



Nurturing excellence in
children's and young adult literature

Young Writers Online

Year 7 & 8 students with Brian Falkner

What is included?

6 x Creative Writing Sessions

Session One: The Life of Brian

In which Brian introduces his 'Write Like an Author' programme for young writers. He shares his journey to becoming a writer and covers some of the basic elements that will be expanded upon in later sessions. Subjects covered include 'What if', 'Research' and 'Emotions'

Reading: The Real Thing

Exercise: Using 'What if' to come up with a story idea.



Session Two: Story Structure

Brian breaks down 'story' to its most basic level, then builds it back up, in a fun and entertaining way, to ensure that all students understand deeply what a story is all about. Subjects covered include Story Structure, Obstacles and Stakes

Reading: Katipo Joe: Blitzkrieg

Exercise: Take your 'what if' story idea and extend it into a story outline.

Session Three: Characters

Brian gives tips and techniques for that hardest, and most important part of storytelling, creating believable, empathetic characters. Subjects covered include Making characters real, empathy, character exposition and conflict

Reading: Shooting Stars

Exercise: Take the characters from your story outline and flesh them out into real people.

Session Four: The Writing

Using a modified version of Stephen King's 'Framework of Writing', Brian breaks down the process of creative writing into four distinct parts. Subjects covered include Narration, Description, Dialogue and Action, Inner Thoughts, POV and Tense, plus a discussion of what makes a great opening line.

Reading: Rampage at Waterloo

Exercise: Write the opening line of your story

Session Five: Suspense and Tension

Brian explains how suspense and tension are the keys to keeping a reader glued to the page. Subjects covered include: Narrative Hook, Foreshadowing, The Big Secret, The Cliffhanger and Dramatic Irony.

Reading: Brainjack

Exercise: Find as many suspense techniques as you can in the provided text.

Session Six: Editing and the Road to Publication

The key to great writing is not the writing itself, but the re-writing. The editing. Brian shows the importance of editing with examples from his own work. Subjects covered include: The importance of re-writing (and re-writing and re-writing), How to avoid Writer's block, deconstruction, writing into different formats, how a writer gets published.

Reading: Maddy West and the Tongue Taker

Exercise: Improve a piece of writing through good editing.

Each session:

- Is a tailored pre-recorded writing workshop for students presented by QLD author, Brian Falkner. They are designed to be used in sequence.
- Can be used at the teacher's discretion; one session at a time or together, as six private video links are provided. Privately enrolled students can watch as they wish.
- Includes a writing exercise and a short reading by the author from one of his books.
- In keeping with the writing program, Brian's books are available for purchase from the Centre.

About QLD Author Brian Falkner

Brian loves telling stories, either in his best-selling books, or standing in front of an audience of students. He's the multi-award-winning author of twenty books for children and young adults, published in over twelve countries in more than seven different languages.

For the last seventeen years Brian has also been touring the world, teaching and coaching students in creative writing. His energy and humour make his workshops a fun and rewarding experience for young writers and his sessions are in high demand.

Your Feedback

As this is still a new and exciting venture for The Literature Centre, your feedback on our Young Writers Online workshop is appreciated. We know there may be improvements and adjustments needed along the way. As always, the content and presentation style of each of our award-winning authors will differ. A short feedback survey will be emailed to all participating teachers after sessions are released.

Full details on our Website

Young Writers Online is suitable for school classes or individual students (home-school or privately enrolled) keen to write. For all the online program details including reduced fee, registration forms, timetable of authors and what to expect, see our website - <https://www.thelitcentre.org.au/young-writers-online.aspx>