

Creative Writing Workshop: The resources of creativity



Objectives

- To encourage the desire to write and provide strategies to unblock the writing process.
- To discover major basic structural components of a narrative.
- To apply the main technical elements involved in the process of creating a story: point of view, characters, space-time, visibility, personality, etc.
- To analyze, from the authorial perspective, the most common errors when writing, and the criteria for assessing the text from a literary perspective.

Contents

- The three-hour workshop will provide and discuss the theoretical material, and will make proposals for writing. Reading and commentary of texts produced by participants will allow further analysis of the construction process of a story, and design strategies to improve it.
- **A three-hour creative writing workshop** with all participants interested in writing Creative fiction. Enrique Páez will respond to all questions connected with the role of writer, gestation and creation of books, the narrative techniques, and the resources of creativity. From where do writers take their ideas? How do they imagine things they invent and write? He will summarize several techniques to generate stories, like the Fantastic binomium, Functions of Propp, stream of consciousness and stories intertwined.
- Enrique Páez, author of thirty books, among which are several textbooks, children novels, and the long essay "Writing: Manual of narrative techniques" (SM publishing, Madrid, 2003), an essential reference in all studies of literary creation. Together with the participants he will perform in a Creative Writing Workshop. All of them will be able to write **two micro-stories from a few triggers**. Texts will be read and commented on by the author before the end of the creative writing workshop session.
- **Writing a new personal story:** The first story will emerge from the trigger "I remember...", from which participants will write a story from a personal memory. It will be possible, in this case, to change the narrator's point of view from the first

to third person. That is, in short, to observe and analyze the real and the unreal through the eyes of the writer, always watching as if seen for the first time, always amazed at what is in front of him, gutting clocks to examine its mechanism, prying into the lives of ourselves, always giving a twist to everything. A permanent equilibrium between reality and fiction.

- **How to write a fantastic story:** Within the same workshop, the second story will emerge from the memory of events that never happened before. Each participant must remember, in spite of it being impossible, an event that never happened, but that could have happened. They must be specific, with details and proper names, so the memory can be credible.
- The two texts read aloud, without any clues about which one corresponds to a real event and what belongs to an imagined one, depends on the author's ability to make credible what has never happened and confuse the reader with imagined memories. Writing is like a slow lie, making true a vivid and continuous dream. Then you are able to start imagining situations, and to write!

Professor



Enrique Páez. Master in Literature, and PhD Literary Theory postgraduate (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain). Currently he lives exclusively for writing, and coordinates the International Storytelling Network (Red Internacional de Cuentacuentos)
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He won the National narrative Lazarillo Prize in 1991 for the romance *Give me the ring back*. Afterwards he published *Abdel*, *Chamaleon Club*, *A kidnapping so film like*, *Renata and magician Pinton*, and *The Olympics of Animals*. His books have been translated into nine languages all over the world. His books they have sold over half a million copies.

Besides being a writer, he has worked as editor and professor of Language, Literature and Creative Writing in Madrid and New York, at Primary, Secondary and University levels. Author of the series of students textbooks "*Mester and Context*" Language and Literature for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th years of High School, and 1st and 2nd years of pre-college School. His long essay book *Writing: a guideline of narrative techniques* (SM Publ., and Circle of Readers Publ., Madrid, 2003) is a benchmark in studies of creative writing fiction in Spain and Latin America. From 1993 to 2008 he directed the well-known *Creative Writing Workshop* of Madrid, with seven specialties (Short story, Creation of characters, Narrative techniques, Fiction genres, Film script, Poetry and Storytelling), with 15 anthologies of short stories published.