

Putting Away Your Inner Editor

Before you begin your noveling adventure, you want to put your Inner Editor somewhere where he or she can't pester you. Your Inner Editor is the one who tells you when you misspell something or when you don't use the right punctuation. A lot of the time, your Inner Editor is there to help you write well. But if your Inner Editor gets grumpy, he or she can be pretty mean. He or she may tell you that your sentences aren't good enough, and that you are not a good writer. And NaNoWriMo puts your Inner Editor in a really bad mood, since you will be ignoring a lot of what he or she is trying to tell you. During November, don't be surprised if your Inner Editor tries to get you to erase everything and start over almost every day.

This is why it is important to put your Inner Editor away for a month. The point of National Novel Writing Month is to explore your imagination and just write. Every word counts, no matter if it is misspelled or completely made up. In order to avoid erasing, you'll need to put your Inner Editor away. You can bring him back in December, but for now, your Inner Editor needs to be sent away on vacation.

In the space below, draw your Inner Editor. Is your Inner Editor a girl or a boy? Does he or she look mean? What is he or she wearing? Just like when you drew your characters, remember to use a lot of color and details.

After you draw your Inner Editor, cut him or her out and put him or her away!



Some places to put your Inner Editor:

- Under your bed.
- At the bottom of your dirty clothes hamper.
- In an old shoe box in your closet.
- Tucked away in the back of your junk drawer.
- Locked in your teacher's desk.
- In a locked safe (if you or someone you know has one).
- Buried in a time capsule in your backyard.

You can even give him to a friend or family member for safekeeping. Whatever you do, do not keep him or her anywhere near your desk or wherever you like to write. In November, if you feel the need to erase, start over, or quit, remember that it is your Inner Editor shouting from where he or she is hidden. The further your Inner Editor is from you, the better.