

Steamboat Springs High School

WRITERS' WORKSHOP *Summer Assignment* *for* *2009-2010*

What To Expect In Class:

- The class is designed for those who like to write and want to improve their writing. ***Writers' Workshop*** is about you and your growth as a writer. To that end, you will need to bring a notebook with **standard college-ruled** paper and **pen** to class everyday.
- Since the course is intended to be a student-centered workshop, we will write and discuss writing each class period.
- You will have the opportunity to share your work with the class in both small groups and large, as that process of exchanging observations and ideas about your writing and that of other students is an invaluable tool for growth.
- Obviously the **process of sharing** what we write **requires** a certain **level of maturity** and may not appeal to the 'faint of heart.'
- **A further cautionary note: if you struggle with the simple mechanics of writing, this might not be the class for you.**

Writing Possibilities To Be Explored In Class & On Your Own:

- ✓ Writing personal stuff
- ✓ Writing poems and songs
- ✓ Writing one-act plays, radio scripts, etc.
- ✓ Writing scripts for the Video Production class to transform into film
- ✓ Writing articles for popular magazines, sport, fashion, style, food, cars, etc.
- ✓ Writing memories and dreams
- ✓ Writing for newspapers, stories, editorials, movie reviews, etc.
- ✓ Writing family and friends stories
- ✓ Writing for college
- ✓ Developing style and exploring narrative voice(s), dialogue, perspective, etc.
- ✓ Writing something out of nothing
- ✓ Other ideas

Over the Summer:

Write at least **four** pieces (**minimum of two typed pages each**) to bring to class for sharing the first week that we meet in the fall. As well, please keep a **writers' notebook** over the summer for jotting down your thoughts, feelings, experiences, events, people, places, ideas, conversations, etc. I will ask to look at your **writers' notebook** the first week of class. If you're stumped about something to start with, take a look at these several suggestions and try developing three or four of them:

OVER

Steamboat Springs High School

- ❖ Write about “leaving”
- ❖ Write about “facing the sea”
- ❖ Write about the stars
- ❖ Write about secret places
- ❖ Write about physical endurance
- ❖ Write about people you have loved
- ❖ Write about your first memory
- ❖ Write about the streets of your town
- ❖ Write about a grandparent
- ❖ Write about the closest you ever felt to God or nature
- ❖ Write about the most frightened you’ve ever been
- ❖ Write about a dream

Don’t be cautious or abstract; there is **no one right way** to do this. Write what is real, be honest, and use lively verbs and vivid adjectives. Once you’ve written one piece in first person, see what happens when you write it in third person.

SUMMER READING Purpose: To keep your brain stimulated by the printed word, to acquaint you with other people who write professionally, and to demystify the writing process.

You should **purchase, read, highlight, and write in at least ONE** of the following books about writing and writers, as many of our ideas in class will be taken from several of these sources:

- Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*
- Will Blythe (ed.), *Why I Write: Thoughts on the Craft of Fiction*
- Marie Arana (ed.), *The Writing Life*
- Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker’s Creek*
- John Darnton (ed.), *Writers On Writing: Essays from the NY Times*
- Frank Conroy (ed.), *The Eleventh Draft*

Additionally, you will find the handbook by Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*, to be a valuable reference tool.

I will be out of town for a good portion of June, but if you have questions about the course, feel free to call my cell #: 819.5062 or send me an email: sconlon@sssd.k12.co.us Have a great (writing) summer!

Mrs. Conlon

OVER