

Each session will have sections for: members to read back their work, where appropriate, and use exercises to practice key skills/concepts. The 2019 programme has been suggested by the group members and is a revision, in different forms, of the key concepts encountered in 2018. This programme is general enough to allow us to be flexible and follow any theme or interest that might emerge during the course of the year.

January 9th	Summary of what we have learned in 2018: We construct for ourselves an AIDE MEMOIR of the key skills and concepts encountered in 2018 and discuss examples and their usage in our writing. We review the agreed material for the next two sessions.
February 13th	Power Point 1. Different Ways of Looking at Creativity in Writing: We focus on the non-word elements of writing and how they can be manipulated. The "inner eye"; what can we learn from film
March 13th	Power Point 2. Telling the Story: Opening paragraphs Narrative Voice How can we play with these two devices to bring texture into our writing?
April 10th	Key concept: Two Types of Thinking and Story Goal. We use a given stimulus to stimulate the first way of thinking, establish a STORY GOAL, then experiment with ways of structuring the second type of thinking
May 8th	Key concept: Scene and Exposition: We explore these concepts through TRANSFORMATIONAL WRITING. A section of film script will be analysed to identify the ways in which scene and exposition can be translated from the visual form into the written form and the effect of this change of medium.
June 12th	Key concept: Vraisemblance and The Symbolic: As an EXERCISE we will separate these two aspects of writing. We will then experiment with one, then the other.
July 10th	Key concept: Word Choice: An examination of the many functions we ask our chosen words to fulfil. We will look at some stand-alone devices
August 14th	Key concept: Purpose, Audience, Style and Structure, Outcome= PASSO: We analyse the criteria we need to apply when writing for a variety of audiences and use these criteria in a given topic.
September 11th	Key concept: The Metaphor: We return to this valuable technique to extend our understanding of the ways in which the extended metaphor can aid planning, story goal and characterisation.
October 9th	Key concept: Reader Response: Making meaning is the basis of all writing. It depends upon the relationship between the writer and the reader; what is written and what is understood. The contribution of the reader can go beyond the scope of the writer. We explore how this can be managed.
November 13th	Key concept: Pacing and Transition: A reader should experience the fictional world with as much conviction the "real" world. Pacing and Transition are central to creating this effect.
December 11th	Key concept: Poetic Devices: We explore the techniques of poetry to sharpen our writing. A slightly festive flavour might just be noticed!