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THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT

In this exercise writers take it in turns to tell everyone about a current project that they are working on, a book, screenplay, short story, etc.

The other writers then brainstorm ideas for related stories that could be written, or directions the project could take. There are no right or wrong suggestions, and the intention is to focus on big concepts, not little details.

This exercise should be introduced carefully as writers can be precious about their ideas. The aim of the exercise is not to 'improve' any writer's idea, but to explore it in a way that challenges the writer to see how many directions a story could take. Sometimes this leads to new insights for the writer.