

Writing 2: Writing for Children

A second level writing course for OCA written by writer Beth Webb

Writing for Children is a second-level (HE5), creative writing course. It is designed to help people develop their own writing in this specialised field. Throughout the course careful attention is paid to the 3 main 'age bands' that publishers use, explaining the necessary differences and similarities. Students may specialise within one chosen age band, but will be expected to address at least one other during the course.

Course content

Throughout the course the student will address the crucial questions of both content and style. They will be expected to deliver written assignments of about 1,000 words and a commentary on their own work. The tutor will respond both to the detail of the text (advice and instruction on redrafting, editing, character, narrative, appropriateness and so on) and to the overall ideas behind the writing and understanding of the form. Students will be expected to read widely under the direction of their tutor and experiment with different approaches to their chosen themes.

The course materials are designed to support the interaction between student and tutor. They do not contain set exercises, specific demands or pre-set assignments. Rather, they provide a framework out of which lively and professional writing for children should flow. There are practical sections on the assignments, the procedures and ways to develop sound working practice. In addition the book contains chapters on the distinction

between telling and writing stories, on child psychology, and on handling 'darker' material, plus an extensive reading list.

The materials also contain an anthology in which well-known children's writers (from David Almond to Althea) present examples from their own work (published and unpublished) together with their own, personally written notes on technique and process.

This will enable students to learn from active writers and to reflect on and develop their own practice.

Teaching methods

The course provides you with a series of projects that are supported by distance learning techniques. At certain points in the course your work will be seen by your tutor, and answers to any specific questions you have.

You can get credits for your course too

If you want to have your work recognised you can gain credits towards a full qualification in art. To do this you present a portfolio of your work on the course, including work on specific projects, for assessment.



0800 731 2116
www.oqa-uk.com



Open College of the Arts

0800 731 2116

www.oqa-uk.com

July 2009