



WRITERS' LEAGUE of TEXAS

Spring 2023

Online Classes & Special Events

Hello, writers!

As we look ahead to all that 2023 has in store, we're so excited to announce the full slate of classes and special events we'll be hosting between now and June.

If you're a fiction writer, we've put together the "Fiction Essentials" class package to help you hone the foundational skills you need to bring any story to life. These four classes will walk you through the basics of fiction, character development, plot, all the way through to writing the perfect ending for your story. We also have stand-alone classes throughout the season to help you jump start your novel, learn how to build suspense, hone your dialogue, and more.

If you're a memoir or essay writer, we've got a class on making meaning out of your personal stories, another on pitching essays, plus a class on how to write humor.

If you want to learn about what it takes to self publish a book, we've got an introductory class and a more advanced class to help you navigate the self publishing landscape.

If you're getting ready for the agent search or are simply curious about traditional publishing, we're kicking off the 2023 Agents Symposium this February and going all the way to November. The symposium is a unique year-long program aimed at helping writers navigate traditional publishing. You can spend the entire year with us by registering for the package, or you can sign up for the individual agent-led presentations to curate your own year of programming. It's up to you!

There is truly something for everyone in this schedule. This new season of over 40 classes and special events includes deep dives into a variety of craft elements, different genres and forms, the business of publishing and self publishing, and so much more. Whether you're joining us for classes, special events, or both, I hope to see you early and often this year.

All the best,
Sam Babiak
Program Director

This catalog includes our upcoming online classes and special events for February through June 2023. Click on the event title for more information, including start time, duration, and registration details. All online classes and special events (except when noted) are live webinars on Zoom and are recorded and made available to registrants for 30 days following the class, so even if you can't make it for the live session you can still enjoy the program. If you have any questions, please email WLT Program Director Sam Babiak at sam@writersleague.org.

MEMBER EVENTS

While the WLT's programs and events are open to all writers, WLT members receive a number of benefits with their membership, including steep discounts on classes, free consultation time with staff, and access to **member-exclusive programming**. To learn more about membership with us, [click here](#).

Upcoming member events:

Tuesday, February 7
New Member Orientation

Thursday, March 9
Member Meet-up

Tuesday, April 11
Ask Us Anything: "Writers for Hire: Freelancers, Collaborators, and Ghost Writers"

Tuesday, May 16
New Member Orientation

2023 Agents Symposium

February 2023 – November 2023

“What a brilliant offering! Can’t think of another program like it anywhere in the nation. So excited to learn, and I can’t wait to see how the symposium benefits members, the wider community of writers, and WLT. Ah-MAZ-ing.”

– 2023 Agents Symposium attendee

This year we’re launching the Agents Symposium, a year-long program that offers writers a deep dive into traditional publishing and an up close look at and access to the gatekeepers who are often essential partners on a writer’s journey.

The Agents Symposium is available as a package experience until 5:00 PM CST on February 24 and it includes access to all ten agent presentations featuring a wide variety of topics related to traditional publishing, plus additional special events with guest speakers, meet-ups, a one-on-one consultation with one literary agent, and so much more. In addition, for those who opt out of the package experience, the ten agent presentations are available for individual registration.

AGENTS SYMPOSIUM PACKAGE

\$349 for members / \$409 for non-members

Individual Agents Symposium programs: \$25 per ticket

“Fiction Essentials” Class Package

There are craft elements every fiction writer – whether you’re writing novels or short stories – needs to hone in order to write compelling and satisfying narratives.

This class package aims to help all fiction writers learn the foundational skills to bring any story to life. These four classes will take you through the basics of fiction, the importance of plot and conflict, how to develop characters, all the way to writing endings that bring your stories full circle.

If you’re ready to elevate your fiction writing, this class package is for you. In addition, everyone who purchases the package will be invited to an exclusive class package meet-up, a great opportunity to connect with fellow writers as you enjoy this shared experience.

