

Greetings 826 Seattle Students and Parents!

For kids and adults, the words “Saturday” and “workshop” often inspire giddy anticipation. In the spirit of an emerging spring, we offer you a calendar bursting with song, excavations and expeditions. This workshop calendar is rooted in experimentation and interdisciplinary invitations: press your ear to paper and hone your songwriting skills or review your favorite band, hand-draw maps and invent narratives, learn field drawing techniques while recording the hums of nature (yes, you will leave the building!), don fins and write from the vantage point of an animal, write your own holiday rituals, pen poem-cures, concoct copy for our store’s space travel supplies, sharpen your flash fiction verbal acrobatics, write vivid stories about food and memory, or participate in a group writing quilt. We hope that something here will serve as a catalyst for your creative process!

-Samar Abulhassan, 826 Seattle Programs Coordinator

Sat. February 13, 2010

Put Your Ear to Paper & Convince Your Readers to Listen

2 – 4 p.m.

(13-17)

What do you listen to all day? Do you love the Beatles? Rock out to Nirvana? Or maybe it's hip-hop or country music you prefer -- either way, we'll spend time writing persuasive pieces about all our favorite musicians -- just like in *Rolling Stone* magazine! Come prepared to convince us why we should listen to your favorite band. We'll spend the second half of the class with some very special guests -- you'll get to interview musicians live! Ask your most probing questions about their music and what it's like to be in a band -- then write it all into a newsworthy story.

Erin K. Thompson is a music critic for the Seattle Weekly and Amazon.com. She listens to records all day and goes to concerts all night. At home, she likes to listen to pretty folk music and electronic music with good beats, although her dog thinks it's weird when she tries to dance with him.

Sat. February 13 and Sat. Feb. 20, 2010

Mapmaking, Legends & Hand-Drawn Narratives

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(11-14)

In this two-week workshop, you'll make a hand-drawn map of something, someone, or somewhere that is significant to you. Along the way, you'll develop a narrative about what you are mapping. We'll talk about different maps and things maps are good for, and you'll learn about cartographic elements that should be in any map.

The first week you will make and edit drafts of your narrative and map, and the second week we will look at the narrative and drafts and create a final map and story, incorporating cartographic elements and design practices. At the end of the workshop, you will take away your fleshed out map and narrative. Please bring your favorite writing instruments.

Sarah Beecroft, who earned a BA from the University of Colorado in Geography and Environmental Studies, was inducted into the International Geographical Honor Society in 2000. She currently serves at 826 Seattle as Operations Manager, frequently adjusting her

cartographic muscles to sense a swirling variety of small and great needs.

Sat. February 20, 2010

Join in for Side-splitting Laughter & Accidental Meaning!

2 - 4 p.m.

(9-11)

Get your wordy wiggles out - play everyone's favorite writing game, exquisite corpse. We'll write wild, zany and profound lines - and pass them on, writing on each other's papers to create a quilt that is part group poem, part group story, 100 percent original. Exquisite corpse newbies and experts welcome!

LeAnne Laux-Bachand has taught several 826 Seattle workshops and has helped kids prepare work for 826 Seattle anthologies. She is a community college writing tutor and nanny who writes poetry, short stories and creative nonfiction.

Sat. Feb. 20th, Feb. 27th, March 6th, March 20th, March 27th & April 3rd

Your Autobiography: Come Cartoon Your Great Past, Present & Future

1 - 3 p.m.

(13-16)

Please note: **This is a SIX-WEEK class!**

Autobiography is the focus of this year's comics workshop at 826 Seattle. Many of the greatest graphic novels and comics, from Peanuts to Spiderman to Persepolis, have been reflections of the lives of the artists who created them. In this six-week workshop, students will learn some of the basics of cartooning and will use their skills to tell their own stories in the form of autobiographical comics. Comic strips, short stories, and web comics will be explored.

David Lasky has been drawing comics for over 20 years. When not working on his debut graphic novel, he teaches cartooning at various venues around the Seattle area. He would like to be the first cartoonist to walk on the moon.

Sat. February 27, 2010

Adjust your Points of View: Fins, Fur and Feathers

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(7-9)

Writing from the point of view of an animal is a great way to view events from a different perspective. Some animal stories are allegories, shedding light on human behavior. Some animal stories are funny. Other animal stories are magical, requiring readers to suspend their disbelief. Some animal stories provide unique insight into the drama of human lives.

