Hello, writers!

2021 flew by in the blink of an eye. It was a wonderful year for WLT programming, with the return of the Agents & Editors Conference and the launch of our new series, WLT On the Writing Life, but from where we’re standing, we can’t wait for what comes next. Whether you’re just getting started writing your novel or memoir, or you’re getting ready to start your publishing journey, or even if you’ve already got a few books up your sleeve, this schedule has something for you. We’re kicking off the year with four exciting classes in January – from reframing your writing practice, to launching your publishing career, to turning an idea into a full-blown novel – we’ve got you covered.

Throughout the first half of 2022, we’re offering two class packages (Novel Essentials and Memoir Essentials) to help you write the books you can’t stop thinking about. In addition, we’ve also got a jam-packed schedule with classes on everything from getting your synopses and query letters ready to personal essays, poetry forms, and so much more.

And if you’re not ready to jump into a class just yet, we have events lined up for you every single month. We’re launching a new program, WLT Saturday Craft Seminars, in March and we’re so excited to put on our Agents & Editors Conference in June again. We have so much in store for this wonderful community of ours and we hope you’ll join us early and often in 2022.

All the best,

Sam Babiak
Program Director

This catalog includes our upcoming online classes and special events for Winter/Spring 2022. Click on the event title for more information, including start time and duration, or to register for the class. All online classes are live webinars on Zoom and are recorded and made available to registrants for one month following the class. If you have any questions, please email WLT Program Director Sam Babiak at sam@writersleague.org.
“Novel Essentials”
Class Package

Price: $196 for members, $436 for nonmembers

Are you ready to finally write that novel you can’t stop thinking about?

From getting started to hooking your readers to crafting compelling scenes to creating characters that will help drive your story forward, this class package has got you covered as you get ready to embark on the novel writing journey. You’ll walk away from these four classes better equipped to write that novel you’ve been thinking about from beginning to end.

Everyone who purchases the package will also be invited to an exclusive class package meet-up.

Saturday, January 22
How to Begin: Embarking on Your Novel’s Journey
with Natalia Sylvester

Saturday, January 29
Setting the Hook: Capturing Your Readers
with Gabino Iglesias

Saturday, February 5
Crafting a Vivid Scene from Beginning to End
with Chaitali Sen

Saturday, February 19
Creating Authentic Characters in Narrative Fiction
with John Pipkin
**“Memoir Essentials” Class Package**

Price: $196 for members, $436 for nonmembers

**Do you have a personal story you want to tell but you aren’t sure where to start?**

This is the perfect class package for anyone getting ready to start their memoir. The package kicks off with all the basics you need to know about writing a memoir, then you’ll spend the rest of the month honing various aspects of your craft, including resonance, character development, and working with memories. You’ll walk away from these four classes with all the tools and knowledge you need to tell your story.

**Saturday, April 2**
**Memoir 101: Everything You Need to Know to (Finally) Start Your Memoir**
with Jessica Wilbanks

**Saturday, April 16**
**From Unique to Universal: Making Your Personal Narratives Resonate with Readers**
with Jasminne Mendez

**Saturday, April 30**
**Character Development in Memoir: How to Deepen the Story**
with Charlotte Gullick

**Saturday, May 14**
**Tackling the Problems of Memory in Memoir**
with Rachel Starnes
January

Tuesday, January 11
Write-In

Thursday, January 13
Member Meet-up

Saturday, January 15
Forget Discipline: How to Want Your Way Through Writing
with ire’ne lara silva
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

In this class, we absolutely will not talk about ‘stealing time,’ writing schedules, writing on a daily basis, creating a physical space for writing, word counts, or creating outlines. Every time the word ‘discipline’ is spoken, the group will loudly boo, bang pots and pans, or stomp their feet in emphatic opposition. What we will discuss here is inspiration and imagination. We’ll investigate what it means to start or restart a book project, connecting with the root of our desire to write, to create, to speak, to share. We’ll interrogate the internal/external obstacles that keep us from the work we long to do. We’ll question everything we’ve ever thought writing or writers have to be. This class will focus on sharpening our hunger to write—day after day, week after week, month after month.

