

Fall 2009 Contest

140 Character Contest

Twitter. You may love it, hate it or have no idea what it is. (For that last group, it's a form of social media where people make posts of no more than 140 characters—see www.twitter.com.)

Following the Twitter craze, we challenge you to dazzle us with a piece of writing that is no more than 140 characters (characters = letters, punctuation marks, and spaces). You may write on any topic and use any form—fiction, nonfiction, or poetry. As Strunk and White say, "Vigorous writing is concise."

Here's an example, a work of "microfiction" by Ana Maria Shua:

I have nothing against fried eggs. They're the ones who look at me with amazement, terrified, wide-eyed.

The winning entry will be published in the next Gotham catalog and online at WritingClasses.com. The author will receive a free 10-Week Writing Workshop. And we'll also post some of the leading entries on Gotham's Twitter page: www.twitter.com/gothamwriters.

To Enter

Write about any topic in 140 characters or less. Enter online at WritingClasses.com/twitter. See WritingClasses.com/twitter for complete rules. Entries must be submitted or postmarked by Sept. 21, 2009, and will not be returned. GWW reserves the right to publish the winning entry in printed and electronic formats. Limit one entry per person.

Summer 2009 Contest Winner

100 Word Contest

Doorstep

by David Poplar, Philadelphia, PA

I only slept with her twice, so I didn't want to jump to conclusions. Who knows how the roses ended up at my doorstep.

Afraid to invite them in, I kicked them to the sidewalk below. It had only been three weeks. It couldn't have been her.

At the restaurant that evening, she asked me if I liked her gift. Suppressing my surprise, I told her I loved it and just how I intended to thank her.

It wasn't until we were within sight of my doorstep that I realized going back to my place wasn't such a good idea.

Runners-Up

George Kulz of Cumberland, RI and Willa Hogarth of Sapphire Beach, Australia. View their entries at WritingClasses.com/100words.

Reading Fiction

From The Fiction Writer's Point Of View

To excel at writing fiction one must do two things in abundance: write and read. Painters typically learn their craft by studying the work of masters, and most accomplished writers do the same. Who better to show you the ropes of great fiction writing than such teachers as Anton Chekhov, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Jhumpa Lahiri? Who better to inspire you to new heights?

In this course, you will learn the craft of writing by studying works of great fiction. Each week focuses on an aspect of fiction craft in relation to a story, or stories, read by the class. Like works of fine art, these stories are analyzed from every angle in a way that is instructive, inspiring, and entertaining.

Students will read a mix of short stories, novellas, and novels—classic and contemporary. Many of the stories come from the Gotham Writers' Workshop anthology, *Fiction Gallery*. The reading list varies each term, allowing students to take the course repeatedly.

Among the works discussed this term: Joseph O'Neill's *Netherland*, the rapturously reviewed novel that mingles post-9/11 New York, cricket, and a Gatsby-like central figure. (Even Obama read it.)

If you seek to excel at fiction, let those who have been there show the way.

6-Week Workshop

- Reading and analyzing great works of fiction
- Lectures on the craft of fiction
- Weekly writing exercises

Reading Fiction is for anyone who wants to study the craft of fiction, and it's a perfect companion to a Fiction or Novel Writing class. Though the class is designed for writers, the curious reader is also welcome.

Online Classes - 6 Weeks

Available 24 hours a day at WritingClasses.com

Sept. 8 - Oct. 20 . . . RF482d09-6W-1

Oct. 20 - Dec. 1 . . . RF482d09-6W-2

Tuition and Important Notes

- Tuition \$295. No discounts except Reading Fiction/Film Analysis Discount, described below.
- Registration Fee \$25 (waived for add'l classes same term).
- Each class strictly limited to 20 students, ages 18 and up
- Online classes consist of 6 week-long classes accessible 24 hours a day.

Special Offer—50% Discount on Reading Fiction

Take any 10-Week Writing class and Reading Fiction in the same term and pay only \$147.50 for Reading Fiction—a 50% discount.

Related Classes

How To Get Published, p. 19

Fiction Writing, p. 5, 26

Character Development, p. 27

Dialogue Writing, p. 27

"The readings were excellent examples of each craft element. I saw books I'd read before in new ways, and was introduced to new writers I'd never heard of. The lectures were in-depth and worthy of saving for deeper understanding down the line. Excellent class."

— Karen Aschenbach
Writer/Editor

"I learned how to write with a reader in mind—to write with clarity and continuity. I learned that writing is a continual learning process, constantly evolving as we develop ideas and master techniques."

— Marcy Roberts
Customer Service Manager

"This course got in-depth with the elements of craft in a way that I hadn't experienced before. It will really inform my writing."

— Abby Caran
Copywriter

"Through the course, I have become more aware as a reader. I can still enjoy a good story, yet my attention is now more focused on exactly what is making something work."

— Blair Kraft
MIS Administrator