

Fall 2023 Online Classes & Special Events

Hello, writers!

As we head into Fall 2023, we're so excited to share with you this full slate of WLT programming that will take us to the end of the year.

If you're a fiction writer, we've curated a variety of classes for you to choose from, including "The Novelist's Toolbox" package - four classes that aim to equip writers with the tools needed for crafting a novel from start to finish. From the pre-planning stages, to researching, plotting, and editing your own work, these classes will set you up for success as you begin a new writing project. Plus, we've got classes on using your characters to drive your story forward, the relationship between time and structure in short fiction, making your settings come alive, the power of exposition and interiority, and more.

If you're writing nonfiction, memoir, or personal essays, we've got you covered! From an introduction to memoir, to telling difficult stories, to the basics of the nonfiction book proposal, there's something here for you whether you're just getting started or are ready to embark on the publishing journey. Plus, there's a class on fictionalizing your personal experiences if that's a route you want to explore.

And if you're ready to dive into the business of publishing, our 2023 Agents Symposium is all about demystifying the publishing process and learning firsthand from literary agents. Between now and November, we'll explore topics like "The Submission Process," "Publication Day and Beyond," and "Building a Writing Career." (Have you missed some of the earlier sessions on querying and the author/agent relationship? You can sign up for the Access Pass - be sure to check it out.) Plus, we've lined-up classes on submitting to literary journals, applying to fellowships, grants, and residencies, and more.

A new season is here, and we are here for YOU. Enjoy this look at everything Fall 2023 has to offer - we hope to see you soon!

All the best,
Sam Babiak
Program Director

This catalog includes our upcoming online classes and special events for September through December 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. All online classes 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 us at wlt@writersleague.org.

Fall 2023 Member Events

WLT members receive a number of benefits with their membership, including steep discounts on paid programs like classes and special events, free consultation time with staff, and access to member-exclusive programming. To learn more about the benefits and services that come with WLT membership, [click here](#).

Upcoming member events:

Tuesday, September 19: New Member Orientation

Thursday, October 12: Member Meet-up

Tuesday, November 14: WLT On the Craft of Writing

2023 Agents Symposium

"This virtual Agents Symposium has been so great... I've learned a lot, become more knowledgeable, truly admire WLT for what it is offering here."

- 2023 Agents Symposium attendee

The Agents Symposium is 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. With four presentations left, we're just over halfway through this year of programming, but it's not too late to join us.

All upcoming presentations are available for \$25, but if you want in on all this year has had to offer and all that's still to come, we're also offering the Agents Symposium Access Pass. If you register for the Access Pass, you'll secure your spot for the rest of the year and you'll also get access to the recordings for the presentations that have already taken place. If you're ready for an inside-look at the industry, including how to set yourself apart in the agent search, deep dives into comparison titles and publishing contracts, and more, register today.

Agents Symposium Access Pass: \$250

Individual Agents Symposium programs: \$25 per ticket

"The Novelist's Toolbox" Class Package

Learn the practical tools that will help you write a novel from start to finish.

This class package aims to equip writers with the practical tools to take on the novel writing process and finish it. From the pre-planning stages of novel writing, including outlines and character studies, to conducting research and finding the right balance for it in your writing, to understanding structure and plotting, and finally, how to edit your own work, these four classes will set you up for success as you embark on a new novel project (or continue the work of completing an already started one!).

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

Wednesday, November 1

"Prep Your Novel" with Alex Temblador

This class will guide writers through the entire pre-planning stages of writing a novel. From character development to an outline, writers will make decisions and plans that will help them move forward, begin writing their book, and ultimately finish it.

Wednesday, November 8

"Researching Your Novel: How to Do It and When to Stop" with James Wade

This class will help you find the best sources for research, decide what material is most important, and know when to move on to the writing phase of your novel.

Wednesday, November 15

"Plotting Your Novel in Three Acts" with Amy Gentry

Using a modified version of the Save the Cat! Beat Sheet as a jumping off point, this class will focus on understanding story structure, strengthening the relationships between story beats, and harnessing the infinite flexibility of 3-act structure to plot your novel.

Wednesday, November 29

"From Begun to Done: How to Edit Your Own Writing" with Sara Koczek

In this class, you'll learn how to read and revise your own work the way a professional editor would, by scrubbing it clean of the top ten problems afflicting most first drafts.

**You can purchase the entire class package which includes all four classes and an exclusive meet-up, but each class is also available for individual purchase. You can find the individual classes on the November page.*

September

Tuesday, September 5

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

Saturday, September 9

"What Your Character Wants: Uncovering the Driving Force of Your Novel" with Sherri L. Smith

How many times have you started writing a great story and gotten bogged down in the middle? How often have you chugged up that hill of rising action, only to lose steam? It doesn't mean there's anything wrong with your story idea, but maybe you just haven't asked the big question: What does my protagonist want? This class will help you excavate your characters' deepest desires so you can rev that engine and get on with the story.