In this class, we'll explore different points of view (1st, 2nd, and 3rd person (omniscient or limited). Then, we'll take a look at some examples of stories written from an animal's point of view (consider *Black Beauty*, *Call of the Wild*, *Rikki Tikki Tavi*, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*).

We'll engage in several writing exercises, culminating in writing the same scene from a human and an animal point of view.

Blakely Lord lives in Seattle where she teaches lots of different kinds of classes to lots of different ages of people. She loves volunteering at 826 so much that she once spent an entire Sunday morning painting the bathrooms and shampooing the carpets. She is friends with a big orange cat, a skinny tailless cat, a big black dog, a little yellow dog, and a cranky fish.

*Sat. February 27, 2010, Sat. March 6 & Sat. March 13
& special culminating class is 1 p.m. Sat. April 3rd
Convey Cool in a Second: Make the Unsellable Sellable!
2 - 4 p.m.
(11-15)*

We need your help! In this workshop, you will learn how to put their creativity and writing skills to practical use by collaboratively creating a product package for an item for sale in the

Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. You will learn the fundamentals of copy writing, design, and branding, and will work with members of the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Co. Product Design Crew to make their design a reality.

Product packaging is a part of our everyday life, so much so that we don't often stop to think about it. We know that Kashi brand cereals will be nutritious, that Fabreze will smell fresh and clean, and that your young sister will love a Barbie doll - all because of the packaging. A product's package conveys a lot of information in a second, but the truth is it takes hours of hard and creative work to make an instructive and attention-getting package.

For the first workshop, please bring a package of an item that you find attention-grabbing, cool, or intriguing. The final session of this workshop will be a product release party in the store, and your family is invited!

Justin Allan has been in the rubber chicken market for the last 13 years. In addition to brightening the back office with his many and varied noises, he is a self-taught designer and the manager of the Greenwood Space Travel Supply Store.

*Sat. March 6, 2010 & Sat. March 13th, 2010
Designing Deliciously Diabolical Dialogue
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(10 – 13)*

No matter how you say it (or spell it) dialogue (or dialog) is conversation. Dialed-in dialogue is crucial to great literary works, screenplays, stage plays, comic books, video games, and even everyday conversations with parents (where you talk your way out loading the dishwasher and into six weeks at space camp).

In this verbally acrobatic workshop we will engage in conversations about conversations, and tackle tongue-tied techniques that distill dandy dialogue from dull discourse. Using a patented cartoon speech bubble technique, we will string together quotes and phrases that reveal spontaneous characters and sinister plots.

L. Suzanne Stockman is an 826 Seattle founding volunteer, writer, and editorial manager who has corralled content for Drugstore.com, Expedia, and T-Mobile. She finds conversing and eavesdropping equally enjoyable.

Sat. March 13, 2010

Pluto [Is! Is not! Is TOO!] A Planet

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

(11 & Up)

(*this workshop culminates with a march at 1 p.m.—parents are welcome at the protest!)

Though considered a planet since its discovery in 1930, Pluto was reclassified as a dwarf planet by the International Astronomical Union in 2006. Are you, as a die-hard supporter of Plutonian planetary rights and an inclusive solar system, going to stand for that sort of celestial flip-flopping? OR! Are you, as the scientifically rational being that you are, going to put up with these single-issue protestors who wouldn't know a trans-Neptunian body if it elliptically orbited their face?

Either way, 826 Seattle wants you!

Come bemoan/celebrate the revocation of Pluto's planetary status by writing argumentative essays to support your side. We'll focus on convincing our audience of our point-of-view through the use of facts, professional opinions, and well-placed wheedling. Come for the essaying, stay for the march to a local coffee shop and rally (yes, speeches!) will take place. Who knows – there might even be a counter protest!

Rebecca Brinson is a longtime 826 volunteer, and has participated in tutoring, workshops, field trips, and mustache-wrangling. She loves essays so much that she owns a personal statement editing service (www.northwestessay.com), tutors at North Seattle Community College, and (wo)mans the front desk at the Richard Hugo House literary center.

Sat. March 20, 2010

Time to Party! Mayans, Pueblos & Your Own Holidays

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(7-9)

What is your favorite holiday? Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Easter, the Summer Solstice? Did you know that before a few hundred years ago, people celebrated totally different holidays? The Mayans of South America celebrated the Sun Festival, honoring the Sun God Ahau Kin with a dance around the four corners of the universe. The Pueblos of New Mexico celebrated the creation of the earth with a Turtle Dance. If you could create a holiday, what would you celebrate and how? We'll learn about different

cultures' holidays, and then we'll make up our own holidays. You will walk away with a story of how people would celebrate their new holiday.

