

YOUNG WRITERS ONLINE

Senior Writers Sessions with Scot Gardner (VIC)

Released Term 3, 2020

What is included?

9 x Creative Writing Sessions

Session 1 – Get Your Nature Facts Straight

Reading – *Sparrow* opening chapter

Idea – get your nature facts straight (worker bees are all female, bullants are a type of wasp and they STING)

Trope – [Show, Don't Tell](#)

Wattys - SDT

Exercise - Someone You Know – (Develop a character with originality, respect and dignity)



Session 2 – Bad Boys and Good Girls

Reading – *Thingless* (a short story from the collection *Off The Map*, Allen & Unwin, 2021)

Idea – bad boys and good girls (does she really need another bad boy? Twilight series)

Trope – [The Willing Suspension of Disbelief](#) (At a puppet show we don't watch the strings, we watch the puppets)

Wattys – Run On

Exercise – A Place You Love – (Develop a setting that relates to the character developed in Ep-1)

Session 3 – Be Careful Of Using Coincidence

Reading – *Changing Gear* opening chapter (censored)

Idea – be careful of using coincidence (if the guy attacking you with a knife has a heart attack it feels weak)

Trope – [Wangst](#) (define the **Idea** of whiny angst)

Wattys – Adverbs

Exercise – The Plot Thickens – (Give your character from Ep-1/2 a problem and find 3 ways to complicate it)

Session 4 – Story Is Boss

Reading – *Happy As Larry*, roo attack

Idea – story is boss (if the weather is bad, it's bad for a story reason)

Trope – [Badass Bookworm](#) (Hermione Granger, all the teachers at Hogwarts)

Wattys – Redundancy

Exercise – What if? (provocation)

Session 5 – Opening Lines

Reading – *Burning Eddy* opening chapter

Idea – opening lines (don't open with the weather, don't open with your alarm going off)

Trope – [Chekov's Gun](#) (Harry Potter's scar)

Wattys – Repetition

Exercise – Hold Your Head – (hypothetical plot development)

Session 6 – Build With Prose, Decorate With Poetry

Reading – *The Dead I Know*, opening chapter

Idea – we build houses with prose; we decorate them with poetry

Trope – [Purple Prose](#) (using lots of big beautiful descriptive words because you can)(acceptable in fantasy and romance – or as a joke)(Bulwer-Lytton and [Charles Dickens](#))

Wattys – Purple Prose

Exercise – The Silence of Books – (write a piece that celebrates the senses)

Session 7 – Start In The Middle Of Things

Reading – *The Way We Roll* (opening chapter)

Idea – start in the middle of things (in medias res)

Trope – [Beige Prose](#) (being overly concise, brief descriptions) (*Curious Incident* and Bukowski)

Wattys – Beige Prose

Exercise – Flash Fiction – 30-word stories in ten minutes, get us into the story, leave the reader feeling, thinking and wanting more.

Session 8 – Write Lean, Make Every Word Count

Reading – *The Dead I Know*, conversation between Aaron and Skye

Idea – write lean and make every word count

Trope – [The Featureless Plain of Disembodied Text](#)

Wattys – Dialogue

Exercise – Dialogue – (write a piece using mostly dialogue)

Session 9 – Endings

Reading – *The Kid* (a short story from *Off The Map*)

Idea – Endings – you don't have to land the plane, leave room for the reader to dream their own ending, don't wake up for an ending (Deus ex machina)

Trope – [Continuity](#)

Wattys – Continuity (the gun on the mantelpiece in chapter one had better be there in chapter 27)

Exercise – Resolution – (Find a target to aim your story at. How has your character changed?)

Each session:

- Is a tailored pre-recorded writing workshop for students presented by Victorian young adult author, Scot Gardner. 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 his books.
- In keeping with the TYWP, Scot's books are available for purchase from the Centre.

About Scot Gardner (VIC)

Scot Gardner has been writing for young people since last century. His books are mostly about misfits making peace with the world, death and love. He came to writing down a long winding path of careers including landscape gardening, massage and counselling, professional music, teaching, waiting tables and driving delivery trucks. *Changing Gear* is his eighteenth novel in as many years and his backlist includes award winning and internationally acclaimed books such as *Burning Eddy*, *The Dead I Know* and *Sparrow*. He has a bristling fascination for the natural world.

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 details including reduced fee, registration forms, timetable of authors, what to expect and more www.theliteraturecentre.org.au. Young Writers Online is suitable for school classes or individual students (home-school or privately enrolled) keen to write.