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

Saturday, September 16

"The Truth Told Slant: Personal Experience Turned into Fiction" with Nan Cuba

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.

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

Thursday, September 21

September Third Thursday: WLT On the Craft of Writing: Genre-Bending Fiction

Saturday, September 23

"Show and Tell: The Power of Exposition and Interiority" with Stacey Swann

When it comes to writing fiction, the phrase "show don't tell" is so common, most writers have internalized it. But as in so many things, this type of black and white thinking has drawbacks. There can be great power in vivid exposition, in delving into a character's interiority; these are the things that can set fiction apart from other narrative art forms. In this class, we will explore the ways that exposition and interiority can heighten the impact of our scenes and allow deeper access to voice. Students will come away with new techniques to explore and integrate into their own work.

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

Wednesday, September 27

"Getting Your Foot in the Door: Publishing in Literary Magazines" with Meg Eden Kuyatt

In this class, we'll talk about what literary magazines are, what editors are looking for in submissions, tips on how to get the most out of a lit mag, tips for approaching writing a cover letter and contributor bio, as well as how to handle rejections. The skills you will learn in this class can be easily applied to other publication realms, including writing to agents and editors of small book presses.

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

Saturday, September 30

2023 Agents Symposium: "From Acquisition to Publication" with literary agent Chad Luibl

In this presentation, we'll look at all aspects of the publishing journey beginning with acquisition all the way to publication day. We'll walk you through what you can expect once your manuscript has been acquired by an editor at a publishing house, including everything from editing to self-promotion, and all the key decisions in between that (hooray! pop the champagne!) lead to a successful book launch. (What's a "successful book launch?" Great question! We'll talk about that, too.)

\$25 per ticket

Saturday, September 30

"Writing Compelling Stories: The Relationship Between Time and Structure in Short Fiction" with Chaitali Sen

A short story can take place over a day, a year, or a lifetime. It's an incredibly versatile form, and almost anything is possible, but the most successful short stories reveal strategic choices about time. We'll look at some model short stories and dive into the relationship between time and structure.

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

The WLT is committed to making our online classes accessible to all writers including writers who do not have the financial means to pay for programming. If you'd like to learn more about applying for available scholarship seats for our Fall 2023 classes, visit the page for the class you're interested in and scroll down to "Scholarship Information."

October

Tuesday, October 3

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

Saturday, October 7

"Crafting Great Horror: Eliciting Dread, Disgust, and Terror" with Tonia Ransom

In this class, you'll learn how to craft a compelling beginning that will hook your readers and keep that momentum going throughout the story. We'll explore how what we write is just as important as what we don't write, what exactly keeps horror readers invested, how to create dread and tension with pacing, and more.

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

Wednesday, October 11

"Pacing the Plot of Your Novel or Short Story" with John Pipkin

In this class, we will examine the characteristics of successful pacing and study some basic strategies for helping their story develop at the rhythm that feels well-suited to the plot. The class will also identify some of the sign-posts that can indicate pacing problems in a story and how to handle these issues in the revision stage.

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

Wednesday, October 18

"What's Your Story About? Theme, Story, and Structure" with Greg Garrett

One of the first questions readers want to know is "What kind of story is it?" But writers need to be able to answer the question more deeply for themselves. What kind of story am I telling, why am I telling it, and how am I telling it? In this class, we will walk through the great literary themes, where they come from, and the particular kinds of stories that have shaped and continue to motivate us as writers. We'll also talk about successful examples of these themes and how to structure stories around them.

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

Thursday, October 19

October Third Thursday:
"Killing Your Darlings: The Process of Revision"
at BookPeople in Austin, TX

Saturday, October 21

"Crafting a Nonfiction Book Proposal" with Jessica Wilbanks

In this class, you'll learn about the process of selling a nonfiction book on proposal: from writing a query letter and finding an agent to structuring and drafting different parts of a book proposal.

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

Saturday, October 28

2023 Agents Symposium: "Publication Day and Beyond" with literary agent Mark Gottlieb

In this presentation, we'll dive into what happens after the big publication day. Your book is on the shelves, now what? We'll talk about publicity & marketing, sales, and more. Plus, when it's time to start working on the next project (and talking about the next project with your agent and editor) and other ways to put your time and energy to best use once your book has officially launched.

\$25 per ticket

November

Wednesday, November 1

"Prep Your Novel" with Alex Temblador

This class will guide writers through the entire pre-planning stages of writing a novel. From character development to an outline, writers will put pen to paper and make decisions and plans that will help them move forward, begin writing their book, and ultimately finish it.

