



Fiction writing

Duration: Eight hour-long sessions, schedule to be determined
Location: Tutor's Zoom link & Google docs

Course Description: The fiction writing course will introduce them to some of my favorite (and age-appropriate) short stories to use as models for their own creative work. Students will be assigned various prompts to generate, extend, and revise a substantial short story of their own, of which they are profoundly proud. The course is designed to build students' skill, joy, and confidence in writing.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- Work with various texts and writing assignments that advance and complicate their creative abilities in a fictional context (scene building, dialogue, character development, plot, setting, point of view, theme)
 - Learn about the process of invention, writing, and revision in a positive environment
 - Acquire knowledge of correct grammar, style, and syntax
 - Learn to work meaningfully in a small group setting
 - Have the opportunity, when relevant, to submit their creative work to writing contests
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Calendar: This calendar, like life, is subject to change, and may be modified by individual tutors to fit the needs of the particular class

Week 1: Point of View

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will define the points of view a story can inhabit.
- Students will read aloud & discuss a short story written in an unconventional point of view.
- Students will begin writing a story of their own, focusing on the narrator's perspective.

Week 2: The Narrator

- Students will continue learning about narrative voice types and perspectives.
- Students will richly discuss the short story they were assigned to read for homework, considering the elements of fiction in the context of the story.
- Students will discuss character motivations as it exists in the assigned story as well as their own.

Week 3: Setting

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.



- Students will engage in an in-class writing exercise focused on establishing the setting with vivid detail.
- Students will richly discuss the short story they were assigned to read for homework, considering the elements of fiction in the context of the story.
- Students will review perspective from previous weeks & engage in a creative writing exercise.

Week 4: Shapes of Stories

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will define and discuss the criteria for an unreliable narrator.
- Students will watch a short video on the narrative shapes of stories.
- Students will richly analyze the short story they were assigned to read for homework by visually depicting the shape of its plot arc.

Week 5: Theme

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will richly discuss the short story they were assigned to read for homework, considering the elements of fiction in the context of the story.
- Students will define theme and identify the themes of both the assigned story as well as of their own.

Week 6: Flash fiction

- Students will define the form of flash fiction and read engaging sample pieces.
- Students will discuss the importance of concision in flash fiction.
- Students will write and workshop flash fiction pieces of their own.

Week 7: Fables

- Students will listen to, unpack, and respond in writing to a meaningful poetry reading.
- Students will consider the elements of a fable and read sample excerpts.
- Students will compose a collaborative fable in a fun group exercise, showing the power and potential surprise of writers working together.

Week 8: Narrative Poetry

- Students will read narrative poems that tell stories through imagery, form, and figurative language.
- Students will compose a collaborative poem, working within a received poetic form.
- Students will reflect on the course and evaluate what they learned as well as the fictional work they've produced.