

A Teacher of Writers

Author and literary agent Chip MacGregor discovered something intriguing while doing research on English literature. It seems that in the early 1900s, author Sherwood Anderson spent years of his life coaching and mentoring other writers. He lived near them, dined with them, read their writings, and encouraged them to communicate more effectively and powerfully.

One of Anderson's first pupils was Ernest Hemingway. John Steinbeck also studied under him, as did William Faulkner, the greatest novelist the South has ever produced. In all, Anderson's pupils included four Pulitzer Prize winners and five National Book Award honorees.

Malcolm Cowley, considered by many to be the preeminent editor of our time, said, "No one has influenced the novel of the 20th Century more than Sherwood Anderson."

Ironically, Anderson was a rather obscure novelist in his own right. Only one of his works, *Winesburg, Ohio*, is widely known – and that only among English literature majors and instructors.

Perhaps you are a person who can mentor others and help them to achieve high-profile success. The rewards you earn might not burn as brightly as you would like, but they will last. And they will bring you a deep sense of satisfaction. It's a noble task to help others fulfill their dreams.

An old saying contains much truth: *Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.*

--Beecher Hunter