

Title: Karol Nawrocki's Masterclass in Political Fiction

Synopsis:

In this blog, we take a deep dive into the bizarre political spectacle surrounding Karol Nawrocki, a Polish presidential candidate with an unusual flair for self-promotion. His campaign has been marred by an eye-popping scandal involving a crime writer alias - one which, in an astonishing plot twist, turns out to be Nawrocki himself. His literary alter ego praises his own book on TV, only for viewers to discover the ruse. This bizarre political fiction plays out like something straight out of a satirical thriller, offering unexpected lessons for writers about leaning into the improbable. In the world of politics and storytelling, sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction, and Nawrocki's spectacle proves it.

The Snark's Blog: [here](#)

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:

- How does Nawrocki's stunt of pretending to be his own crime writer alter ego compare to the level of absurdity one might encounter in fiction?
- What does this incident say about the intersection of self-promotion and truth in both politics and storytelling?
- How does the blending of reality and fiction - like Nawrocki's use of a pseudonym - affect our perception of truth, especially in media and literature?
- What can writers learn from the radical improbability of this situation, and how can they incorporate similarly unexpected twists into their own work?

Writer's Prompts

Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:

- **Prompt 1:** The Fake Author Reveal. Create a story in which an author, under a pen name, creates a hugely popular book, only to later reveal that the author behind the pseudonym is actually a key political figure. What's their motivation? How does this revelation change the narrative?
- **Prompt 2:** The Unbelievable Campaign. Write a scene where a political candidate stages an absurd stunt to promote themselves - perhaps involving an elaborate false identity. How does it play out? What are the consequences for their campaign and their relationship with the public?
- **Prompt 3:** Identity Crisis. In your story, a character adopts a fake identity in order to manipulate public opinion, but as they get deeper into their ruse, they begin to lose touch with who they really are. How does the character's identity evolve over time, and what does this say about the relationship between identity and power?

- **Prompt 4:** The Campaign Speech. Write a speech where a candidate tries to explain away an outrageous political faux pas (like Nawrocki's stunt) with a mix of humor, deflection, and absurdity. How does the public react, and how does the speech affect their chances in the race?
- **Prompt 5:** A Fictional Twist on Politics. Write a scene where a political leader in a dystopian future uses literary fiction as a way to manipulate the masses. How do they control the narrative, and what is the eventual outcome of this manipulation?

Class Activities

These activities will help expand on the themes of the topic:

- **Group Discussion:** Have students break into groups and discuss the implications of Nawrocki's stunt in relation to fictional storytelling. How does the line between reality and fiction blur in political campaigns? What might this mean for the future of political communication and public trust?
- **Design Exercise:** Have students to design a political campaign for a candidate who is a published author with a dark, secret identity. What would their campaign slogan be? How would they manipulate public perception through their literary work?
- **Debate:** Host a debate about the ethics of using fiction to manipulate the public - whether through a political candidate, a writer's public persona, or the media. Is it acceptable to blend truth with fiction to achieve a goal, or does it lead to the collapse of credibility?
- **Collaborative Story-Building:** As a class, collaboratively build a political fiction story involving a candidate who pretends to be their own anonymous literary alter ego. Each student can contribute a plot point, character development, or twist until the story reaches an absurd and unexpected conclusion.
- **Parody Writing:** Have students write a parody of a political ad, making it as absurd and outlandish as possible while still staying somewhat within the realm of possibility. Use Nawrocki's bizarre stunt as inspiration, but push the envelope even further for comedic effect.

Closing note from the blog's writer, The Snark

Oh my, Karol Nawrocki. Who knew politics could serve up such deliciously absurd fiction? The man literally made a political career out of blending the bizarre with the brilliant. And honestly, isn't that what good writing is all about? We take the ridiculous, the outlandish, and the impossible, and we turn it into something that almost makes sense. Nawrocki's stunt is a masterclass in what happens when you lean all the way into the improbable - when you take something so out there, it could only happen in fiction, and then you live it.

As writers, we're tasked with making the unbelievable seem plausible, and when reality itself is weirder than fiction, the bar's already been set high. The next time you feel like your plot is veering into the "too ridiculous" territory, just remember Nawrocki and his absurd alter-ego. Fiction is about pushing limits, and as long as you're entertaining your reader, who cares how improbable it seems?

So go ahead, lean into the absurd. If life can throw us Karol Nawrocki, then your characters can do anything. And, when in doubt, always remember: the truth is often stranger (and more entertaining) than anything we could dream up. Now, get to amazing your readers!