Kaitlin Nunn's favorite holiday is St. Patrick's Day because it falls on her half birthday, and each year she celebrates with half a clover-shaped birthday cake. She blogs on arts & entertainment for *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine* and hopes to travel to South America soon.

Sat. March 27, 2010

Bwah Ha Ha! Bad Guys, Evil Geniuses & Super-Villains

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(12 – 14)

Great stories require great characters. In this class, we'll create our very own bad guys, complete with sinister mustaches, evil plans for world domination, and blood-curdling laughter. Then, we'll help our newly-created villains dream up the perfect plot to get revenge on all those holier-than-thou, self-righteous, know-it-all who constantly mock them with their big, stupid muscles and their personal friendships with law enforcement.

Blakely Lord lives in Seattle, where she divides her time between working with kids and plotting to take over the world. She may or may not have:

- 1) a secret lair
- 2) a flock of genetically modified seagulls who do her bidding
- or
- 3) a fool-proof plan to build an army of killer robots, programmed to steal priceless works of art.

Sat. March 27 and Sat. April 3rd, 2010

Summon the Music: Call for Sensational Songwriters!

2 – 4 p.m.

(9-13)

Why do grown ups always get to write all the kids music out there? Seattle kids' band The Board of Education wants YOU to write the songs for their next album! Because who knows better than you what's funny and interesting and fascinating about the world? We think, with some tips about songwriting and time to research, you could do just as good a job as us, probably even better! And once you've penned your witty, hilarious (and ssshhh! secretly educational, hence our band name) pop masterpiece, the Board of Ed will put it to music, and then record it for an album to benefit 826!

Then you can sit back and wait for the Grammys and royalties to roll in (in this case all royalties will be in the form of praise, amazement and pats on the back).

Kevin Emerson is a longtime 826 Seattle tutor, middle grade author of those Oliver Nocturne books, Writers in the Schools instructor and singer songwriter for Seattle bands.

Sat. April 10, 2010

Prompt Ideas to Burst Superhero-Style Onto the Page!

11-1 p.m.
(9 – 11)

Those who've put pencil to paper have encountered that slippery scoundrel known as ... writer's block. This temporary yet annoying condition can overcome the most prolific writers, periodically leaving one contemplating the contents of one's navel while blathering, "I just don't know what to write."

In this workshop we will cajole and prompt ideas to burst superhero-style onto the page. With egg timer in one hand and crafty cues in the other, we will write, write, write, spontaneously and quickly. Poetic prose. The ending to a spy novel. A song lyric. Whatever comes forth, comes. Then, paragraph-by-paragraph we will join forces to construct one powerhouse piece poised to pummel writer's block back into its corner.

L. Suzanne Stockman is an 826 Seattle founding volunteer, writer, and editorial manager who has corralled content for Drugstore.com, Expedia, and T-Mobile. She once wrestled doubt to the mat and published a story six words long.

Sat. April 17, 2010 and Sat. April 24th, 2010
Zoo Scribes: Try on Your Animal Eyes
2-4 p.m.
(9-11)

Ever wonder what that squirrel tip-toeing the rope at the top of jaguar cage is thinking? ("Don't look down, don't look down, don't look down..."). How about the gorilla who's verrry interested in your spiffy new shirt? ("Purple is just my color.") Well, this Ape-ri! is your chance to find out. This workshop will spend the first week at the zoo taking notes, snapping photos, and recording the observations that we will use the second week to make chapbooks that combine these words and images. Can you *bear* the excitement?

Bill Carty is a poet and community college English teacher who often falls asleep to a cassette tape of whale songs. Since second grade, his favorite animals have always been dogs, cows, and Komodo dragons.

Sat. April 17, 2010, Sat. April 24th, 2010 & Sat. May 1st, 2010
A Generous Course of Vivid Eating and Writing
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(14-17)

Grow it, buy it, cook it, eat it—food is at the core of the human experience. When we eat we invite the outside world in, we remember the past and we visit distant worlds.

Over the course of three Saturdays, we will talk and write about food and our complicated relationship with it. We will explore how food connects us to each other, our families, our communities, and the world. Each week we will sample both delicious treats and examples of great food writing, and will experiment with creating poetry and short personal essays

about the dishes that make us who we are. For the last class, each student will polish his or her favorite piece of work from the workshop and together we will craft a chapbook for everyone to take home.

