

CREATIVE WRITING COURSE

Part 1 - FUNDAMENTALS AND CHARACTERS

The course is intended to deliver an understanding of the component parts of a story, whilst examining writing technique and encouraging passion for writing. It allows for input from those attending, with discussion on individual writing projects that will help all those with a writing project in mind.

The course will focus on the principles of story, plot, character, etc. for fiction and non-fiction books. However these principles apply for other mediums, including: comics, graphic novels, blogs, TV, film, radio and theatre.

Why do you want to write?

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What's in a name: Authors name - Real or Pseudonym

Woody Allen	Allen Stewart Konigsberg	Anne Rampling	Anne Rice
Lewis Carroll	Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson	Anne Rice	Howard Allen O'Brien
Joseph Conrad	Jozef Teodor Konrad Nalecz Korzeniowski	Katherine Ross	Dorothy Walter
Rudyard Kipling	Richard Kipling	Mickey Spillane	Frank Morrison Spillane
Jimmy Laine	Abel Ferrara	Joanne 'Jo' Rowling	J K Rowling
John Lange	Michael Crichton	Ruth Rendell	Barbara Graseman
John Le Carre'	David John Moore Cornwell	Stijn Streuvels	Frank Lateur

Moliere	Jean Baptiste Poquelin	Gore Vidal	Eugene Luther Vidal, Jr.
Multatuli	Eduard Douwes Dekker	Dr. Seuss	Theodore Geisel
Leigh Nichols	Dean R. Koontz	Oscar Wilde	Fingal O'Flahertie Wills
George Orwell	Eric Arthur Blair	Tom Wolfe	Thomas Kennerley
Richard Paige	Dean R. Koontz	James Heriot	James Alfred Wight, <u>OBE</u>

Task: Write down your author's name

Author:

Genre

Definition? Why categorize?

Knowing your genre is essential in order to pitch your book to a suitable publisher and most importantly to know what your target audience is.

FICTION;

Mystery

Agatha Christie – *Inspector Poirot, Miss Marple novels*

Arthur Conan Doyle - *Sherlock Holmes novels*

Elizabeth George – *The Inspector Linley novels*

Thriller

Michael Connolly - *Harry Bosch novels*

Lee Child - *Jack Reacher novels*

Harlan Coben - *Myron Bolter novels*

Spy

Ian Fleming - *James Bond novels*

Len Deighton – *Game – Set – Match series*

John Le Carrie – *The Spy That Came In From the Cold*

Sci-Fi

Frank Herbert - *Dune series*

Arthur C. Clarke - *The Sentinel - 2001 A Space Odyssey*

Isaac Asimov - *The Foundation Series*

Fantasy

J R R Tolkien - *The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*

J K Rowling - *Harry Potter series*

Lewis Carroll - *Alice in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass*

Horror

Stephen King - *Carrie, The Stand,*

Dean R Koontz- *Fun House, Brother Odd series*

Mary Shelley - *Frankenstein*

War

Patrick O'Brien - *Captain Jack Sparrow Series*

Sven Hassel - *World War 2 novels*

Adventure

Clive Cussler - *Dirk Pitt novels*

Matthew Reilly – *Ice Station*

Romance

Jane Austin - *Pride and Prejudice*

Maeve Binchy - *Circle of Friends*

Sandra Brown - *Relentless Desire*

Bronte Sisters- *Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Agnes Grey*

