

Kidd Tutorial Program

2009-2010 Core Texts

Fall Term

A FEW ANOINTED ONES: the place we start

Essential Questions: *How do we read as writers? How do writers observe, interpret, and represent the world? How do writers respond to and learn from other writers?*

Creative Nonfiction

E.B. White: "Once More to the Lake" and **James Baldwin:** "Notes of a Native Son"

Virginia Woolf: "Death of a Moth" and **Annie Dillard:** "Living Like Weasels"

Vivian Gornick: "The Situation and the Story" (craft)

***suggested craft topics:** language, sentence construction, what the writer has come to say/wisdom gained, structure

Short Fiction

Flannery O'Connor: "Writing Short Stories" & "A Good Man is Hard to Find,"

Raymond Carver: "Where I'm Calling From," and **Bret Lott:** "Before We Get Started" (craft)

Anton Chekhov: "The Lady and the Dog" & "On Technique in Writing a Short Story";

Richard Ford: "Why We Like Chekhov"; **Alice Munro:** "Five Points" & "What is Real?"

James Joyce: "The Dead"; **Richard Bausch:** "What Feels Like the World," and

Charles Baxter: "Staging" (craft)

John Barth: "Incremental Perturbations" (craft); **Amy Bloom:** "Silver Water," and

Alice Walker: "Roselily"

***suggested craft topics:** character development, structure, plot, objective correlative, staging, word choice

Poetry

Kim Addonizio & Dorianne Laux: "Writing and Knowing" from *The Poet's Companion* and **Gjertrud Schnackenberg:** "1. Nightfishing," "2. Intermezzo,"

"3. Walking Home," "4. A Dream"

Robert Frost: "The Figure a Poem Makes" and any one of "The Oven Bird,"

"Birches," "Out, Out—" or "The Mending Wall" and **Seamus Heaney:** "Digging"

T.S. Eliot: "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Pablo Neruda: "Ode to things," "Ode to the onion," and "Ode to a Saffron Finch"

Langston Hughes: "Soul Gone Home," "Suicide's Note," and "Theme for English B"

W.H. Auden: "Musée des Beaux Arts" and **William Carlos Williams:** "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus," (with Auden and Williams: Pieter Bruegel the Elder's painting, *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus* →

<http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/bruegel/icarus.jpg>)

***Suggested craft topics:** Sound and Meaning, Ekphrasis, Ars Poetica, The Poetic Speaker

For All Writers

Francine Prose: “Close Reading”

Ellen Bryant Voigt: “Rethinking Adjectives” from *The Flexible Lyric*

IMAGINATION & MEMORY: writing from your own experience

Essential Question: *How do writers craft personal experience and knowledge into literature?*

Creative Nonfiction

David Bradley: “The Faith,” **Laurie Lynn Drummond:** “Girl, Fighting,” and

Bret Lott: “Toward a Definition of Creative Nonfiction” (craft)

Thomas Lynch: “The Undertaking” and **Brent Staples:** “The Coroner’s Photographs”

Brenda Miller: “Table of Figures” and **Harrison Fletcher:** “White”

* **Suggested craft topics:** expensiveness and self-implication, narrative spine & structure, research and information, scenes, reflection and exploration

Fiction

Tim O’Brien: “How to Tell A True War Story” & “The Things They Carried”; **Peter Taylor:** “The Gift of the Prodigal”; & **C. J. Hribal:** “The Scene Beast is Hungry” (craft)

Sandra Cisneros: “My Lucy Friend Who Smells Like Corn,” **Jamaica Kincaid:** “Girl,”

Julia Orringer: “Pilgrims,” and **Tobias Wolff:** “Powder”

Edward P. Jones: “The Night Rhonda Ferguson Was Killed” and **Charles Baxter:** “Creating a Scene”

* **Suggested craft topics:** child narrators, scene, details that reveal character/meaning/desire, repetition, exposition versus scene, First Person POV, monologue, voice.

Poetry

Elizabeth Bishop: “At the Fishhouses” and **Deborah Digges:** “Ancestral Lights”

Yusef Komunyakaa: “Facing It,” “My Father’s Love Letters”

and **Li-Young Lee:** “The Gift”

Heather McHugh: “Etymological Dirge,” **Sharon Bryan:** “Bass, Bass,”

and **Gjertrud Schnackenberg:** “Supernatural Love” (all 3 together)

Henri Cole: “Mimosa Sensitiva”; **Agha Shahid Ali:** “A Call,”

and **Jack Gilbert:** “Married”

Tony Hoagland: “Fear of Narrative and the Skittery Poem of Our Moment”

Linda Gregg: “The Art of Finding”

***Suggested craft topics:** Poetic Compression, Poetic Syntax, Metonymic Substitution

Winter Term

WHERE WE'RE WRITING FROM: Place, Setting, Landscape, Nature

Essential Questions: *How do place and landscape affect craft? How do writers establish the tenets of a piece through place and landscape? How is a character shaped and revealed through the use of setting and/or place?*