Before the first class, participants should notify us of any food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Kate Jenks recently completed a Masters Degree in Creative Writing at the University of Toronto. When not toiling in the 826 Seattle office as an intern, she can generally be found brewing up experimental concoctions in her kitchen, or wandering the Pike Place Market with a greedy look on her face. Do not approach her if you do not wish to be fed.

Sat. May 8, 2010

Preposterous Prescriptions: Poem-Cures for Any Ailment

2-4 p.m.

(7-9)

Your dad seems to get headaches on the right side of his head every afternoon. Your grandfather suffers from a broken heart. And your sister can't stop falling off her bike and skinning her knees – red and ouch! What better way to show your affection for someone than by writing your loved one a poem-cure for any ailment. Witness the healing effect of words suffused with humor and empathy. Upon completion, we'll roll up your poem in an amber bottle, ready to be unraveled by its lucky recipient.

Samar Abulhassan is the 826 Programs Coordinator and a writer-in-residence for Writers in the Schools. She is a full believer in the giddiness resulting from ingested words cleverly (and compassionately) strung together.

Sat. May 1, 2010 & Sat. May 8, 2010

Zooming into Creative Nature Journaling

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(9-11)

In this workshop, we will explore five paths to creative nature journaling: nature awareness, drawing, observing, remembering and expressing as we fill the pages of our journals with maps, poems, sketches and more. Create a sound map, see the world through animal eyes, write a pocket story, and try your hand at field drawing techniques like gestures, contours and zooming. By the end of this workshop, we will combine our writing, drawing and science skills to create a Mystery Field Guide.

Kristen Clapper Bergsman has been writing and drawing in her nature journals for the past 13 years. She is the owner of Laughing Crow Curriculum, a company that designs educational materials that make science fun for kids. She has inspired kids to explore science topics as strange and diverse as whale ears, Beethoven's hair, and animal scat.

Sat. May 15, 2010 & Sat. May 22, 2010

Fantastic(al) Probings into Serious Questions

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(14-17)

“Who knows how to make love stay?”

Tell love you are going to Junior’s Deli on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn to pick up a cheesecake, and if love stays, it can have half. It will stay.”

– Tom Robbins

How do we treat big questions with seriousness and humor? In this two-week workshop, we will explore our own pressing questions (like Robbins’ ‘What can make love stay?’) by writing stories realistic and fantastical, serious and goofy, or any other oxymoronic combo that your imagination suggests. In Week One, we will brainstorm, plan, and draft. In Week Two, we will give and receive feedback and revise our stories, with the goal of eventual publication.

Elizabeth Alexander is a professional writer, former middle school English teacher and 826 Seattle volunteer. She has a penchant for curly hair, Cairn terriers, and Top Pot donuts with pink coconut frosting.

Sat. May 15, 2010 & Sat. May 22nd, 2010
Talk the Talk! Using Improv to Write Gut-Busting Dialogue
2-4 p.m.
(11-14)

Writing dialogue is hard; writing funny dialogue can feel almost impossible. How do we get our characters to speak in a way that's realistic without being boring, exciting to read while still being believable? Our greatest tool as writers is a lifetime of speaking and listening ourselves; when we start paying attention to how we talk, writing dialogue becomes a lot easier (and a lot funnier).

All of the dialogue in this workshop will come from improvised scenes with our fellow writers. We'll come up with some ideas for scenes and then flex our improv muscles! (Don't worry if you've never done improv before-- we'll go over some basics first.) We'll plunge headfirst into our scenes to find the most natural, silly, outrageous, hilarious, truthful dialogue you've ever written. If we're feeling adventurous, we'll turn our dialogue into comedic sketches, so come ready to laugh.

Raphaela Weissman is an 826 Seattle volunteer and a teacher at Garfield High School. She studied and performed improv comedy for five years, and has been writing and speaking for what seems like forever (in a good way).

Sat. May 29, 2010 & Sat. June 5th, 2010
Calling All Earthlings Who Wish to Travel in Space!
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(11-14)

At the Intergalactic Space Travel Agency project, we'll create a brochure and travel guide for Earthlings who wish to travel in space. We'll offer many different travel packages, for both new and seasoned space travelers and we'll describe them all in enticing detail in our brochure, along with financing options and a list of must-have items for the intrepid space tourist. We'll also create a guidebook to a newly discovered planetary destination, complete with tips on communicating with the indigenous population, most popular attractions, dining, accommodations, shopping and more!

Daryle Conners is a writer, filmmaker, game designer and aspiring intergalactic tourist. She is currently planning a trip to Saturn, just because it has a nice ring to it.