\$236 for members / \$476 for non-members

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

“Foundations of Fiction: 10 Lessons for Elevating Your Writing”

with Diane Zinna

This class will provide you with short lessons to elevate your fiction, including fiction foundations you may have missed, tips for captivating openers, ways to navigate the “mushy middle” of any story, and ideas for meaningful endings.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

“Plot Generator: Story-Worthy Problems and Situations that Drive Your Fiction”

with Chaitali Sen

In this class, you will practice techniques for discovering and creating truly vexing problems and situations that can carry a story’s plot from beginning to end.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

“Developing Authentic and Compelling Characters in Fiction”

with John Pipkin

This class will examine strategies for developing characters in a way that will keep readers engaged with your story.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

“Closing the Circle: Writing Endings in Fiction”

with Jessica Wilbanks

In this class, we’ll take a close look at how different writers arrive at an ending that simultaneously resolves and expands the narrative. We’ll talk about expectations for endings across various genres, how to avoid overly contrived endings, and how the seeds of an effective ending are often found in the beginning of a narrative.

February

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

“Writer’s Reset: Mapping Your Writing Goals for 2023”

with Julie Poole

When the new year arrives, it presents a perfect opportunity to recommit to our writing practices and tap into what we need to be at our creative best. Students will walk away from this class with an achievable goal for the coming year and a road map with accountability milestones to guide the way.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

One Page Salon

at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX
Live Reading Series

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

“Magical Realism: Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary”

with Alex Temblador

Whether you’re writing fiction or nonfiction, magical realism can be a valuable tool for elevating your storytelling. In this class, students will learn the history of magical realism, the basic elements of the genre, and how to utilize these elements in their work.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

February Third Thursday:

“The Creative Spark: Where Writers Find Inspiration”

featuring Gabino Iglesias, Elizabeth McCracken, and ire’ne lara silva

at BookPeople in Austin, TX

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

“Introduction to Screenwriting: From Idea to Script”

with Beverly Chukwu

Figure out what makes an idea work for the screen in this class for writers of all experience levels. Students will learn more about the craft of screenwriting while putting into practice skills for transforming their own ideas into vivid, engaging, fleshed-out narratives

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

2023 Agents Symposium: “Before the Agent Search”

with Maggie Cooper

In this presentation, we’ll discuss what writers can do to set themselves up for a successful agent search. We’ll consider when to start querying, how to build your list of prospective agents, and what kind of materials you should plan to share. Throughout, we’ll share strategies for preparing to navigate the logistical, creative, and emotional aspects of the process, so that you can begin your agent search feeling grounded and informed.

Price: \$25 per ticket

March

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

“Jump Start Your Novel” *with Sara Kocek*

Are you ready to take your novel manuscript to the next level? In this class, we'll cover everything you need to jump start your manuscript with compelling tension and a vivid, distinct, voice.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

“The Art of Suspense: How to Write Twists and Build Tension” *with Gabino Iglesias*

In this class, we will work on developing an understanding of how twists and turns operate in fiction, including how and why they fail. We'll explore the use of red herrings, discuss ways to create tension in a narrative, and look at exercises that will help us create suspense that keeps readers turning the page.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

One Page Salon

at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX
Live Reading Series

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

“Foundations of Fiction: 10 Lessons for Elevating Your Writing” *with Diane Zinna*

This class will provide you with short lessons on the ten things you can start doing today to elevate your fiction. In this fast-paced, three-hour class, we'll discuss foundations you may have missed, tips for captivating openers, ways to navigate the “mushy middle” of any story, and ideas for meaningful endings.

This class is a part of the “Fiction Essentials” class package.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

March Third Thursday: WLT On the Craft of Writing: Short Fiction *featuring Chaitali Sen and Kirk Wilson*

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

“Plot Generator: Story-Worthy Problems and Situations that Drive Your Fiction” *with Chaitali Sen*

In this generative class, we will discuss various kinds of “story-worthy” problems and we'll practice techniques for discovering and creating truly vexing conflicts and situations that can carry a story's plot from beginning to end.

