Writing Short Fiction

A Teen Writer's Summer Workshop at Cape Fear Community College

Learn to tell compelling stories that capture your unique voice while making every word matter.

This four-day workshop will help teen writers explore, appreciate and understand the crucial elements of short stories by reading acclaimed works, prompt-writing in class and participating in an MFA-style workshop where they present their own writing and offer assistance to others. By combining in-class discussion, small-group activities, lecture, sharing and constructive feedback, students will understand the importance and nuance of character, plot, motivation and dialogue, as well as the benefits of feedback and revision.

In this workshop you will learn to:

- create compelling, captivating characters
- understand how desire and conflict drive a plot
- effectively critique others and receive feedback
- understand the revision process

Bring your own preferred writing tool - pen, laptop or tablet. There will be some free time for writing in class, and additional writing will be completed out of class. By the end of the week you will have the tools, resources and guidance to help you craft a unique, beginning-to-end short story of your own.

Ages:	**14-16**
Days/Dates:	**Mon-Thurs, June 21-24, 2021**
Times:	**1-5 pm**
Location:	**CFCC Wilmington Campus**
Registration:	**$149**

For more details, contact
910.362.7199 or enrich@cfcc.edu
www.cfcc.edu/summercamp

CAPE FEAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Workshop Curriculum

Students will have opportunities to work in groups and as individuals, with time to write on their own and also to discuss ideas with the group in a workshop format.

Day 1: Introductions and Course Overview. Why write? What drives writing? Writing Prompt: "Out of Money." What is Conflict? How do we create it? What makes for a compelling character? Read ***Cathedral* by Raymond Carver** and discuss in groups. Wiring Prompt: "Cathedral." How to share writing in a constructive, workshopped setting.

Day 2: Writing prompt: "Abandoned in an unknown place." Character creation worksheet. Read ***Valedictorian* by N.K Jemison**. Discuss tone and narrative voice. Writing Prompt: "Past events." Discuss stories and workshop ideas. Writing prompt: "Tone."

Day 3: Read ***Invasion from Outer Space* by Steven Millhauser**. Writing prompt: "Last Day Before Leaving Town." Discuss *Invasion from Outer Space* and writing prompt based on story. Practice revising one another's in-class writing from a prompt of their choice. Writing prompt: "Story development."

Day 4: Read ***Bliss* by Sofia Mostaghimi**. Discuss how this story differs from the others; how does setting affect this piece? Writing prompt: "Road Trip with One Friend." Share stories, work on critiques and leave with notes for students to revise over the summer as desired.

Please note: short stories to be read in class are age-appropriate for 14-16 students, but may contain strong language, suspense, mild violence and/or non-graphic accounts of sexual scenarios, alcohol use or drug use. Short stories and authors are listed above so parents may research them prior to registration, if desired.

Snack Breaks

We recommend that you pack a protein-rich snack and a drink. **If you have also registered for an additional morning or afternoon session**, you will need to include additional lunch items, snack items and drink(s). Please pack perishables on ice, as you will not have access to a refrigerator. Please notify us at the time of registration if there are known food allergies, intolerances or health issues of which staff should be aware.

Dress Code & Supplies

Students should wear comfortable clothing and closed-toed shoes. Masks and social distancing may also be required, depending on current guidelines from the NC Community College System. Bring your own writing tools: pen & paper, laptop or tablet.

About Your Instructor

David Braga is a fiction writer with work published in *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Redivider*, *Necessary Fiction* and *Typehouse Literary Magazine*, among others. He loves helping young writers learn to tell their stories. He is an MFA graduate of Emerson College in Boston and now lives in Wilmington with his wife and pets.