

Course Title: Writing Workshop

Instructor: Lenox Carroll

Meeting Time: Sundays, [Time]

Course Duration: 20 Weeks

Course Overview:

This 20-week writing workshop aims to develop and refine your creative writing skills across multiple genres. We will focus on storytelling, voice, character development, plot structure, and polishing your work for publication. Each week, we will engage in writing exercises, readings, peer critiques, and discussions of your writing projects.

Course Objectives:

- Develop a unique writing style and voice.
- Strengthen narrative skills, including plot, pacing, and character development.
- Cultivate writing habits, setting realistic goals for revision and progress.
- Share and critique work with peers in a supportive, constructive environment.

Required Texts:

- Additional readings (articles, short stories, and excerpts) provided by the instructor.

Week-by-Week Breakdown:

Week 1: Introduction to Creative Writing

- Overview of the course structure and expectations.
- Writing prompts and quick exercises to get started.

- Introduction to the concept of “showing vs. telling.”
- Writing Exercise: Create a compelling first sentence.

Week 2: [Break Week]

Week 3: Writing Style and Voice

- Exploring your unique writing style.
- Exercises on voice, tone, and point of view.
- Writing Exercise: Write a short character monologue in your voice.
- Peer critique: Share your monologue and discuss how voice shaped the piece.

Week 4: Character Development

- Creating well-rounded, believable characters.
- Understanding character motivations, flaws, and growth.
- Writing Exercise: Write a scene focusing on your character's internal conflict.

Week 5: Building Setting and Atmosphere

- The role of setting in storytelling.
- Creating an immersive world through description.
- Writing Exercise: Write a scene where the setting influences the character's actions.

Week 6: [Break Week]

Week 7: Plot and Structure

- The basic elements of plot: introduction, conflict, climax, resolution.
- Understanding the three-act structure.
- Writing Exercise: Outline a short story or chapter based on a conflict.

Week 8: Dialogue and Subtext

- Writing realistic dialogue that advances plot and reveals character.
- The power of subtext in conversation.
- Writing Exercise: Write a dialogue-heavy scene that includes subtext.

Week 9: Narrative Tension and Pacing

- Techniques for building and maintaining narrative tension.
- Balancing action, description, and reflection for effective pacing.
- Writing Exercise: Write a scene that escalates tension until the climax.

Week 10: Writing a Strong Beginning and Ending

- Crafting captivating openings and satisfying conclusions.
- Exploring hooks, themes, and closure.
- Writing Exercise: Rewrite the opening and closing of a short story.

Week 11: [Break Week]

Week 12: Exploring Different Genres

- Introduction to various genres (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, etc.).
- Discussing genre conventions and creative boundaries.
- Writing Exercise: Choose a genre and write a scene using its conventions.

Week 13: [Break Week]

Week 14: Revision Strategies

- Approaching the revision process with a critical eye.
- Identifying and addressing issues in structure, style, and content.
- Writing Exercise: Revise a previous piece based on feedback.

Week 15: Writing for an Audience

- Understanding your audience and how it shapes your writing.
- Tailoring your work for publication or performance.
- Writing Exercise: Write a short piece with a specific target audience in mind.

Week 16: Writing Prompts and Creativity

- Utilizing prompts to spark creativity and overcome writer's block.
- Crafting personal prompts to expand your writing toolkit.
- Writing Exercise: Create a writing prompt and write a short piece based on it.

Week 17: [Break Week]

Week 18: Preparing for Publication

- Overview of the publishing process: submission guidelines, cover letters, etc.
- Strategies for submitting your work to journals, magazines, and contests.
- Writing Exercise: Draft a query letter or cover letter for a potential submission.

Week 19: Workshop Week: Sharing and Critiquing Work

- Participants share short pieces (up to 5 pages) for peer review.
- Focus on constructive criticism and feedback.
- Group discussion of each piece, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

Week 20: [Break Week]

Final Week (Wrap-Up and Review):

- Final Workshop: Share a revised piece of work.
- Reflect on the progress made throughout the course.
- Discuss next steps in your writing journey (publishing, continuing education, etc.).
- Course evaluation and feedback session.