



Course 6 – Writing Using Suspense and Tension

Class 1 Describing Settings

Class 2 Pacing

Class 3 Hiding Knowledge

Class 4 Evoking the Senses

Class 5 Curiosity killed the Cat

Class 6 Putting it Together

Creative Writing Courses with Colin

The creative writing process is fun and imaginative, yet complex and systematic. Learning to successfully write creatively goes far beyond simply having a good imagination.

Throughout the school year we will be offering short 5-week creative writing courses each with their own specific focus and objectives. Together, these courses combine to create a thorough, complete preparation which allows children to expand their imagination while developing their writing skills.

Each 5-week course *is run separately* and students can choose between all, some or a just a single course. Participation in previous courses is not required as each course has its own specific objectives and activities.

5 x 1-hour sessions Cost: 70GBP

There is a minimum of 3 students required for a course to open and a maximum of 6 students to ensure that each participant receives the personalized feedback and support they need to succeed.

Live sessions are conducted via Zoom while materials and homework are delivered through Google Classroom.

Join us as we generate creative energies and funnel them into beautifully engaging language skills that will last a lifetime.

Creative Writing – Using Curiosity, Suspense and Tension

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Class 1 – Describing Settings

What are suspense and tension? Why are they important to use in our creative writing? Effective writers focus on the setting description and environment more so than action and events to create suspense.

Students will be able to:

- a. Explain why Suspense and Tension are important through examples
- b. Brainstorm vocabulary and language for a specific scene
- c. Write a scene description (from photo) which creates suspense in the reader

Class 2 – Pacing

‘Keeping the reader on the edge of their seat’ is done through proper pacing. Spending just the right time building up tension before finally revealing information.

- d. Recognize pacing techniques in modeled writing (short sentences, foreshadowing, rhetorical questions)
- e. Apply techniques in their writing by expanding on their description from class 1.

Class 3 – Hiding Knowledge

The real secret to engaging readers through suspense is, as students will find out in this class, something special. You still want to know, don't you? Dangling answers, artful vagueness and cliff-hangers are all effective.

- f. Identify techniques and discuss how and when they should be used.
- g. Add to their previous story and apply the newly learnt techniques.

Class 4 – Evoking the Senses

Suspense necessitates senses. Writing using sensory language with a ‘show don't tell’ approach advances the ability of writers to add suspense in their writing.

- h. Rework basic ‘telling’ text by adding sensory language.
- i. Continue their ongoing text as well as make changes of previous writing to incorporate senses

Class 5 – Curiosity killed the Cat

Writes use a curiosity gap to engage readers. We explore examples of how this is done and then put it into practice ourselves.

- a. Recognize how authors use the curiosity gap. Write steps to create.
- b. Write our own scene that keeps the reader curious and wanting to read more

Class 6 – Putting it Together

Practice and support applying all the ideas learned in the course.

Students will be able to:

- c. Write a text on-the-spot using the focus techniques learned in the 5-day course.