WRITING A NOVEL – IDEA GENERATION TO PUBLISHING CLASSES

<u>Introduction</u>

This class is for beginners or for people wanting to learn long-form content writing!

- Classes are designed for teens aged 16 and above, and young adults. Older people are also welcome to join and learn!

- To start, I will require learners to have access to a laptop to write assignments, attend classes, and complete the final capstone project which is a publishing-ready short story of at least 20k words!

- I focus primarily on helping you write. This is not an English learning class. The minimum pre-requisite is that you have a decent grasp on English grammar and sentence structure, that's all!

- My classes are designed with writing being a key activity. Each class will have a theme and a set of prompts to nudge you to write. This will need to be submitted for an evaluation of progress.

- All of the writing collected from each class will be used to form the story that is ready for publishing! So all assignments aren't just about writing, the final capstone project is a story worth publishing!

- The final class will end by sharing all the options available for starting your published author journey!

About me

I am a self-published author of the science fiction book, Blinded By My Dreams. For me, this book wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the right guidance and good company which helped me discover my love and strong passion for writing. My purpose with these classes is to be that person who helps you uncover your passion for writing and inspire you to start your own journey as an author! Having a year of experience in designing, developing curriculum and teaching children from the ages 8-14 the skill of public speaking in my previous job, I have learned the importance of teaching skills beyond the scope of the classroom. Knowing I have a strong passion for writing, I decided I wanted to pursue teaching writing as a skill which has the potential for people to build either a passive income, or a full-fledged career, just like me!

Learning outcomes

At the end of this class, you will

- Have a publishing ready manuscript of 20k words
- A clear understanding of plot structure
- Complete grasp on designing relatable characters
- A template for future short stories which can be customized for more complex plots, characters, and themes

<u>Lecture Plan</u>

1. <u>Introduction (30 mins)</u>

   Duration: 1 classes or one-third a week

   Learning outcome: plot structure, mountain-plain technique (diagrammatic representation) for designing a plot, choosing and setting a timeline for your story. Learn what is premise, conflict, resolution, and climax

   Final assignment: design a plot for your story (diagrammatic representation)

2. <u>Choosing a theme or idea (30-60 minutes)</u>

   Duration: 1-2 classes or half a week

   Learning outcome: setting a realistic idea for your book that is relevant, and marketable and which people would want to read about. Learn what a log line, and write a short synopsis covering the premise, the conflict, and resolution of conflict of your idea. Strictly fiction only

   Final assignment: write a log line, and a short synopsis of your idea

3. <u>Identifying good premise and bad premise (30-45 minutes)</u>

   Duration: 1 class or one-third a week

   Learning outcome: Read through set synopsis and decide if the premise or theme of the story is strong in delivering entertainment, literary value, and shows promise for future stories. Understand how a good premise becomes a bad premise by either bad writing, plot loopholes, theme inconsistencies, or a combination of these.

Final assignment: use your experience from this class to refine your premise for your story.

4. <u>Writing the opening paragraph (60-90 minutes)</u>

    Duration: 2-3 classes or a week

    Learning outcome: Create an opening paragraph that sets the premise, the tone, and the hook to your story. Learn how to share only as much information as necessary.

    Final assignment: submit your first piece of writing for discussion.

    <mark>Checkpoint 0: 0 words</mark>

5. <u>"Show, don't tell" (30-45 minutes)</u>

    Duration: 1 class or one-third a week

    Learning outcome: learn a crucial technique in writing successful, gripping, and entertaining thriller – "show, don't tell". Learn how to use it effectively, and when to use it. Learn how to make "show, don't tell" second nature to you with a simple exercise.

    Final assignment: fill up and submit the worksheet shared, and modify your first piece of writing to align with the technique.

6. Choosing a voice or perspective (60-90 minutes)

    Duration: 2-3 classes or a week

    Learning outcome: learn about the different voices and the different types of perspectives which authors can use to write.

    Final assignment: understand and choose the voice and perspective which fits your story aptly. Modify it to fit the features of this voice and perspective.

7. Introduce your protagonist (30-45 minutes)

   Duration: 1 class or one third a week.

   Learning outcome: learn who a protagonist is. Learn the characteristics and features of the protagonist. Look at some famous protagonists in movies and use them for inspiration to design your protagonist.

   Final assignment: fill out the protagonist blueprint.

8. Discussion on progress (30 minutes)

   Duration: 1 class or one-third a week.

