



WRITERS' BOOT CAMP with Author Linda Cardillo

Coaching and Writing Practice
Six Structured Sessions to Kick-Start Your Writing
Friday Evenings from July 8 to August 12

\$30 per person
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Contact Bodacious Books and Baubles
225 Shaker Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

WEEK ONE: THE WRITING PROCESS: TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR DEVELOPING DISCIPLINE AS A WRITER

In the early days of my writing life, I believed I had to wait for the muse to land on my shoulder and whisper in my ear before I could begin. I did a lot of waiting, until I realized that to be a writer, I had to write. No matter what. Learn how to understand your creative process, overcome writer's block, establish a writing "habit" and fill the well.

WEEK TWO: BUILDING STRONG, VIBRANT CHARACTERS

Understanding what a character *wants* is our first challenge in shaping a story; but one of the ideals that has guided writers for nearly a century was described by Strunk in *The Elements of Style*: "The surest way to arouse and hold the attention of the reader is by being specific, definite and concrete." Truly knowing our characters starts with being open to their voices in our heads, but where do we go from there? Learn how to bring your characters to life with the telling detail.

WEEK THREE: STORY FORM AND PLOTTING

Great storytelling puts readers on the edge of their seats, eager to know "what happens next." Explore different ways of defining story form—thwarted desire, external vs. internal conflict, connection and disconnection—and discover how to intensify what is at stake so that the reader continues to turn the page.

WEEK FOUR: FINDING YOUR WRITER'S VOICE

Your writer's voice is as distinctive as your fingerprint or the pattern of your iris. It is an expression of "you" in a deeply personal and visceral way. But as writers we often flounder trying to achieve a distinctive voice. Rather than seeking to capture your voice, come discover how to set it free. Explore the roles perception, memory and emotional honesty play in developing and refining your unique voice as a writer.

WEEK FIVE: SETTING—CREATING A FICTIONAL TIME AND PLACE

Donald Maass argues that a story's setting is not simply "scenery" but "a vital force in which the characters move." Gain an understanding of both the functions of setting and the key elements that define it—time period, duration, geographic location and the historical and social forces that ground a story.

WEEK SIX: LANGUAGE—SHOWING VS. TELLING/MECHANICS/REVISION

As writers, words are our raw materials—the stone and wood and mud with which we construct our stories. Strengthen your skills and hone your language to convey deeply experienced emotion and vivid images that resonate with readers.