

LIFELONG LEARNING

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT CLASSES FOR INQUISITIVE ADULTS

Creative Writing I

Lifelong Learning Class (LLWRC 780)
Fall 2019

Johnny Worthen

johnny@johnnyworthen.com
www.johnnyworthen.com

Creative Writing I

Class Description: This course will focus on a group of specific techniques for shaping and informing your writing, including voice, tone, and point of view; use of tense; and use of detail. Through analysis and discussion of sample texts and numerous in-class exercises, we will work toward achieving vivid precision and the creation of a short story that is either fiction or nonfiction. Each session will focus on a different area and group of related tools; come prepared to read, write, and talk.

Class Goal: Explore writing as an art and learn specific techniques for effective and evocative creation. Students should come away from this class feeling more confident that their writing matches their intentions.

Class Syllabus

Week 1: Prologue

Introduction
Character
Plot

Homework for week 2

Character Worksheet
Points and Pacing Worksheet #1
Work on "Coming to Class" story
READ: Standard Manuscript Format
READ: "The Last Leaf"

Week 2: The plot thickens

Theme
Author Palette
Story Elements

Homework for week 3

Theme Worksheet
Points and Pacing Worksheet #2
READ: Guideline for Critique Sessions
READ: "Everyday Use"
WRITE: 1-2 paragraph mood description

Week 3: Once upon a time...

Beginnings

Homework for week 4

Write 2-3 Paragraphs for critique
READ: "To Build a Fire"

Week 4: The muddled middle

Tension and Suspense
Exposition
Dialog
Action

Homework for week 5

(Re) Write 2-3 Paragraphs for critique
READ: "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Week 5: ...happily ever after?

Climaxes
Endings
Beats and cliffhangers

Homework for week 6

Write: 2-3 page
READ: Editing Tips
READ: "The Ledge"

Week 6: Denouement

Editing strategies
Continuing the path
Groups and goals
Workshop

Homework

Keep it up!

CONTINUING
EDUCATION
AT THE 