   We will discuss with your peers how your story is progressing. We will also discuss where you can improve and the parts we can improve.

9. Writing session (45-60 minutes)

   Duration: 2 classes or half a week.

   In this session we will join the call and after an initial greeting of a few minutes, we will turn off our mics and begin continuing writing the book. As and when you have doubts, you can ask directly in the call.

   In this session we will write to continue the hook and introduce the characters and stop as we reach the conflict.

10. Introduce the antagonist (30-45 minutes)

    Duration: 1 class or one third a week.

Learning outcome: learn who an antagonist is. Learn the characteristics and features of the antagonist. Look at some famous antagonists in movies and use them for inspiration to design your antagonist.

Final assignment: fill out the antagonist blueprint.

11. Writing session (60-120 minutes)

Duration: 4 classes or one and a half week.

In this session we will join the call and after an initial greeting of a few minutes, we will turn off our mics and begin continuing writing the book. As and when you have doubts, you can ask directly in the call.

In this session we begin writing the first part of the conflict, or the introduction to the conflict. This is where we introduce the antagonist and their purpose in the story and how they raise the conflict with the protagonist.

Checkpoint 3: 8000 words.

12. The peak (30 minutes)

Duration: 1 class or one third a week.

Learning outcome: this is the tip of the mountain where the main event of your story happens. Learn what the peak looks like, what usually happens in the peak and how long the peak lasts for. Brainstorm ideas on how to maintain the peak, and the attention of the readers.

13. Character development (30-60 minutes)

Duration: 1-2 classes or half a week

Learning outcome: learn how to introduce a personal conflict to the character. Learn how to make the character make a difficult decision which helps bring a behaviour change and lead to towards the resolution of the story.

Final assignment: submit the worksheet to match conflict and behaviour change in famous movie characters.

14. <u>Discussion on progress (30 minutes)</u>

Duration: 1 class or one-third a week.

We will discuss with your peers how your story is progressing. We will also discuss where you can improve and the parts we can improve.

15. <u>Writing session (90-150 minutes)</u>

Duration: 5 classes or one and three-fourth a week

In this session we will join the call and after an initial greeting of a few minutes, we will turn off our mics and begin continuing writing the book. As and when you have doubts, you can ask directly in the call.

In this session we begin writing the first part of the conflict, or the introduction to the conflict. This is where we introduce the antagonist and their purpose in the story and how they raise the conflict with the protagonist.

Checkpoint 4: 12,000 words.

16. <u>Developing the internal conflict of the protagonist (30-60 mins)</u>

Duration: one class or one-third-a-week.

Learning outcome: learn how the conflict created during the previous class can be modified and how you can choose external events which help support the resolution of the internal conflict.

Final Assignment: learn phrases and words which can be used to describe (show don't tell) internal conflict (or mental struggles; mental blocks etc).

17. Reaching the resolution (60-90 mins)

Duration: 3 classes or a week.

Learning outcome: learn to construct a natural or believable resolution to the main conflict of the story. Use the cues you made with the mental and psychological resolution of the protagonist to help with the resolution of the story (protagonist resolution often overlaps the story's resolution).

18. Writing session (90-150 minutes)

Duration: 5 classes or one and three-fourth a week

In this session we will join the call and after an initial greeting of a few minutes, we will turn off our mics and begin continuing writing the book. As and when you have doubts, you can ask directly in the call.

In this session we write the resolution of the mental and psychological conflict in the protagonist. After that, we write the resolution of the story in whole.
Checkpoint 5: 17,000 words.

19. The climax (30 minutes)

Duration: 1 class or one-third-a-week.

Learning outcome: learn how to resolve the story where original order is restored before the event. This means, the protagonist achieves a meaningful conclusion to their journey, and the antagonist also achieves a measurable infliction of consequences of their actions.

20. The hook (30 minutes)

   Duration: 1 class or one-third-a-week.

   Learning outcome: learn to create a hook for the next story if you plan to continue the storyline. That means creating a subplot for the antagonist to act upon which is part of an advanced course of creative writing available from the teacher.

21. Writing session (90-150 minutes)

   Duration: 5 classes or one and three-fourth a week

   In this session we will join the call and after an initial greeting of a few minutes, we will turn off our mics and begin continuing writing the book. As and when you have doubts, you can ask directly in the call.

   In this session we write the resolution of the mental and psychological conflict in the protagonist. After that, we write the resolution of the story in whole.

   Checkpoint 6: 20,000 words.