This class is a part of the “Fiction Essentials” class package.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

“Giving Your Story a Voice with Dialogue” *with Natalia Sylvester*

In this class, we'll study examples of great dialogue—across genres and age categories—and work on writing exercises that'll get your characters talking. We'll also address common dialogue-related concerns like believability, voice, the different types of dialogue, and more.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

2023 Agents Symposium: “The Ins and Outs of Approaching Agents” *with Eric Smith*

In this presentation, we'll spend some time demystifying the querying process. We'll unpack how to approach literary agents, including what you should do when querying, what you absolutely shouldn't, and why putting yourself and your work out there doesn't need to be as stressful or intimidating as you think. Because, at the end of the day, the agents you'll be querying are in it to make books happen, they want to discover new writers, so we'll also spend a bit of time talking about that.

Price: \$25 per ticket

April

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

“Developing Authentic and Compelling Characters in Fiction” *with John Pipkin*

Creating fictional characters (or even characters based on real people) requires a balance between the unusual quirks that make a character compelling, and the realistic, ordinary details that make a character believable. This class will examine strategies for developing these characteristics in a way that will keep readers engaged with the characters in your story.

This class is a part of the “Fiction Essentials” class package.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

One Page Salon

at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX
Live Reading Series

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

“Writing the Middle Grade or Young Adult Novel”

with Samantha M. Clark

Children and teens are quick to put down a book that doesn't work for them. Get it right, and you'll not only have a successful story, but also make a reader for life. In this class, you'll learn what makes a novel middle grade and young adult and how to keep young readers turning pages.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

“Introduction to Self Publishing” *with P.J. Hoover*

Have you ever thought about self publishing a book but don't know where to start? This class is here to help you. Whether you're looking to publish a brand new title or publish a book that was previously traditionally published but had rights reverted, we'll cover everything you need to know to start your self publishing journey.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

“Narrative Poems: Getting Out of the Rut”

with David Meischen

This class is for writers who are currently working on or are interested in exploring and crafting nonlinear narrative poems, especially those looking to practice the art of surprise to find new and compelling ways to engage readers. Participants will examine and learn from three different kinds of narrative poems and the class will include two very short writing sessions, followed by a sharing of insights.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

April Third Thursday:

“Bringing the Past to Life: Writing Historical Fiction and Nonfiction”
featuring Sarah Bird, Kate Winkler Dawson, and David Wright Faladé

April

(continued)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

“Closing the Circle: Writing Endings in Fiction”

with Jessica Wilbanks

In this class, we'll take a close look at how different writers leverage images, patterns, and plot structure to arrive at an ending that simultaneously resolves and expands the narrative. We'll also talk about expectations for endings across various genres, how to avoid overly contrived endings, and how the seeds of an effective ending are often found in the beginning of a narrative.

This class is a part of the “Fiction Essentials” class package.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

“Pitches That Land Bylines with Your Favorite Magazines”

with KB Brookins

Do you have ideas that you'd like to see in your favorite magazines but no idea how to get them there? Are you an essayist with all the writing chops, but keep getting NOs on pitches? In this class, we'll cover the basics of what a pitch is, how to put one together that gets you a YES, finding outlets for your work, and what happens after the YES (contract negotiations, drafting the essay, and more).

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

2023 Agents Symposium: “How to Set Yourself Apart in the Agent Search”

with Carrie Howland

In this presentation, we'll discuss tips for setting yourself apart when querying literary agents. Every agent receives countless queries daily. What are the things an agent looks for, that catches their eye or makes them say “yes, I want to read something?” From crafting a compelling hook to building an impressive bio, you'll learn in this session what you can be doing today to distinguish yourself tomorrow.

