

UCT Centre for Extra Mural Studies, Creative Writing Workshop Series

Start date Tuesday 30th July 2024 6pm on Zoom

Host: Sally Cranswick

Write a Family Story That People Will Want to Read

As I embark on my PhD to write a family story, let's have some fun together by exploring why we write family stories, who benefits from them, and how we can make them engaging enough for people to want to read.

This five-week course will focus on these main questions, together with examples of wonderfully written family stories. We will look at how to structure the family story that you want to tell, how to create a memorable cast of characters, and we will look at creative ways to use research to fill in the missing gaps.

We will do lots of writing and creative exercises and there will be plenty of opportunity to share your work and to get feedback from me throughout the workshop series. As always, our aim is to come together as a creative community and have fun whilst working towards our highest writing goals.

Workshop Sessions:

- Week 1 Why write your family story and what is it *really* about?
- Week 2 Create a memorable cast of characters
- Week 3 Find the best structure for your story
- Week 4 Fun research topics that will help to authenticate the 'truth gaps'
- Week 5 How to keep yourself motivated and what to do with your finished story

Recommended reading

Durrell, Gerald. *My Family and Other Animals*

Fuller, Alexandra. *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*

Sedaris, David. *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*