Chic-Lit

Helen Fielding - *Bridget Jones' Diary*

Jackie Collins - *Bitches, Hollywood Husbands*

Marian Keyes - *Rachel's Holiday, Sushi for Beginners*

Historical fiction

Ken Follet - *Pillars of the Earth*

Edward Rutherford – *Sarum*

Tracey Chevalier - *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*

Literary fiction

Martin Amis - *Rachel Papers*

Salman Rushdie - *Satanic Verses*

Peter Carey - *Oscar and Lucinda*

Ernest Hemingway - *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

John Steinbeck - *Of Mice and Men*

Children's fiction

Enid Blyton - *Famous Five books*

Jacqueline Wilson - *Tracy Beaker novels*

Roald Dahl - *James and the Giant Peach*

Kate Forsyth - *The Puzzle Ring*

New Age fiction /Parables

Paulo Coelho - *The Alchemist*

Hermann Hesse -*Siddhartha*

Kahlil Gibran - *The Prophet*

Sports / Special Interests

Andre Agassi - *Open*

James Herriot - *Let Sleeping Vets Book*

Humour

Tom Sharp - *Wilt*

Ben Elton - *Stark*

P G Wodehouse - *Bertie Wooster and Jeeves tales*

Douglas Adams - *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*

Short Stories

Raymond Carver - *What We Talk about When We Talk About Love*

Anton Chekov - *Ward Number Six*

Jeffery Archer - *To Cut A Long Story Short*

Plays

Neil Simon - *The Odd Couple, Same Time Next Year*

David Williamson - *Don's Party, The Club*

Oscar Wilde – *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Screenplays

Robert Towne - *China Town*

Alan Ball - *American Beauty*

Quinton Tarantino - *Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction*

Graphic Novels/ Comics

Frank Miller - *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*

Alan Moore - *Watchman*

NON-FICTION:**Biography**

Michael White – *J RR Tolkien*

Andrew Morton - *Diana*

Kitty Kelly - *Nancy Regan, Oprah, Frank Sinatra*

Autobiography

Errol Flynn - *My Wicked, Wicked Ways,*

A B Facey - *A Fortunate Life*

Anthony Kiedis - *Scar Tissue*

Semi-Autobiographical

Charles Bukowski - *Post Office*

James Herriot - *Vet series*

Sylvia Plath – *The Bell Jar*

Jack Kerouac- *On the Road*

Historical

Gore Vidal - *Lincoln*

Thomas Kennelly - *Schindler's Ark*

Travel

Paul Theroux - *Travelling the World*

Bill Bryson – *Downunder*

Mungo Park & Richard Burton - *Victorian English travel writers*

True Crime

Ann Rand - *The Stranger Beside Me*

Henri Charrière - *Papillon*

Truman Capote - *In Cold Blood*

Motivational

Anthony Robbins- *Awaken the Giant Within*

James Covey - *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.*

Norman Vincent Peel - *The Power of Positive Thinking*

Dan Milman - *Way of the Peaceful Warrior*

Psychology

M Scott Peck - *The Road Less Travelled*

Carl Jung - *Psychology of the Unconscious*

Louise L Hay - *You Can Heal Your Life*

Relationships

Dr Jonathon Gray - *Men Are from Mars Women Are from Venus*

Linda Goodman - *Love Signs*

Essay

Noam Chomsky - *The Road to Catalonia*

Michael Moore - *Stupid White Men*,

Alain de Bottom - *Society Anxiety*,

Charles Darwin – *The Origin of Species*

Philosophy

Plato - *Euthyphro (The Apology (of Socrates) Crito, Phaedo*

Machiavelli - *The Prince*

Humour/ Satire

Jeremy Clarkson - *I Know You Got Soul*

David Sedaris - *Me Talk Pretty One day*

Tina Fey - *Bossy Pants*

Write down what genre your book will be

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Book Title

Perhaps the most important words you write. Even if you later change it, it is good to have a title to your story. A good book title can sell the book, by itself.

It should be evocative of the genre and style of the book, appropriate to your audience and offer a clue as to the content of the story.

EXAMPLES

You Get So Alone At Times That It Just Makes Sense - Charles Bukowski

The Devil Wears Prada - Lauren Weisberger

The Spy Who Loved Me - Ian Fleming

Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep? - Phillip K Dick

A Hundred Years of Solitude - Gabriel Garcia Marques

Interview with a Vampire - Anne Rice

Don't Tell Mum I Work on the Rigs: (She Thinks I'm a Piano Player in a Whorehouse)

- Paul Carter

Task

Book Title:

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PROTAGONIST

Lead character or narrator. The protagonist gives the reader someone to care about and root for through certain characteristics, idiosyncrasies, emotions, skills and flaws.

