



Nurturing excellence in
children's and *young adult* literature

Young Writers Online

Years 6 - 8, Metro & Regional Students with Barry Jonsberg (NT)

What is included?

6 x Creative Writing Sessions

Session 1 - A Place to Dream and a Place to Make Magic

What is it about books that make them able to build worlds, take you there, and allow you to move backward and forward in time AND read minds? It can only be magic. Barry talks about the importance of finding *your* own place where you can work that magic. He reads an extract from his novel *A Song Only I Can Hear*. Barry creates an exercise where students, with very little thinking, create a character of their own – a character that will be used in later sessions

Session 2 - Characterisation – Dos and Don'ts and Where to Discover Stories

We don't make stories up. We discover them [they already exist and are waiting for you]. How to start the story by placing the character in a place of conflict. A reading of *My Life As An Alphabet* [with a film extract]. How some of my stories came about: character and situation. Exercise – students start writing the beginning of their stories

Session 3 - The Four Stages of Writing and How To Set Your Character Free

The four stages of writing: thinking, writing, re-writing, and editing. Description: when to use it, when to avoid it. A reading of *Catch Me If I Fall*. Moving our story on - the multiple paths of story and what to choose. Finally a student exercise: developing an existing story [500-800 words].

Session 4 - Show, Don't Tell and The Whole Business with Re-writing

Show, Don't Tell: it's important, but what does it mean? Exercise: Discussion of a piece of Barry's writing. Analytical exercise – turning telling into showing. A Reading of *The Heart of the Forest*. How would the students end that story? What can we learn about readers' expectations? Exercise: students develop their existing stories



Session 5 - All About Editing or The Key to Good, Maybe Great, Writing

Your story might be done, but this is where the work starts. How to go about editing – taking the students through a copyediting process. A reading from *The Whole Business With Kiffo and the Pitbull*. Student exercise – copyediting an extract from Barry's new novel to make it the best it can be

Session 6 - Some Final and [probably] Random Thoughts.

Where are our stories up to? Consideration of some basic techniques – exploring the senses, pathetic fallacy, hooking the reader's attention, cliffhangers. Reading from *Pandora Jones: Admission*. How film and novels differ: a look at *My Life As An Alphabet* and the film *H is for Happiness*. Write on!

Each session:

- ❑ Is a tailored pre-recorded writing workshop for students presented by Northern Territory author, Barry Jonsberg. 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, Mark books are available for purchase from the Centre.

About North Territory Author Barry Jonsberg

Barry Jonsberg is a multi-award winning writer for Young Adults and children and an experienced speaker in schools throughout Australia and abroad. He has written over twenty novels and has been published in fifteen countries and translated into many languages.

His 5x bestselling novel, *My Life As An Alphabet*, published in 2013, was made into a major motion picture, *H is for Happiness*, in 2019. It won the richest film prize in Australia, headlined the Berlinale International Film Festival in Germany, and has just been released in multiple countries throughout the world, including the USA. The same team is currently working on a film of another of Barry's books, *A Song Only I Can Hear* which was published in 2018.

Your Feedback

As this is a new and exciting venture for The Literature Centre, your feedback on our Young Writers Online workshop is appreciated. We know there will 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

See our website for all the online program details including reduced fee, registration forms, timetable of authors, what to expect, and more www.thelitcentre.org.au. The Young Writers Online is suitable for school classes or individual students (home-school or privately enrolled) keen to write.