

# What Was I Thinking?

By Dennis Payton Knight

I thought about it pretty much all that week, but hadn't lit on any ideas yet when the moment arrived on Monday morning and it was my turn to come forward and give my group a writing challenge. If I had been wearing my actual thinking cap I would likely have come up with an interesting writing topic like Bats or Badminton or Rabbits or Rutabagas. But when the moment arrived I had nothing to offer. As I stammered and claimed I had been thinking about it, a momentary spell of actual quick thinking saved me, and I announced, as if I had been thinking it all along, the week's writing task, Thinking About It.

That concludes Chapter One. It is Chapter Two now and I have had yet another seven days of thinking, not about how to test my colleagues, but to think about Thinking About. And I have indeed had plenty to think about, I think. There is, however, some point in the process of thinking where an actual thought is expected to emerge, and I haven't yet had one of those.

Now I am back to Rutabagas. I would not have to actually write *about* rutabagas, just five hundred words about *thinking about* rutabagas. But I have nothing to think about rutabagas other than it is a funny word. I think it may be a vegetable, and by its sound I think it might have something to do with roots. I don't know what to think of the *baga* part. I could look it up if I were interested, but I don't think I will, because I'm not.

Badminton is another funny word, I think, because it has an n in in the middle which I think I've never heard pronounced. The game of Badminton requires a Shuttlecock, which I think is also a funny word. At first thought I don't think it's something I want to write about, but on the other hand, I do think I can expound on its obvious etymology. The prefix, shuttle, is a word which I think has to do with flying back and forth, back and forth. I think the word cock derives from the male in a variety of bird species that includes the ostrich, chickens, penguins and peacocks, among many others. There are exceptions. I do not think a he-goose would be a goose-cock, for instance. He would be gander. I am glad I thought of that because it is indeed an actual thought.

All this thinking is giving me what I think is a headache, and I am thinking you are thinking I am traveling on the same train of thought that took me nowhere last week, and if you are, I think you might be right. It is time I catch another train, which brings me to what I think is yet another funny word, Caboose, and I think that means we have reached The End. I Hope.