Wednesday, January 19
Starting Your Publishing Journey
with Diane Zinna
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

In this class we will talk about what a publishing journey could look like for you, with details about the pre- and post-publishing life meant to leave you excited for your next steps. We’ll talk about query letters, the process of finding an agent, working with editors, what to expect when it comes to book contracts, and marketing strategies you might not have considered. We’ll discuss ways to balance the art of writing with the business of publishing in ways that feel authentic and positive to you. We will end with an intention-setting autobiographical exercise that will help you imagine not only the books you seek to publish, but the kind of writer you want to be in the world. This class is most appropriate for writers interested in learning more about traditional publication of a novel or memoir.
Thursday, January 20
January Third Thursday
Play, Plan, Produce – Harness Your Creativity in 2022

Saturday, January 22
How to Begin: Embarking on Your Novel’s Journey
with Natalia Sylvester
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

Depending on the type of writer you are, beginning a novel is either the most daunting part of the process or the easiest. But whether you are fueled by a shiny new idea or feel overwhelmed by those first blank pages, starting your story is a thrilling step full of possibilities. In this class, we’ll focus on the role beginnings play in your story’s present and future. They’re unique in that they must capture a reader’s imagination while also laying groundwork for the rest of the story. With a mixture of lecture and in-class exercises, we’ll explore different ways to start a narrative and how to plant the seeds of character and plot in ways that will sustain you as a writer from the beginning to the end of the story.

Saturday, January 29
Setting the Hook: Capturing Your Readers
with Gabino Iglesias
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

A novel must compete with every other element of modern life. From responsibilities and significant others to Netflix and other books, our writing has to fight for attention, and that requires a strong start that gets readers hooked and makes them want to keep reading. In this class, we’ll discuss various types of openings as well as how to use your inciting incident, character’s development, atmosphere, and pacing to make readers fall in love with your story.
February

Tuesday, February 1
New Member Orientation

Saturday, February 5
Crafting a Vivid Scene from Beginning to End
with Chaitali Sen
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

In this class for writers of fiction, we will analyze a few complete scenes from literature and use the same elements to craft our own scenes from beginning to end. We’ll discuss how to enter and stage a scene, how to introduce conflict and create tension, how to lengthen a scene so that we can do more with less, how to make the scene come alive on the page, and how to exit a scene on the right note. We will also have a chance to discuss our struggles with writing good scenes and brainstorm ideas to get past our blocks. The goal is to go home with a draft of a scene that can become an anchor for crafting more scenes.

Saturday, February 5
Write-In

Wednesday, February 9
Getting Your Synopsis Ready for Competitions, Agents, and Editors
with Richard Z. Santos
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

At some point, every writer will need to write a synopsis of their completed book. But too often we put off writing these until the last minute. As a result, synopses often share common weaknesses. This class will explore the standard features of the synopsis, the most common mistakes synopsis writers make, and how a weak synopsis might reflect deeper structural concerns in your manuscript.

Saturday, February 12
Anatomy of a Scene: A Deep Dive into Dialogue
with Stacey Swann
$99 for members, $159 for nonmembers

Lackluster dialogue can bring an interesting scene to a screeching halt. But there’s good news, too! More than any other aspect of writing, there are clear and useful rules for creating effective dialogue. In this class, through lecture and workshopping, we’ll explore all the major aspects of dialogue writing and crafting dialogue-based scenes. By the end of the day, students will have the toolset to create conversations that crackle and pop!
Tuesday, February 15
Write-In

Thursday, February 17
Third Thursday
Worldbuilding in Fiction

Saturday, February 19
Creating Authentic Characters in Narrative Fiction
with John Pipkin
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
This is a class on how to establish and develop compelling characters that will help to push your story forward. The choices that your characters make are what makes your plot come alive, but to know what kind of choices your characters will make, you need to understand the lives of your characters both on the page and off the page. This class will present strategies for creating characters that have rich and authentic selves, and we will make use of writing prompts and writing exercises to help you get to know your characters better.

Saturday, February 26
Memoir in Miniature: The Art of the Personal Essay
with M.M. Adjarian
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
In this class, you’ll learn the art of the personal essay through an in-depth, guided discussion of models by contemporary writers and exercises designed to help you craft a 500 word+ mini personal essay (also known as “flash” nonfiction) that you can use as the basis for (1) a more substantial essay (2500+ words), suitable for journal submission or (2) the seed for a book-length project.

The class is intended for writers of all levels, from beginner to advanced, and will explore how to sift through story material to find those all-important tension points that make people take notice, grab readers by the throat from the start with compelling openings and “shoot straight from the gut” to avoid the narrative clichés guaranteed to turn readers off.
March

Saturday, March 5
Write-In

Saturday, March 5
Your Words, Your Voice: How Language Builds Character and Story to Breathe Life into Your Book with Samantha M. Clark
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

Voice is something of an enigma in writing. Agents and editors say they want “fresh voices,” but also say “they know it when they see it.” Teachers talk about the “author’s voice” but also staying true to the “character’s voice.” Where does voice come in when you’re writing in third person, second or first? And can your voice be recognizable throughout a career if your books are very different?

In this class, you’ll explore voice in all its forms, understand how voice works with story and character, look at how voice is affected by a story’s POV, learn how to create your own voice as an author, and harness the power of language to propel not only your author’s voice, but also your characters, your pacing, and your entire book into the hearts of readers.

