

WORKSHOP OUTLINE: NARRATIVE (STORY)

12-24 weeks, optimally 14-16

needs: a quiet room able to hold up to twelve students and tables/desks for them to write on, plus a whiteboard or chalkboard and desk or table for instructor's materials, plus a chair for instructor

instructor: JAMISON

When the workshop is completed, all members will be able to:

- + Identify elements of story in any form (paragraphs, plays, screenplays, verbal performance)
- + Explain how the change of any key narrative element can change the story as a whole
- + Strengthen a story by adjusting and adapting its parts
- + Produce a page of any form of story using correct standard formatting
- + Create an original story from life experience, from a character in a situation, from a series of random actions, from a theme, and/or from adapting previously-existing material
- + Complete the final project: A full story in written format, to be transcribed by instructor and taken through the proofreading process with workshop members, culminating in a two clean copies for the author.

Order of instruction is somewhat variable, depending upon length of workshop and number and personalities of writers involved.

- = Introduction to story: What are the essential elements of any story? Why is story important to human beings? How do we use stories? Major focus: a character in a situation pursuing something he or she wants but cannot get easily. (aka "conflict")
- = Story Creation exercises: Under the guidance and encouragement of the workshop leader, these focus upon stories created spontaneously by workshop members based on a random selection of elements (such as characters in a location, characters engaging in simple actions or experiencing specific emotions, characters with specific motivations, basic plots developed from theme, etc.), telling a new story by taking an existing story from a film, book, folktale, etc and changing a key element of plot, character or conflict, taking an experience from the workshop leader's memory and turning it into a story, and so on.
- = Story Development: Members develop simple narrative outlines of stories they'd like to explore. Two or three basic outlines in a short workshop, three or four in a longer one.

= Writing: Members write their stories a bit at a time each week until a rough draft is completed with enough time for the material to go through the proofreading process. Each member reads selections aloud from his work to the group each week during this process, and a certain amount of time in each session is devoted to quiet writing time (quiet often being difficult to find in their housing units)

= Conclusion: Certificates of merit presented to all members who completed their final projects successfully, certificates of participation to those who (for whatever reason) weren't able to do so but attended and participated regularly.