

LET'S WRITE ABOUT LIFE

Sally Cranswick, author, story coach

Monday 27–Friday 31 January 10.00 am–12:00 pm

COURSE FEES R1 500; Staff and students R750

This week we will be looking at how to use life as a canvas for our creative discovery. We will create some structured flash-sized essays about our lives, which we can also use towards a larger life-story or memoir. We will study examples of wonderful life stories and memoirs in different genres, we will discuss how to find creative inspiration from daily life and how to shape a narrative around life events using structure, voice, style and theme. We will think about the people in our lives and how to honour them in our writing and we will also look at how to extend a short piece into a longer collection of work.

The workshops will comprise formal presentations, group discussions, writing exercises and plenty of opportunity to ask questions and get feedback on your writing.

The aim of the week is to write short, creative pieces about life – but as always, the reason for coming together is to have fun as a creative community whilst writing towards our highest goals.

Session one: Welcome and looking at life through a writerly viewpoint

Session two: Let's write about life

Finding the start of your story.

Session three: The heart of the matter

What makes a great story. How to find your writer's voice and using theme as a container for your story.

Session four: Structure your way to success

Taking a thought and turning it into a story with a complete arc.

Session five: Creative workshop

A fun workshop where we will create your own personal timeline to find out where the threads of your own story intersect and how to use that to great effect in your work.

Who should attend

This is a wonderful opportunity to start the new year by filling your creative well and leaping into 2025 with a cupful of ideas to work on. You don't need to be a writer to enjoy this course – everyone is welcome.

What to bring

Bring your favourite notebook and pen.