

## Course Format

A course unique to Chelsea Young Writers, Master Your Creative Writing comprises a series of workshops designed by our in-house children's authors. Over the duration of a school term, children will be introduced to a literary topic from a variety of interesting and exciting angles. Each session will see our young learners apprehend the theme in question in new and challenging ways, in a bid to create their own unique written responses.

Priority is given to encouraging original thought, the construction of a useful plan, the creative and accurate use of language, and developing concentration through timed creative writing. After attending workshops, we expect children to be outfitted with a well-rounded appreciation of the literary theme at hand – knowledge that will surely continue to pay dividends into the future.

We also aspire to have our young writers develop a comprehensive set of writing skills which can be adapted to any time-sensitive written assignment. We do not cover SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) on this course, as our main emphasis is on the creative part of writing. Our workshops strongly encourage creative thinking, avoiding limits such as the 'right' or 'wrong' way to use the imagination. As a result, there is no direct marking system – but we do review your child's work during each session, providing verbal feedback and further guidance on developing ideas/ storyline structures/ descriptive devices. Your child will also receive a short, written feedback upon their completion of the course. This course will benefit keen or reluctant readers and writers who can then apply their gained skills in writing for pleasure and challenging creative writing tasks in exam papers.

## Learning Objectives

- To confidently generate original ideas for story writing
- To sharpen overall critical thinking and reading skills
- To develop a mature style of writing narrative by mastering the structural elements of short prose fiction
- To plan out a coherent plot under timed conditions
- To learn how to write complex characters, use dialogue effectively and create believable settings
- To develop a competent self-editing process, checking for clarity, fluency, vividness and accuracy of vocabulary and descriptive detail
- To discuss your own writing with the course leader and group, as well as learn to critique and edit the writing of others

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Understand different ways original ideas can be generated for a story.
- Demonstrate an understanding of various critical thinking and reading techniques.
- Use imagination and sensory details for creating suspense and intrigue – avoiding cliché, sentimentality or melodrama – and demonstrate increased competence in writing varied sentence structures.
- Adhere to a story plan in writing, arranging the ideas purposefully and coherently within time-sensitive conditions.
- Understand how to write authentic characters, dialogue and setting, identifying what works and what doesn't work as well.
- Demonstrate an effective method of revision, checking over own work for correct vocabulary, use of descriptive devices and overall fluency of the narrative.
- Listen to and apply any constructive criticism received, as well as be able to confidently give critical feedback to help improve others' work.
- Work under timed conditions and be well-prepared and equipped for 11Plus creative writing tasks.

## Part 1. Fantasy Writing: Magic and Myths

Do you dream of joining Harry at Hogwarts? Or journeying with Bilbo and a troop of dwarfs? Perhaps, a crafty anti-hero like Artemis is more your thing? Or, maybe, you aspire to be the Worst Witch? Explore worlds of danger, and magic and intrigue as we create epic fantasy tales. Get to grips with enchanting settings; create plucky heroes, canny anti-heroes and dastardly villains.

Populate your stories with shape-shifters, witches, wizards and mythological beasts. Invent potions and spells and devour incredible feasts. Be inspired by ancient languages as you build high-fantasy worlds. Or, if you prefer, create contemporary settings where everyday objects sit alongside the fantastical.

Perhaps, your world is parallel to this one? Or is found in another time and space altogether? Whatever inspires you, join us as we craft fantastic fiction with powerful plots and cracking characters and sprinkle them with a little bit of fairy dust.

## Part 2. Winter Wonderland.

When your famous scientist father disappears leaving you and your two siblings alone and taking his research papers with him, the scientific community believe he has absconded with his research and intends to sell his findings to foreign spies. But you know he would never abandon you, and he'd certainly never sell his precious work.

When no one will listen, you set out to find him, armed only with a mysterious notebook you found hidden under his mattress. Initially you head to Europe, but as you solve your father's notebook clues, you find yourself embarking on a dangerous journey to an icy kingdom, a place at the northern limits of the world, a place you've heard about, but only in myths.

Here you are joined by a snowy owl; a strangely determined creature who insists you follow him deep into snow covered forests and out over ice fields on a terrifying adventure to discover the truth. But the truth comes with a stark warning – turn back before it's too late. But why? What lies beneath the ice? And how does it involve your father?

When everything and everyone depends on your courage, can you keep going? What will you discover on the icy tundra? And what terrible powers does it have? Could evil really be lurking in this stark yet beautiful place?

Pack your warmest clothes and join us on a mystical adventure to the northern limits of the world where we will walk with wolves, journey with polar bears and, finally, discover the truth.