

The Keys to Creative Writing: *Narrative Voice*

Start date Sunday 13th December 2020 **Time** 10:00 – 16:45

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Sarah Burton **Course code** 2021NDX227

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Creative Writing Team
creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk | 01223 761 278

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746 262

Tutor biography

Sarah Burton's publications include two critically acclaimed biographies, *Impostors: Six Kinds of Liar* (Penguin, 2000) and *A Double Life: a Biography of Charles and Mary Lamb* (Penguin, 2003; shortlisted for the Mind Book of the Year award); a children's book, *The Miracle in Bethlehem: A Storyteller's Tale* (Floris, 2008); a page-to-stage guide, *How to Put on a Community Play* (Aurora, 2011); and the humorous *Complete and Utter History of the World By Samuel Stewart, Aged 9* (Short Books, 2013). She has just finished a novel and is currently working on a book about creative writing with Jem Poster. Sarah was Course Director of the Creative Writing MSt at Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education 2013-2017 and she continues to teach day schools, weekends, online courses and summer programmes for ICE. She also runs the Creative Writing Retreats at Madingley Hall.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1 – First-person narratives
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2 – Third-person narratives
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3 – Detail and description
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4 – Bringing it all together
16:45	Day-school ends

Course syllabus

Aims

The course aims to equip students with:

- an understanding of the various options open to them in choosing a voice in which to tell a story;
- an understanding of the constraints and freedoms associated with different kinds of narrative voice;
- the skills to select and exploit an appropriate narrative voice for their own writing.

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.

Good fiction is not simply about content (the story itself) but about style (the way the story is told). In this day school we'll discuss ways of developing a narrative voice appropriate to our story. We'll look at the pros and cons of first- and third-person narratives and at the broad range of voices even within these categories. We'll also discuss the use of multiple narrators and unreliable narrators. As a result of the day school students will have a developed sense of the range of voices available to tell their story and a better understanding of how point-of-view can be established and successfully deployed.

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 the different properties of the range of narrative voices available to the writer;
- appropriate and deploy the skills necessary to define and develop a narrative voice appropriate to their own writing.

Reading and resources list

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

Additional information

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 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: 21 November 2019