

English Studies Camp 2022 Session Descriptions

S1 - The Stage Life of Words

This session provides an opportunity to explore the craft of the playwright and delve into the possibilities of stage storytelling. We will engage in exercises to deepen our understanding of the practice of theater and learn techniques for putting language into *play* --- all while creating individual ten-minute Sketches.

S2 - A Novel Idea: How to Get Started, Keep Writing, & Learn about the Book-Publishing Biz

Intended for aspiring novelists, this session will help students tackle large-scale writing projects. From lessons on writing, revising, and marketing strategies to honest discussion about the publishing industry and trends in fiction writing, this course will arm writers with information about how a novel actually reaches readers in this current era.

S3 - Feminist Adaptations: Re-Envisioning Films from Marginalized Points of View

In this class we will look at adaptations that take a marginalized point of view. The project for the class would be to have the students write a short adaptation (a monologue) of a text they know from a different point of view than the dominant one--or to write an adaptation that in some way acts as a commentary on the "original."

S4 - A Brief Intro to Improv and Sketch Comedy

Want to flex your funny bone? In this session, we'll get warmed up with some basic improv games. Then, you'll be introduced to a template for sketch writing. (Think *SNL*, *Portlandia*, or *Key and Peele*.) In addition to exploring a few different genres and features of comedic writing, we'll collaborate in small groups to develop a few short sketches and learn how to shine a spotlight on the absurdity of everyday situations, contexts, and characters.

S5 - Music and Allusion: Examining Taylor Swift's Role

In this session, we will explore the idea of allusions and how artists skillfully add them into music and album covers. More importantly, we will look at how Taylor Swift skillfully incorporates allusions in some of her popular songs such as "Look What You Made Me Do" and "Love Story" showcasing how music can have more than one meaning. At the end of this session, students will have the chance to write their own song, poem, or album cover incorporating the use of allusion.

S6 – Poetry and Spoken Word

This session will include an overview of poetic forms that students may be less familiar with including, but not limited to, erasure/blackout poetry, found poetry, visual poetry, haiku sonnets, ekphrastic poetry, free verse poetry, and spoken word. We will view examples from Button Poetry for the spoken word poems and examples from books and websites for the other forms. After analyzing the examples for a bit, students will practice writing their own poems. Those who are comfortable with sharing can share theirs and ask for feedback if they want it, or we can split into smaller groups to do mini workshops if time allows.

S7 – Fighting Environmental Injustice and Racism with Words and Images

In this session we will explore environmental injustice and racism and an environmental justice movement arguing “that nature is not only found in ‘wilderness,’ but also in the places where we live, work, and play” (Greta Gaard). Led primarily by women across races, classes, and sexualities, the environmental justice movement marks a worldwide grassroots effort merging intersectional social justice with environmental concerns. After watching documentaries about the movement and reading calls to action from its leaders, we will work together to create our own multi-genre texts and join the fight against environmental injustice and racism in the places where we live.

S8 – Creative Writing: An Exploration of Genre

This session is intended for writers who want to explore writing in multiple genres, and get a sense of what it means to be a fiction writer, a non-fiction writer, a poet, and a playwright. In this session, students will learn about four genres of creative writing, including fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, and drama, by engaging with written work and developing short form works of their own. Students will choose a genre that fits them best, and will spend time developing their own polished, original piece.

S9 – Folklore and Fears

In this session, we will explore the history of folklore monsters, such as the zombie, and how the evolution and adaptations of such tales represent the cultural fears of the era. We will look at print, film, and tv examples as we track how no matter how advanced societies become, our monsters never quite leave us.