

WORDPLAY CREATIVE WRITING COURSE

WORDPLAY

WRITERS' FORUM

Intelligent, Interesting, Informative, Inspirational

e-courses



**CREATIVE
WRITING
COURSE**

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You've taken the first important step to becoming a writer. This WordPlay Creative Writing Course will guide you through the maze that many find impenetrable. Here at WordPlay, we not only believe there is a story inside you, but also that you have the potential to write it. This course uses the experience of those who already write to provoke inspiration, and then provides exercises that will give you the opportunity to test your new found capability. With feedback from a dedicated tutor, you will increase the power of your penmanship and move closer to achieving your goals.

Before starting the course, let us consider some of the more common reasons that may have prompted your desire to write.

Some people feel a need to write: whenever they are sat silently, an urge to pick up a pen and put it to paper overtakes them. If you find this idea rather ludicrous, be warned - writing is like a drug. The more you write, the more you want to write. Which is no bad thing, for the more you write the better your writing becomes (with good self-criticism, which we look at in Module 8).

Perhaps, like many, you believe that writing is your road to riches. Whilst this may be the case for some (JK Rowling springs to everyone's mind), it is extremely unlikely. If you become famous through your writing, and if you make large sums of money doing so, then treat this as a bonus. This said, it is certainly possible for your writing to become an additional revenue stream, and in the last module we look at ways that you may profit from your new found skill.

Many writers do so because they see it as a form of escapism. When you write, you are in charge of what happens, and to whom, when and where. It could even be made up worlds, figments of your imagination.

Others write because it gives them the freedom to say or do, through their characters, things that they would not in the 'real world'. A form of therapy, if you will.

Whatever your reasons for wanting to write, WordPlay has designed this course to help your creative side grow and prosper. By the end of the course, you will have the tools to write short stories that capture the imagination of the reader. You will also know how to get them published.

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The course stretches across ten modules, each stage punctuated by a feedback exercise to complete and return for assessment by your dedicated tutor. This feedback will be completed within forty-eight hours of its receipt at WordPlay, and returned to you with your next module. The course has no time constraints, though we would recommend you spend a week on each module. However, if you want to complete the course faster than this, you can.

Used positively, your tutor's feedback will help to cement the learning points from the completed module, and prepare you for the next. You will find that as you progress, your knowledge and ability to craft your own ideas into your own words increases accordingly.

Our penultimate module is a review of everything that has gone before. It is at this stage that you will be able to put the whole together and realise what a long way down the road to success you have come.

Remember this is a creative writing course. Writing is always evolving: there are no hard and fast rules. What this course aims to do, more than anything else, is give you the confidence to write in your own words what you want to say. We want you to develop your own writing style, your own 'voice'.

Whilst you write for the first time, don't worry about what others will think. To do so will only inhibit your freedom and your imagination. If you have written something and then, upon reading back, you don't like it – don't worry! You can always rewrite it, or start over again. Show us a writer who hasn't looked back at his work, rolled it into a ball, and thrown it into the waste paper bin, and we'll show you someone who doesn't write.

The most important thing to remember is this: enjoy yourself, have fun, and let your imagination run riot. Your life will be richer for the experience.

TIP!

Throughout the course, you will see our tips in black. These are designed to provide hints and aid you on the path to success in your writing. Here's your first tip: don't start this course without having a pen and paper by your side. Apart from your imagination, these will be your most important tools as a writer, even if, like most writers in today's world, you write on your computer.

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Exercise

Throughout, there are exercises for you to complete that will help you learn the craft of writing creatively. Complete these on your computer, on paper, or in a notebook, however you feel most comfortable (although we don't suggest chisel and stone!).

Your first exercise is to look at your diary. Give some thought to your daily life, because it's going to need to change. You need to make time for your writing, get into a regular routine. Perhaps you can get up a half hour earlier, or give some of your lunch hour to writing? If you commute by train, why not spend the time more creatively than falling asleep? However you make time, make it when you take the phone off the hook, and can ignore your children/ partner/ pets.