*\$59 for members / \$119 for non-members
This class is a part of "The Novelist's Toolbox" class package.*

Wednesday, November 1

Write-in

Saturday, November 4

"Worldbuilding Tactics for Science Fiction and Fantasy" with Matt Bell

In this class, we'll study worldbuilding in science fiction and fantasy, building on examples from writers like Ursula K. Le Guin, N.K. Jemisin, China Miéville, Octavia E. Butler, and others, then put our ideas into practice with in-class exercises on inventing magic systems and technologies, designing aliens and monsters, and other topics.

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

Saturday, November 4

Write-in

Tuesday, November 7

One Page Salon

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

Tuesday, November 7

Write-in

Wednesday, November 8

"Researching Your Novel: How to Do It and When to Stop" with James Wade

Research is vital to a novel's accuracy, sense of place, and overall tone. With a world of information at our disposal, this class will help you find the best sources, decide what material is most important, and know when to move on to the writing phase of your project.

*\$59 for members / \$119 for non-members
This class is a part of "The Novelist's Toolbox" class package.*

We love to spend November bringing our writing and our writing community together by hosting group write-in sessions throughout the month. This November, join us for ten virtual write-in sessions, three hours each, thirty hours total. Sign up for one session, all ten, or any number in between. Just click the link and RSVP.

Saturday, November 11

Write-in

Tuesday, November 14

Write-in

Wednesday, November 15

"Plotting Your Novel in Three Acts" with Amy Gentry

Using a modified version of the Save the Cat! Beat Sheet as a jumping off point, this class will focus on understanding story structure, strengthening the relationships between story beats, and harnessing the infinite flexibility of 3-act structure to plot your novel.

*\$59 for members / \$119 for non-members
This class is a part of "The Novelist's Toolbox" class package.*

Thursday, November 16

November Third Thursday:

"Breaking the Mold: Experimenting with Structure"

Saturday, November 18

2023 Agents Symposium: "Building a Writing Career" with literary agent Julie Stevenson

In this presentation, we'll dive into what it means to build a sustainable and satisfying writing career. Of course, a successful career is not one-size fits all, it looks different for everyone. And building one that lasts takes time, dedication, fortitude, a clear understanding of the publishing world, and often some luck. This presentation will offer guidance and perspective on what it takes to go from publishing one book to building a career.

\$25 per ticket

November (continued)

Saturday, November 18

"Introduction to Memoir" with Cinelle Barnes

In this class, students will explore three mini lessons and three writing prompts, helping them identify the building blocks of memoir: personal experience, emotional and narrative arcs, point-of-view, and moments of change.

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

Saturday, November 18

Write-in

Tuesday, November 21

Write-in

Saturday, November 25

Write-in

Tuesday, November 28

Write-in

Wednesday, November 29

"From Begun to Done: How to Edit Your Own Writing" with Sara Kocek

This class will use a combination of lecture, writing exercises, and peer-to-peer workshop to cover common revision issues such as scene construction, pacing, dialogue, point-of-view, and the eternal problem of too-much exposition. No matter your genre, learn how to read and revise your own work the way a professional editor would, by scrubbing it clean of the top ten problems afflicting most first drafts.

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

This class is a part of "The Novelist's Toolbox" class package.

Thursday, November 30

Write-in

December

Saturday, December 2

"Applying For Residencies, Fellowships, and Grants" with Julie Poole

Residencies, fellowships, and grants offer time and money to help launch your career as a successful writer. This class will guide you to the best opportunities for you and help you craft a standout application that plays to your unique strengths.

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

Tuesday, December 5

One Page Salon

at Radio Coffee & Beer in Austin, TX

Live Reading Series

Whatever you're writing or wherever you are in your writing journey, remember the WLT is here for you. You can find us at writersleague.org or you can email us at wlt@writersleague.org.

Wednesday, December 6

"Writing Home: How to Make Settings Come Alive" with Kimberly Garza

Books have the power to steep us in places foreign and familiar. In this class, we'll discuss strategies for making the places that matter to our stories—our hometowns and cities, our landscapes and cultural spaces—resonate with readers. Writers will leave with an understanding of how setting is more than just scenery, and the ways we can immerse narrative, character, plot, and even voice in place.

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

Saturday, December 9

"Caressing the Flame: Writing the Difficult" with ire'ne lara silva

Whether we're writing from personal experience or on behalf of our characters going through difficult life experiences, it can be challenging to write poetry or prose that is alive, present, authentic, and risky. In this class, we'll be trying several different approaches to really enter those places and find what we need there—for ourselves and our characters. Open to writers of all levels and genres.

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