



Summer Workshop Calendar 2009 In other words, an opportunity to:

Become a great bard! Discover your secret mission! Unleash your zombies! Chart the surreal loopy-loops of fantastical fiction! Write an epic poem! And yes, be published with a famous author....

Greetings 826 Seattle students! Would you consider it advantageous to your writing career to be published in the same book as world-famous author Lemony Snicket...or perhaps one of his associates whose name cannot be revealed? Yep, you read correctly: Lemony Snicket (or his “associate”) will be writing the foreword to an anthology of student work. Whose work, you ask??? Well, yours, of course!

We can’t promise anything, but let’s just say our sources tell us that Mr. Snicket (or his associate) might even appear in public at the publication party for this book in November.

Sign up for one of our summer workshops, believe in the power of words to restore and revitalize the world, commit to revising as necessary, even after your workshop has finished, and you will finish out 2009 with a book in your hand with your story in it.

In addition to the workshops we’re having Revision Week! Come in July 28th – July 31st to revise your work and drink pink lemonade. We’ll have eager 826 Seattle volunteer tutors available to help and to make pink lemonade toasts to your success!

Flash Fiction: Fiction in a Flash!

June 30th - July 3rd

10:30 a.m.–Noon

Ages 13 & Up

When a story is short and sweet, it can pack a powerful punch. Can you tell a fascinating story in 100 words? In 10? In 3?? We'll throw ourselves into some original stories ideas and produce some dynamite (and short) fiction. We'll also hone our powers of restraint to give some of our favorite traditional stories a flash fiction makeover— it's not too early to start brainstorming your masterpiece, "All Seven Harry Potter Books in 100 Words"!

Raphaela Weissman likes flash fiction so much that she's going to keep this bio as short as possible. She's from New York, teaches at Garfield High School, and loves popcorn, ducks, and diners.

Write Poems That Sing Songs of Yourself!

June 30th - July 3rd

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

Ages 7-10

"I celebrate myself, and sing myself," writes American poet Walt Whitman. "And what I assume you shall assume, for every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you." In this class you will write poems that celebrate your world—filled with colorful experiences, emotions and song. As you explore your imagination and write with sensational sensory detail, you might pen a poem filled with hope and awe. Boasting is encouraged! So is relaxing: who knows what great poetry might come from "observing a spear of summer grass"? At the end of the week, we'll bring out the microphone to share our epic poems, which might even be published.

Samar Abulhassan is the 826 Seattle Workshops Manager. She has taught kids ages 6 to 18 for nearly a decade, and has an M.F.A in Creative Writing. She notices that colors (and sometimes words) get much more vivid the more she loafs around.

Dance, Paint, Collage, and Write Your Way through the Elements

July 7th – July 10th

10:30 a.m.–Noon

Ages 12-15

Four classes will work out just fine with a focus on one element per day: Fire, Earth, Air, and Water. We will start each class with movement or a group dance, followed by a short art process, and end with creative writing. We'll experiment with air dry clay for Earth, watercolor paints for water, blown ink and/or bubble paint for Air, and collage for Fire. The writing will relate to self-discovery and the element-of-the-day. Everything is approached as a fun, free exploration. Zero pressure, but there's a chance that your synthesis of elements and medium might result into something you'll want to share with the world...in the form of writing.

Diane Nichols is a licensed expressive arts therapist. She loves sharing creative experiences with zippy individuals whose lively imaginations enjoy regular exercise (which may or may not involve feathers). She likes paint and poetry, clay and colorful stories, glitter and Greek gods.

Take an Odyssey Adventure: Learn to Tell Truthful Lies

July 7th – July 10th

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

Ages 12-15

The adventures of Odysseus are some of the most fantastical episodes of the Odyssey. In spite of their unbelievability (monsters, goddesses, magic fruit, oh my!), Odysseus' words are praised for their truthfulness. How is it that our imaginative tales can capture some of the most real experiences? In this workshop, we will be using a variety of creative tools to explore the relationship between the imagination and real life to create our own epic adventures. Get ready to become a great bard (and even learn some ancient Greek!). By the workshop's end, you will have written a publishable short story adventure that might intertwine with others and create a group epic.

Jordan Beck recently completed an undergraduate thesis on the adventures of Homer's Odyssey. She has led creative writing and recyclable art clubs and worked as a literacy tutor.

Top Secret! Show, Don't Tell—a Story About Your Private Mission!

July 14th – July 17th

10:15 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Ages 10-13

We will learn the skills of observation used by spies (and writers) the world over. Top secret missions will include field reconnaissance, gadget invention, and a full-blown spy mission on the streets of Greenwood—where we will find that nothing is as it seems. (Fake mustaches WILL be provided.)

We will be writing down observations and crafting a story from them. We might even take pictures of objects in local shops that could be "made" into gadgets and then write publishable stories that include these objects.

Bill Carty has an M.F.A. in Poetry and is a longtime 826 Seattle volunteer. He loves to teach kids outdoor skills and is frequently taking notes while eavesdropping.

Delectable Characters and the Zombies Who Feast on Their Brains

July 14th – July 17th

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

Ages 10-13

In this four-day workshop you'll create savory characters complete with scrumptious life stories and appetizing quirks, full of juicy problems, and surrounded by succulent side characters. Then, when your creations have simmered until they taste just right, we'll unleash the zombies! Swarming up from the sod (or down from the intergalactic wastelands), these brain braising fiends will threaten to lay waste to your characters' hopes and dreams (not to mention every window in sight). How will your characters survive? What will they do? Are these zombies a metaphor, or what? And hey, isn't that cousin Jake?