Wednesday, March 9
Crafting a Compelling Query Letter with Becka Oliver
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

Writing a query letter can be an agonizing exercise for any writer, but it’s an essential step in the process of submitting to literary agents. This class - taught by a former literary agent - will detail the key components that make up a compelling query. Through writing exercises and small group work, attendees will tackle each component with regards to their own project and should expect to leave the class with a first draft of a query letter.
Thursday, March 10
Member Meet-up

Saturday, March 12
The Art of the Short Story
with Trent Hudley
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
In this class, we will explore what makes the short story work as a literary art form. The Art of the Short Story focuses on the art of brevity and conciseness in the short story form. We will discuss, among other ideas, what Poe called the “unity of effect” and how to achieve that in our own writing. You’ll walk away with an understanding of how to compose artistically stylish and powerful short stories that have a lasting effect upon your readers.

Tuesday, March 15
Write-In

Thursday, March 17
WLT Off the Beaten Craft
Graphic Memoirs: Capturing Your Life with More Than Words

Saturday, March 19
WLT Saturday Craft Seminar: Refuse to Be Done
with Matt Bell
$25 for member and nonmembers
In 2022, we’re excited to launch a new program – WLT Saturday Craft Seminars – featuring a presentation and conversation with an author who has just released a book on the craft of writing. Everyone who buys a ticket to this event will receive a signed copy of the book and access to the live webinar. Join us for our first Saturday Craft Seminar with Matt Bell on his craft book, “Refuse To Be Done: How to Write and Rewrite a Novel in Three Drafts.”

Wednesday, March 23
What Authors Need to Know: Marketing & Publicizing Your Book
with Katharine Duckett
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
This class will provide you with skills for working with a publishing team as well as promoting your work independently, and will cover an array of options for building your short and long-term publicity and marketing strategies. We will also discuss working with bookstores, libraries, and conventions and festivals for marketing and publicity events in addition to focusing on digital and print promotion.
April

Saturday, April 2
Write-In

Saturday, April 2
Memoir 101: Everything You Need to Know to (Finally) Start Your Memoir
with Jessica Wilbanks
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
In this class, you’ll begin to mine your life for material and work through a series of generative prompts designed to turn rich, messy fragments into surprising and powerful prose. We’ll steal liberally from the sensory world of poetry, the narrative world of fiction, and the fact-driven world of journalism, even as we plumb the depths of interior life. Along the way, you’ll learn how to build a strong narrative arc, write vivid scenes, and prioritize the details and images that make prose come alive.

Saturday, April 9
Poetic Mechanics: All About Form
with KB
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
When someone asks what a poem is, often the answer has to do with line breaks, stanzas, and more things indicative of form. All poems are wildly different, but they all have a way that they look on a page! Have you ever wanted to try to write a sonnet, or pantoum, or have no idea what either of those are? Have you ever wanted to bring your free-verse poems to the next level? If you want to learn all about the engine behind how a poem looks on the page, write new poems in different forms, and discover something new about your writing in the process, this is the class for you!

Tuesday, April 12
Write-In
Saturday, April 16

From Unique to Universal: Making Your Personal Narratives Resonate with Readers
with Jasminne Mendez
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

Stepping outside of your story and connecting it to larger universal themes is one of the most difficult aspects of writing personal narratives. And if you have a unique story that you can’t find on the shelf, it can be even harder to figure out how to make sure readers will resonate with your work. In this class, we will look at examples of authors who have unique stories and how they turned those individual and unique experiences into stories with a universal appeal. We will engage in creative writing prompts that will help tease out the universal themes in our work while not losing sight of the individual lived experiences that make each of us unique.

Thursday, April 21

Third Thursday
Doing It Yourself: The Self-Publishing Experience

Saturday, April 23

Launch to Success: Self Publishing in 2022
with Deanna Roy
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

Whether you are working on your very first book or are about to launch your latest title, in this class we will review:

• Changes in the self-publishing landscape since last year, particularly in audio, new library opportunities, and the rise of serialized reader apps.

• Release timelines, your book budget, and social media preparedness.

• Production matters of formatting your ebook and paperback and decisions about releasing widely or exclusive to Amazon.

