There is, to be sure, no magical secret that will give us all high levels of creativity, but there is nonetheless a simple but powerful device that invariably enhances whatever level of creativity one may have had the luck of being endowed with, and that is the welcoming of constraints.

In this talk I will focus on how constraints can bring about surprise, elegance, and joy in writing. I will give examples of several, ranging from lipograms to monosyllabicity to visual patterns to alliterations to acrostics to poetic structures of several sorts.

For a full abstract, see http://www.cb.uu.se/

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