Kevin Emerson is a published middle grade novelist. He teaches for Seattle's Writers in the Schools (WITS), plays in bands, and loves to design, savor, and destroy feasts (and feats) of the imagination.

Be a Writer for 826 Seattle's Own People Magazine!

Saturday, July 18th, 2009

10 a.m.–Noon

Ages 8-11

Ever feel like being nosy? That's basically what a journalist's job is! We'll find out how fun and satisfying a great interview can be, and how you can turn all those questions into an interesting little story. Think of all the questions you've ever wanted to ask your friends: What do they do on weekends? What was the best birthday they ever had? What was their favorite Halloween costume? Who's their weirdest aunt or uncle? You'll get to find out the answers to all these questions with your workshop partners and then compile them into a mini-biography, just like in a magazine. Let your curiosity get the best of you! We might even publish these little biographies, complete with photos, just like in People Magazine!

Erin Thompson is a freelance writer and works full-time at the Seattle Times. She likes magazines, especially glossy ones, and soon will travel to a far-off place to earn her Master's Degree in Journalism.

What Was Drawn Shall Now Be Written!

Saturday, July 18th, 2009

1 p.m.–3 p.m.

Ages 11-14

We will borrow practice techniques from the visual arts and adapt them to the writing process. We will watch movie clips or watch each other act in brief scenes. First, we will write as fast as we possibly can, trying to represent some small aspect of the scene. Maybe it will just be gibberish! Little by little, we will slow down the pace until we arrive at a place where we can each write a richer, more coherent, and above all imaginative piece. We might even do a little drawing, which might accompany your publishable piece of writing. We just might find out that the activities of composing pictures and words are more connected than we had once thought.

Nora Boyd has a degree in physics and philosophy. She loves vivid images and rainproof notebooks, which she put to great use in an 826 Seattle

workshop she taught last winter, which called on its participants to walk and run when inspiration hit.

Sudden Fiction! Postcard Fiction! Short Shorts! Prose Poems!

July 21st – July 24th

10:30 a.m.–Noon

Ages 7-10

No matter what you call it, short prose pieces can sometimes be as, or even more, exciting than longer ones. This week, we will taste each word and sentence, allowing our characters to surprise us or make surprise leaps or do somersaults in tunnels. Or, we'll play with strange turns that appear as we write, refreshing our relationship with language. At the end of the class, you'll have written several short shorts with bold images on postcards. Twenty-eight cents will send your micro-story anywhere in the country, and it might even travel to the insides of a book.

Samar Abulhassan is the 826 Seattle Workshops Manager. She studied fiction in graduate school and is a lover of all things miniature: tiny vases, nearly indecipherable figures in paintings, and small stories with big revelations.

Mind the Map: You Can't Find Your Story without It!

July 21st – July 24th

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

Ages 11-15

A toilet bowl, a crack in the sidewalk, the soda cooler at the 7-11—at any nanosecond, these seemingly ordinary things could be the key to turning the world upside down and shaking it by its Antarctic ankles until penguins protest and we end up in another space and time. All that's needed to find the extraordinary spaces and stories lurking in the twisty-turvy grey matter of your brain is a map. Peeking inside the masterful storytelling of author Haruki Murakami, you will begin this four-day fiction workshop making a map. It will be the launchpad for your story. It will navigate you through telling a story about a world all your own, a world that may seem normal, but at closer inspection, is far from it. Join us in charting the surreal loopy-loops of fantastical fiction—where a testy pineapple may be as likely to mark the spot as an X.

(Note: This class is part of a partnership with a 2009 summer-long initiative, curated by Susie Lee and Elizabeth Umbanhowar, that will explore themes from Japanese writer Haruki Murakami at Occidental Park, which will act as a dynamic stage for Murakami-inspired sculptural, musical, theatrical, and literary events. Participants of this workshop will be invited to present their writing at Occidental Park this summer. Event details will be announced at the beginning of the workshop. For more details about the Murakami project go here: www.artsparksseattle.org)

Loren Drummond is a Seattle-based writer/editor/teacher who used to color in the rock layers of subterranean maps for her geologist father. Now, she mostly draws little stick figures with too-big heads. She has a B.A. in English.

What's Uttered in This Class Must Stay in This Class!

Saturday, July 25th, 2009

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

Ages 14-17

Sometimes characters in stories and novels get angry. Sometimes, they get so angry they are overwhelmed with the urge to curse. Colorfully. Loudly. Using a different size and/or style of typeface.

But relying on common curse words is lazy...and not very interesting. In this workshop, participants will learn how cursing impacts the tone of a story; explore the elements of creative cursing; and construct some shiny new curses that will curl your hair, shock your senses, and render innocent (and not-so-innocent) bystanders speechless. May your future children puke pumpernickel if you don't sign up for this class!

Blakely Lord is the *!!@ -est most &!!#!!@\$ -ing person you will ever meet. She lives in Seattle, once coached a high school mock trial team, and enjoys helping kids deliver legal arguments, or peppery, passionate ones.

July 28th – July 31st is **REVISION WEEK**

1:30 p.m.–3 p.m.

826 Seattle Teachers Available to Help You Prepare Your Writing for Possible Publication