

WRITER'S CRAFT

COURSE SYLLABUS / 2015-2016

Mr. Michael Trainer
trainerm@tesd.net
mrtrainersclass.wordpress.com

WELCOME!

Writer's Craft is a reading and writing intensive course that celebrates the process and craft of creative writing—from the initial spark to the finished product.

START HERE:

1.



You will need a *writer's notebook*. We will use it every day—to write, list, plan, brainstorm, draw, map, ponder, practice, model, plot, compose, revise, and *make wild, impossible plans*. It is YOUR property. I don't want to read it—unless you feel like sharing—or collect it. It just needs to be with you at all times. It's where all your work will start.

2. THEN WHAT HAPPENS? (GOOD QUESTION.)

...MAGIC!

- ⇒ a better understanding of the craft of writing!
- ⇒ sharpened analysis skills!
- ⇒ telepathy! (make pictures, sounds, smells, tastes, textures appear in the reader's mind)
- ⇒ choice and freedom! (opportunities to read and write selections of your own choosing)

3. WHAT DO WE MAKE?

- poems
- short stories
- memoir
- plays
- screenplays
- trouble
- novels (why not?)
- essays
- children's stories
- speeches
- letters
- multi-genre pieces
- you name it!

4. YEAH, BUT WHAT ARE WE GRADED ON?

Your thoughtful involvement in the process and development of your own writing—and the work of your peers--will be rewarded. If you can manage that, you'll be good to go! Assessments will include: formal writing pieces; workshop and revision participation; unit quizzes and tests; your participation and preparation; outside reading activities, etc.