



PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED WRITERS OUTLINE

Plan of the Day

9.15 - 9.30: Introduction

There is no better way to see how narrative elements (setting, character and plot) work together than to be fully immersed in the world of stories. Oral storytelling ignites young writers' creativity and sets their imaginations on fire.

9.30 - 10.45: Inspiration

Be amazed as random words, pieces of music, images and objects become the starting point for stories, settings and characters. We'll use discovery writing to play and experiment with words and ideas. Along the way, we'll build a collection of words, images, phrases and ideas to use during the day. As we workshop (read and share our story seeds) our story starts, writers are introduced to the power of learning with and from each other. At the end of this session, writers will choose one of their pieces of free writing to develop into a story.

11.00 - 11.45: Exploration

Characters form the backbone of any story. We see and feel a story through the eyes and experiences of the main character. Our main character is going to drive our story plot today so it's important to take some time to flesh out where this character has been and where they might be headed. At the end of this session, our main character will be a living, breathing entity with a backstory, a voice, personality and a place to live.

11.45 - 1.00: Innovation

Writers need a sense of direction to get started. Together we'll explore new ways to plot and plan a story using our main character to lead the way. At the end of this session, writers will have a basic outline for a story which includes a series of obstacles for the main character to face and a possible resolution. We'll also experiment with techniques for starting and finishing a story.

— Lunch —

1.45 - 2.45: Concentration

Armed with a main character and a basic story outline, writers settle in for an hour of focused writing. This is an opportunity for writers to experience the next phase of the writing process. No doubt they will encounter the exhilaration of 'creative flow' and the frustration of encountering writing roadblocks. Both experiences are valid and allow young writers to reflect on their experience of the writing process. At the end of this session, writers will have their story underway. I do not expect writers to finish the first draft of their story in this hour block, although some might do so. I will provide information and resources for the supervising teacher to keep the writing process underway. Writers will also be encouraged to begin a home writing practice.

2.45 - 3.30pm: Reflection

Workshopping is an important part of this process with many opportunities dotted through the day but in this last session, we choose a short piece of our writing to share with our writing buddies. By now, we are invested in each other's stories and writers are keen to share and listen. There will also be time to reflect on our experience of the writing process, from developing ideas, planning and writing.

If you would like to explore booking one of these workshops, please complete the enquiry form available at www.writeawaywithme.com/workshops