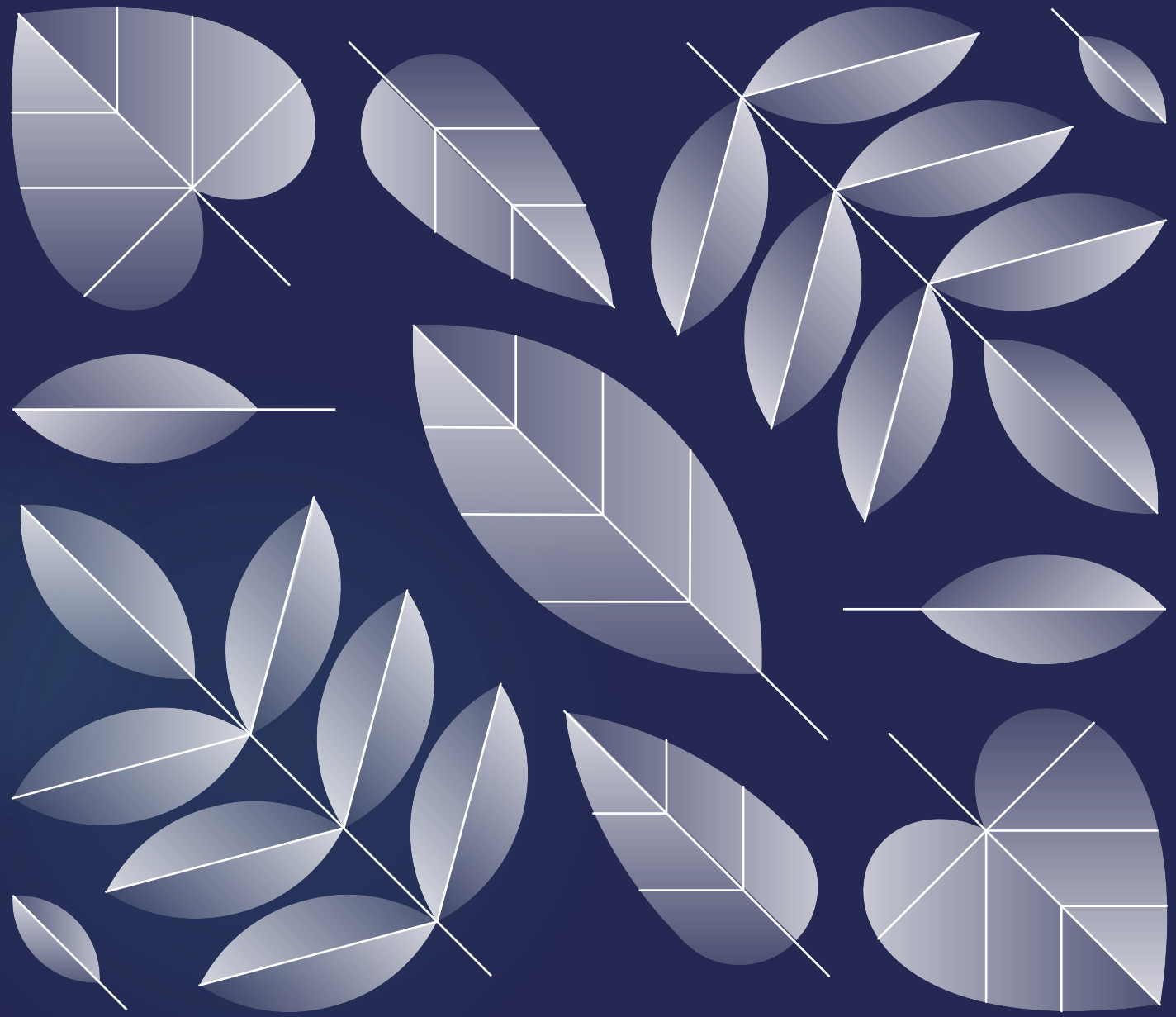
# Editing

- Ready for beta readers
- Editor and proofreader

- You're going to make mistakes. That's okay.
- No book is perfect.
- Need to balance:
  - Grammar, spelling, typos
  - Period language and Americanisms
  - Period details

That's a lot!

Try to avoid having so many errors it takes readers out of the story.



# Questions?

*The best writers are the ones who never stop learning.*