

## YOUNG WRITERS ONLINE

### Senior Writers Sessions with Isobelle Carmody

*Released Term 2, 2020*

#### What is included?

#### **9 x Creative Writing Sessions – Descriptions Updated 12 June**

##### **Session 1 – Drawing on Life (29 minutes)**

Isobelle introduces herself and gives a reading from *The Monster Game*, from *Green Monkey Dreams*. This session focuses on drawing on your own life to create believable scenarios and characters with writing exercises focussing on emotions.



##### **Session 2 – Using Fairy Tales (22 minutes)**

In this session Isobelle will read from *Moth's Tale*, one of her short stories in *The Wilful Eye*, and give insights into its background. She focuses on using fairy tales with practical writing exercises to support the reading.

##### **Session 3 – World Building (18 minutes)**

Isobelle gives the background to the creation of her legendary series, *The Obernewtyn Chronicles*. She focuses on how to build an imaginary history as the back drop to your story. This is her guide to world building – the do's and don'ts.

##### **Session 4 – Building Atmosphere (22 minutes)**

Following a reading from one of her most famous books, *The Gathering*, Isobelle discusses its creation and development. Then focuses on how to build atmosphere in your narrative and will lead you in some impressionist writing exercises.

##### **Session 5 – Graphic Novels & Using Your Beliefs (19 minutes)**

In this session, Isobelle will read from her graphic post-apocalyptic fairy tale, *Evermore*, which is currently being adapted as a mini-series. She also discusses her collaboration with its illustrator, Dan Reed. In this session students will write about their and their characters' beliefs.

##### **Session 6 – Revealing Character Through Dialogue (23 minutes)**

Isobelle gives the background and a reading from, *Greylands*, which she has been working on transforming into a script. She talks about how dialogue can convey character and also how to write very young characters. She then sets dialogue/script exercises to allow students to experience and more deeply understand how dialogue works.

##### **Session 7 – Creating Series & Building Details (20 minutes)**

With a reading from *The Cloud Road*, Isobelle tells the story of how this series came about. She will also discuss the creation of the *Little Fur* series and its beginnings as a told tale long before it became books. Isobelle drew the art for both series and this time, she sets a drawing task. This exercise will show how building the background detail through a picture or visual image can enhance the story and can convey a thousand words.

### **Session 8 – Journeys and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Person (18 minutes)**

Isabelle reads from the title story of her collection, *Metro Winds*. Each of the stories focus on a different country and Isabelle will discuss the journey as both a motif and a form that can be used in plotting story. She also looks at the pros and cons of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person narration.

### **Session 9 – Meaningful Speculative Fiction (19 minutes)**

In her final session, Isabelle will read from the short story, *The Stone Witch*, from Jonathan Strahan's *Under My Hat: Tales From The Cauldron* collection of witch stories. Isabelle will draw on matter from all of the previous sessions for this final exercise, aimed at allowing students to write meaningful, focused speculative fiction.

#### **Each session:**

- Is a tailored pre-recorded writing workshop for students presented by QLD young adult author, Isabelle Carmody. They are designed to be used in sequence.
- Can be used at the teacher's discretion; one session at a time or together, as nine 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 TYWP, Isabelle's books are available for purchase from the Centre.

#### **About QLD Author Isabelle Carmody**

Having written her first story in high school, Isabelle is an award-winning writer of short stories and books for young people. She has won numerous awards: *The Obernewtyn Chronicles* won Children's Book Council Book of the Year for older readers; *Greylands* named a White Raven at the Bologna Book Fair; and the title story of *The Green Monkey Dream Collection* won Best Short Story in the Aurealis Awards. *The Gathering* was joint winner of 1993 Children's Literature Peace Prize and 1994 Children's Book Council of Australia - Book of the Year. It has been reprinted 35 times and is an international best-seller. Isabelle has long been established at the forefront of fantasy writing in Australia. Having completed a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in literature and philosophy, along with a journalism cadetship, Isabelle is currently in the final stages of her PhD with the University of Queensland. A compelling and enthralling author, Isabelle balances unexpected plot twists delicately whilst driving her students through mysterious and atmospheric worlds in helping them to create their page turners. She is a consummate teacher who will leave you and your students inspired.

#### **Your Feedback**

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

#### **Full Details on our Website**

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