



Young Writers Online

Year 6 students with Deborah Abela

What is included?

6 x Creative Writing Sessions

Session 1 - Brilliant Beginnings

Ideas for stories are all around us. It's simply a matter of knowing where and how to look. Deb has written 27 books and all of them have been inspired by an idea that has excited her. She will discuss how small ideas inspired some of her novels and present practical and entertaining activities for students to explore their own ideas to create their stories.



Session 2 - Perilous Plots

You have your brilliant idea, what now? We focus on developing that idea to play out in the most exciting way by looking at the 3 main ingredients of the story and exploring the 3 act structure. This will ensure your story has a strong beginning, middle and satisfying end, that hopefully, your readers will love.

Session 3 - Compelling Characters

You have your brilliant idea, you've planned your story and now you're going to put your characters into action! But do you know them well enough to start writing? Once you know your characters, not only will it make your story easier to write, it will also be much more exciting and engaging for your reader. We'll look at different activities to get to know our characters as if they truly exist.

Session 4 - Intriguing Introductions

You have your brilliant idea, your engaging plot and your fascinating characters, now where to begin? Which part of your story will be the most thrilling place to start? Do you start at the end? Will it be a diary, a series of letters, first person, 2nd or 3rd? How can we write an introduction that sets up our story perfectly and that our readers won't be able to turn away from?

Session 5 - Wonderful World Building

Deb LOVES creating worlds for her books. Sometimes these worlds look and feel similar to our own and other times, they are set in different places and eras. In this session, Deb will give you a sneak peek at two very different worlds she created in her novels *Grimsdon* and *Teresa A New Australian*, and how she got to know them, especially when they don't exist. She will give you tips and hints for how to create your own worlds that readers will want to immerse themselves in.

Session 6 - Words Wondrous Words

The way you tell a story is so important! Exciting plots can fail if they're poorly written, and unexciting stories can shine with the masterful use of words. Generally, every word has to earn its place in your story, if it can be taken out and the story still makes sense and can be engaging, it has to go! Deb will show you drafts of her novels and how changing words or cutting them out made the story stronger. We will look at how to make those choices, so that our stories will shine in both plot and in the telling.

Each session:

- Is a tailored pre-recorded writing workshop for students presented by NSW author, Deborah Abela. 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 her books.
- In keeping with the writing program, Deb's books are available for purchase from the Centre.

About NSW Author Deborah Abela

Deborah trained as a teacher before becoming writer/producer of a national children's TV show. Since then, she's become an internationally published and awarded author of 27 books about spies, soccer, WW2, pesky wolves, spelling bees, bears in space and kids living in a climate-changed world. Deborah has visited tens of thousands of children, their teachers and librarians over the past 20 years. She has taught and spoken at international schools, conferences and festivals across Australia, encouraging children to love books and reading and equipping teachers with practical activities to foster a joy of writing in their students.

Your Feedback

As this is a new and exciting venture for The Literature Centre, your feedback on our Young Writers Online program 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

See our website for all the online program details including the 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.