

## The Keys to Creative Writing: *Dialogue*

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**Start date** Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020      **Time** 10:00 – 16:45

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Jem Poster      **Course code**

**Director of Academic Centres** Dr Corinne Boz

**For further information on this course, please contact** Head of Academic Centre Administration  
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**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746 262

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### Tutor biography

Jem Poster worked as an archaeologist, surveying and excavating a range of sites on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, before taking up an administrative post with Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education in 1987. From 1993 to 2003 he was University Lecturer in Literature with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education and a fellow of Kellogg College. From 2003 to 2012 he was Professor of Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University, and is now Emeritus Professor. He is the author of two novels, *Courting Shadows* (2002) and *Rifling Paradise* (2006), as well as a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light* (2001), and is editor of volume 3 of the six-volume Oxford University Press *Edward Thomas: Prose Writings* (2018). He has won prizes in major poetry competitions including first prize in both the Cardiff International Poetry Competition in 1995 and the Peterloo Poets Open Poetry Competition in 2001. He has been Chair of the editorial board of Wales's leading literary journal, *New Welsh Review* and Programme Advisor to Cambridge University's MSt in Creative Writing; he is currently an Affiliated Lecturer of Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education, and Director of its Summer Programme in Creative Writing. He is Director of Academic Programmes for the Financial Times Oxford Literary Festival and in 2014 spent four months as Writer in Residence at Arizona State University.

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## Course programme

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	<b>Session 1 – Voicing character</b>
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	<b>Session 2 – Presentation and attribution</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	<b>Session 3 – Storytelling through dialogue</b>
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	<b>Session 4 – Realism and impressionism</b>
16:45	Day-school ends

## Course syllabus

### Aims

**The course aims to equip students with:**

- an understanding of the functions of dialogue;
- the skills to write dialogue which feels authentic;
- the skills to use dialogue to develop plot.

### Content

This is one of a series of six one-day courses which may be taken individually or in combination with others. It is designed to equip writers with the skills and knowledge essential to producing successful novels and short stories. All courses in the series are suitable both for beginners and those with some experience, addressing the nuts and bolts of fiction and the development of individual voice and vision.

**In this day school we'll discover how speech can be used both to reveal character and drive the plot forward.** We'll look at how dialogue can enliven a narrative and how we can write dialogue that feels authentic. As a result of the day school students should feel more confident about allowing their characters to speak, and better equipped to write dialogue that is effective, characteristic and credible.

### Presentation of the course

Classes are relaxed but focused. The atmosphere is supportive and designed to build confidence and develop skills through a combination of reading, discussions and practical exercises.

### Outcomes

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- understand how dialogue works;
- appropriate and deploy the skills necessary to create authentic-seeming dialogue;
- appropriate and deploy the skills necessary to use dialogue to advance plot.

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## Reading and resources list

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No preparatory reading is required. Extracts of texts will be provided in the class on the day.

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## Additional information

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### Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:  
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

### Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 29 April 2019