Creative Nonfiction

Philip Gerard: "What They Don't Tell You About Hurricanes"

Naomi Shihab Nye: "Thank You in Arabic"

Barry Lopez: "Landscape and Narrative"

Brian Doyle: "Joyas Voladoras"

Kim Barnes: "Work"

* **Suggested craft topics:** structure, accrual of meaning, repetition

Fiction

Isaac Babel: "Crossing into Poland"

Andre Dubus: "A Father's Story"

Benjamin Percy: "Refresh Refresh"

Elizabeth Stout: "Incoming Tide"

Charles Baxter: "Counterpointed Characterization" (craft)

John Dufresne: "Let's Talk, He Said" (craft)

* **Suggested craft topics:** accrual of meaning, confessional/monologue, time, dialogue, telling details, style, time

William Gay: "I Hate to See That Evening Sun Go Down"

Lan Samantha Chang: "Eve of the Spirit Festival"

Junot Diaz: "Edison, New Jersey"

Poetry

Geri Doran: "Hurry, the Iowa Corn Fields" and "Blue Moon"

Garrett Hongo: "Village: Kahuku-mura"

Michael McGriff: "Coos Bay"

Natasha Trethewey: "South"

Craig Arnold: "The Invisible Birds of Central America"

W.B. Yeats: "Lake Isle of Innisfree"

Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux: "Poetry of Place" (craft)

***Suggested craft topics:** Catalog/Accrual of Meaning, Rhyme, Stanzas, Density of Sound

Walt Whitman: "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

Charles Wright: "Virginia Reel"

Robert Lowell: "Colloquy in Black Rock"

For All Writers

Janet Burroway: "Setting"

INHABITING OTHER VOICES & PERSPECTIVES: stepping outside our skin

Essential Questions: *How do writers craft identities beyond their personal experiences and craft believability & authenticity of emotion & voice outside of their own skin?*

Fiction

Adam Johnson: “Trauma Plate” & “Revising *Trauma Plate*,” Tobias Wolff: “Bullet in the Brain,” Adam Haslett: “Devotion,” and revisit Strout’s “Incoming Tide”

Ryan Harty: “Why the Sky Turns Red When the Sun Goes Down,” Karen Russell: “St. Lucy’s Home for Girls Raised by Wolves,” and Ron Carlson: “Bigfoot Stole My Wife” and “I Am Bigfoot”

* **Suggested craft topics:** POV, Speculative Fiction, Secondary Characters

Poetry

Gwendolyn Brooks: “The Sundays of Satin-Legs Smith” (with a revisiting of Eliot’s “The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock”)

Sylvia Plath: “Lady Lazarus” & “Tulips”

Ai: “The Calling,” and “The Good Shepard: Atlanta, 1981”

Robert Hayden: “[American Journal]”

Tyehimba Jess: “Father”

Frederico Garcia Lorca: “The Duende”

***Suggested craft topics:** Dramatic Monologue, Producing Poetic Drama, Voice & Tone

Philip Larkin: “Church Going”

James Wright: “Saint Judas”

Louise Glück: “Lamium” & “Snowdrops”

Ai: “Lullaby”

Spring Term

THE WRITER IN THE WORLD: responding to the world

Essential Questions: *How do writers interpret and respond to trauma and violence in the world? How does a writer function as a witness, a mirror, a canary to/for society? How are writers activists?*

Creative Nonfiction

Jo Ann Beard: “The Fourth State of Matter” and Philip Lopate: “On the Necessity of Turning Oneself into a Character”
Brian Doyle: “Leap”

Fiction

Susan Sontag: “The Way We Live Now”
Eudora Welty: “Where is the Voice Coming From?” and Doris Betts: “Killers Real & Imagined (Eudora Welty on the murder of Medgar Evers)”
Norman Rush: “Near Pala”

Poetry

Anthony Hecht: “The Book of Yolek”
Natasha Trethewey: “Incident” & “Native Guard” and Countee Cullen: “Incident”
Naomi Shihab Nye: “Blood”
Richard Hugo: “The Freaks at Spurgin Road Field”
***Suggested craft topics for poets:** The Villanelle (Hugo), The Sestina (Hecht), The Sonnet (Trethewey), the use of Form vs. Free Verse, Revision

FOCUS ON REVISION

Poets

Ellen Bryant Voigt: “A Moment’s Thought” & Elizabeth Bishop’s “One Art” (craft)
Frost: “In White” and “Design”
William Carlos Williams: “Locust Tree” (2 versions)
Richard Tillinghast: “Household Economy, Ruthlessness, Romance, and the Art of Hospitality” (craft)
Lynn Emanuel: “In Praise of Malice: Thoughts on Revision” (craft)

Fiction Writers

Raymond Carver: “Bath” and “A Small Good Thing”
ZZ Packer: “Drinking Coffee Elsewhere” and “Line Editing”
Jesse Lee Kercheval: “Revision” (craft)