Price: \$25 per ticket

May

TUESDAY, MAY 2

One Page Salon

at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX
Live Reading Series

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

“Hooking Your Reader: Writing A Killer First Page”

with Meg Eden Kuyatt

In this class, we'll look at examples of powerful first lines and pages, and discuss strategies for selecting a powerful first line. We'll also do exercises to evaluate our current first pages and how to decide if we're starting our stories in the right place.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, MAY 6

“Mining the World for Meaning: How to Move Beyond the Personal in Memoir”

with Donna M. Johnson

In this class, we will dig deep into our personal narratives while looking outside of ourselves for ideas, events and motifs that link our experiences with larger threads of meaning. We will explore how associative thinking, research, reflection and personal culpability expand and deepen nonfiction stories. Instruction includes brief lectures, reading and responding to short pieces of creative writing, as well as the use of writing prompts.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, MAY 13

“Mastering Self Publishing”

with Deanna Roy

This is an in-depth class for authors who have self published a book but would like to dive deeper into the details of release strategy, marketing, and diversifying your writing income.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

THURSDAY, MAY 18

May Third Thursday:

WLT On the Craft of Writing:

“Myth + Memory: Staking Out New Territory in the Memoir Form”

with Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton

SATURDAY, MAY 20

2023 Agents Symposium:

“Between Signing & Submission: The Agent/Author Relationship”

with Seth Fishman

In this presentation, we'll dive into what happens after you've signed with a literary agent. We'll cover everything from what to expect after you've both said “yes!” to working together to what you can look forward to as you ready your work with an eye towards submitting to publishers, including the revision process and more.

Price: \$25 per ticket

SATURDAY, MAY 27

“How to Write Funny”

with Wendi Aarons

This class will introduce tips, tricks, and easy ways to lighten up dialogue and prose to be more humorous in conceptual humor pieces like the ones that appear in McSweeney's and The New Yorker's “Shouts & Murmurs.” The class will cover the different types of humor, outlets that accept humor submissions, and more.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

June

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

“Novel Writing: How to Refuel the Tank of our First Drafts”

with Stacey Swann

When starting a new novel, we often excitedly dive into our openings, establishing our characters, setting, and what sets our plot in motion. Sometimes, that energy can propel us all the way to the end of the draft. But more often, somewhere in the middle, we can feel like our novel has run out of gas. In the class, we will explore multiple techniques for recovering our creative momentum: inspiration for our plots, mining our openings for hidden tensions, and ways to expand our fictional worlds in new directions.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

One Page Salon

at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX
Live Reading Series

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

“Marketing & Publicity for Authors: Working With Your Publishing Team”

with Katharine Duckert

Finding your audience is a key part of any successful writing career. 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.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

If you have any questions about the online classes and special events included here or about WLT membership or anything else, please reach out - we'd love to hear from you. By email at wlt@writersleague.org and by phone at 512-499-8914.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

“The Art of the Short Story”

with Trent Hudley

In this class, we will explore what makes the short story work as a literary art form. This class focuses on the art of brevity and conciseness in the short story. 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 on your readers.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

June Third Thursday:

“The Author/Editor Relationship”

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

“The Art of Revision: Seeing Our Work Anew”

with Charlotte Gullick

Revision means to look at our work again - but this can be difficult because we are already so invested in what we have on the page. This class will help close the gap between what we already have and what we need in order to invite readers to stay engaged at all times. We will play with exercises that allow us to gain distance and objectivity on our current work so that we can move it toward greater clarity and impact. Students will come away from this class feeling empowered and with a clear game plan for how to take their work - fiction or nonfiction - to the next level.

Price: \$59 for members / \$119 for non-members

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

2023 Agents Symposium:

“Comparison Titles: The Company You Will Keep”

with Cherise Fisher

In this presentation, we’ll discuss why it is vitally important for authors of both fiction and nonfiction to have a keen sense of how their book fits alongside other titles. We will review why you must never ever tell a publisher “No book like mine has ever been written!”, how to distinguish between comparative and competitive titles, and how to use comparison titles to position your book for success.

Price: \$25 per ticket