• A release strategy that gives your book the best possible start, including metadata, keyword research, category choices, and advertising.
Tuesday, April 26
Ask Us Anything
Getting Published: Submitting to Journals and Magazines

Saturday, April 30
Character Development in Memoir: How to Deepen the Story
with Charlotte Gullick
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

This class will provide multiple opportunities for participants to consider how change and curiosity relate to character development for the narrator as well as the other individuals in the story. We will explore the roles of research, rumination, and empathy as they add meaning and layers to our personal journeys. We will read, write, discuss, imagine, connect, and grow. Instruction will include lecture, writing prompts, conversation, reflection, and confidence-building exercises.
May

Saturday, May 7
Write-In

Saturday, May 7
Opening Pages in Fiction
with Antonio Ruiz-Camacho
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
In this class, we'll discuss the importance of openings in fiction, dissecting some of the most indelible first pages of fiction ever published and discussing strategies to write compelling first lines and sections that will capture the reader's attention.

With the use of published examples of memorable first lines and paragraphs, we will understand how the best openings in fiction manage to excite the reader's curiosity, introduce a setting and lend resonance to the story.

Thursday, May 12
Member Speedwriting

Saturday, May 14
Tackling the Problems of Memory in Memoir
with Rachel Starnes
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
This class will examine the problem of memory by drawing on a blend of literature, art, and neuroscience in order to grapple with the question of how one selects, recounts, and handles moments of imperfect memory in the writing of memoir. The instructor will discuss the difference, both in neurobiological terms and literary ones, between “objective truth” and “narrative truth,” and reveal ways in which the writer can help a reader (and is, indeed, obligated to) understand the difference between the two. Well-known scandals and shifting trends within the genre will be discussed, and participants will come away with a variety of best practices for handling reconstructed memories and the impacts of these moments on the larger course of a developing memoir.
Tuesday, May 17
Write-In

Wednesday, May 18
Introduction to Screenwriting: From Idea to Script
with Bev Chukwu
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
Have you always wanted to write a screenplay, but don't know where to start? Perhaps, you consider yourself an “idea machine” but aren’t quite sure how to turn any of them into feature-length movies. Ideas are great, thrilling even, but don’t let the allure of a good idea prevent you from exploring the range of a great one. This class is for writers of all experience levels, who are excited to learn more about the craft of screenwriting while learning and putting into practice skills for transforming their own ideas into vivid, engaging, fleshed-out narratives.

Thursday, May 19
WLT On the Craft of Writing
Writing a Series

Saturday, May 21
On Novel Revision: Finding What Works Best for You and Your Novel
with Adam Soto
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
Writing a book from beginning to end is an exciting accomplishment, but the real magic happens in revision. All writers are different: at times, we choose to work alone; at others, we band together to help each other realize our dreams. Whether you’re working alone or with a writing group, we will cover both conventional and experimental ways to strengthen your approach to revision. We’ll address common concerns while revising, such as organization, workflow, pacing, character arcs, causation, and building towards resonant meanings and themes; as well as explore more experimental methods for livening developmental drafts. Attendees will walk away with the tools to craft their own unique approach to revision—one that honors their creative vision.
Saturday, May 28

The Author’s Escape Plan: The Personal, Emotional, and Financial Logistics of Becoming a Full-time Author

with Laekan Zea Kemp

$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers

Pantsing your way to becoming a full-time author is not an option. You need a plan—one that considers the emotional and logistical implications of leaving behind the stability of your 9 to 5, as well as the financial safety nets necessary to make it work long-term. In this 3-hour class, we’ll cover considerations, safeguards, and the timing of your transition, as well as help you find answers to some of your most pressing questions like, “How much money should I have saved before I quit my job to become a full-time author?” and “How often should I sell new projects in order to create a financially sustainable career?” There will be time for individual planning, as well as a short Q&A following each section of the presentation. Attendees will receive a copy of the 100-slide presentation, which will be full of valuable information and additional resources.
June

**Thursday, June 2**
New Member Orientation

**Saturday, June 4**
Write-In

**Saturday, June 4**
The Truth Told Slant: Personal Experience Turned into Fiction with Nan Cuba
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
People we’ve known, moments we’ve witnessed, conversations we’ve overheard, places we’ve been: these influence aspects of our fiction. Sometimes, a whole experience is so profound, we decide to use that memory as inspiration for a story. But how does a writer free herself from the restrictions of facts in order to follow craft requirements for producing meaningful art? This class will introduce techniques for identifying appropriate material and then adapting it for fiction. Personal examples will be shared, and participants will be guided through a sample exercise.

**Saturday, June 11**
Research in Fiction: How to Do It and Bring It to Life with Gordy Sauer
$49 for members, $109 for nonmembers
So you need to do research for your novel or short stories. Where do you begin? And after you’ve learned all of this great information, how do you bring that material to life on the page? In this class, we will explore ways to approach research as well as how to best incorporate it into your fiction so that it feels unique to your story and characters.

**Thursday, June 16**
Third Thursday
Debut Fiction: The Path to Publication and Beyond

**Friday, June 24 – Sunday, June 26**
2022 Agents & Editors Conference