

Creative Writing (Prose)

Summer 2020

July 14, 16, 21, 23

9a.m.–11a.m.

Vermont Commons School

Ryan Houck



Do you love stories?

We will study, write, and share. We will work on the craft of storytelling. With readings, videos, and daily writing, we will create dialogue, tension, and endings. We will meet on Zoom and take breaks to write outside and return to share our writing. You will have short reading and writing Homework.



Image Credit: abstract / Shutterstock

On the first day, everyone must come to class with a piece to workshop (200 word min. & 1,000 word max.).

2 weeks. 2 hour classes. 9a.m.–11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Course syllabus below.

Requirements: Computer with internet for Zoom. Pen and paper.

Texts: *Writing down the Bones* by Goldberg, *On Writing* by King, *Bird by Bird* by Lamott, *Writing Fiction a Guide to Narrative Craft* by Burroway

Please feel free to email me with any questions, and enjoy your summer.

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day 1 (Tue July 14):

opening writing activities, videos, SMART Goals for Thu to workshop.

go outside and write for 20 mins (leave the Zoom) and then return to share

One-on-One work with Ryan-goals for course.

Share the 200 word min story you brought for the first day. (go over peer feedback)

Homework:

1. Read all of the shared work. & Fill out peer feedback forms.
2. Work on original Short Story.
3. Optional reading from Creative Writing Texts

day 2 (Thu July 16)

Writing exercise. Generate material. Outside writing (leave Zoom/break)

Peerfeedback prep.

Read excerpts of work aloud. Workshop. Peerfeedback exercises.

Set SMART goals for Tue.

One-on-One work with Ryan

Homework:

Reading excerpts from Creative writing texts: generate 1,000 to 3,000 word piece.

day 3 (Tue July 21)

Opening write outside.

Workshop.

Read a work aloud to peers. Workshop. Revision exercises.

What is revision? Excerpt from Stephen King *On Writing*.

set goals for Revision Thu.

Homework:

Reading excerpt from Creative writing texts. Revise work.

day 4 (Thu July 23)

Reread revisions and write reflections.

Share final work.

Work on making chap book.

Videos/Notes:

Phil Kaye's (beginning, middle, end)

[Sarah Kay](#)--"Hands" (beginning Middle and end) TED talk

Stephen [King on writing](#)--Writer's notebook=bad ideas?

Margaret [Atwood](#)

Joyce Carol [Oates](#)

Neil [Gaiman](#) on writing

Jennifer [Egan](#) on craft--characterization--webpage with [resources](#) "no rules in creative writing"

Use Surprise and contradiction. [Voice](#).

[Vonnegut](#) on writing

Assessing creative [writing article](#)

Use a contemporary new article on a crime. Write back story of character.