- As the plot develops so should they.
- A journey is not made, if it doesn't change you.

How do you make the reader care for your Character?

Battle against the odds

'The Story Of My Life' - Born blind and deaf young Helen Keller with the aid of her carer learns to communicate and writes this 1903 bestseller that is later made into a famous play and movie called *'The Miracle Worker'*.

A Victim of circumstance

'Oliver' - the orphan who is thrown out of a workhouse and has to fend for himself.

'All Quiet on The Western Front' - A lowly private in World War One is used as cannon fodder.

'Nineteen-Eighty-Four'- Winston is pitted against an oppressive political system.

A victim of prejudice

'The Diary of a Young Girl' - Thirteen-year-old Ann Frank and her family are forced to hide in an attic from the Nazis because they are Jewish.

Out of their depth

'Hitchhikers Guide to The Galaxy' - Arthur Dent is a hapless Earthling caught up in the cosmic search for life, the universe and everything.

An outsider

'Catcher in The Rye' - Holden Caulfield is a student who cannot fit into the school system and is subsequently expelled.

A noble crusader

'To Kill A Mockingbird' - In the face of rabid bigotry, local town Lawyer Atticus Finch defends the rights of an innocent black man who has been accused of raping a white girl.

In constant peril

'Sahara' - Debonair adventurer and rogue Dirk Pit has to constantly get out of jams.

'Bridget Jones Diary'- Battling through the dating game in order to find Mr. Right.

'High Fidelity' – A honest study of a man going through a mid-life crisis.

Most times the protagonist is complex and exhibits negative tendencies. Such characters are commonly referred to as antiheroes.

'*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*' – R.P. McMurphy is an incorrigible rebel who acts insane to avoid hard jail time. He is transferred to the relative comfort of a mental institution where he inspires anarchy with the other patients.

'*The Flashman series*' - Sir Harry Paget Flashman is an acclaimed British soldier who is actually a scoundrel, a liar, a cheat, a thief, a coward and a toady. Nevertheless, through a combination of luck and cunning, he usually ends each volume acclaimed as a hero.

'*The Dexter books*' - Dexter is a forensic blood splatter analyst and serial killer whose father instilled a code when he was young that he can only kill people after finding evidence that they are guilty of murder.

Aspects: What are your character's names? What do they look like? How do they speak? How do they dress? Walk? Are they fashionable? Quiet? Well known? What is their age? Racial background? Where do they live? Where have they come from? What do they do for work? Who is their family? Who do they know? What do they want? What can they do? What don't they do, but would like to do? What is their love life like?

E.G.

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective created by Scottish author and physician Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A brilliant London-based "consulting detective", Holmes is famous for his astute logical reasoning, his ability to take almost any disguise, and his use of forensic science skills to solve difficult cases.

Personality / Habits

Dr Watson describes Holmes as "bohemian" in habits and lifestyle. According to Watson, Holmes is an eccentric, with no regard for contemporary standards of tidiness or good order. In *The Musgrave Ritual*, Watson describes Holmes thus:

Appearance

Holmes wears a long trench coat and cap and often smokes from his signature pipe. He is described in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as having a "cat-like" love of personal cleanliness.

Flaws

Holmes occasionally uses addictive drugs, especially when lacking stimulating cases. He believes the use of cocaine stimulates his brain when it is not in use. He is a habitual user of cocaine, which he injects in a seven-per-cent solution using a special syringe that he keeps in a leather case. Holmes is also an occasional user of morphine but expressed strong disapproval on visiting an opium den.

Love Life

The only woman to impress Holmes was Irene Adler, who according to Watson was always referred to by Holmes as "the woman". Holmes himself is never directly quoted as using this term and even mentions her name in other cases. Adler is one of the few women who are mentioned in multiple Holmes stories, appearing in person in only one.

