



Course details

Course title

Literature: 'Keeping It Brief': a study of shorter forms in literature

Course code

Q00020800

Course date

Start: 17/01/25

End: 28/03/25

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Fri 17th Jan, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 24th Jan, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 31st Jan, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 7th Feb, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 14th Feb, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 21st Feb, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 7th Mar, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 14th Mar, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 21st Mar, 13:30 to 15:30

Fri 28th Mar, 13:30 to 15:30

Tutor

Clare Jackson

Fee:

Free

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

Quaker Meeting House (Newcastle-Under-Ly
Earl House
2 Miller Street
Newcastle-Under-Lyme
ST5 1QJ

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

What happens when an author decides to 'keep it brief'? How does writing in shorter forms affect their decisions? How much is a shorter text an act of creative play, and how much an act of deliberate restraint? In this course we will be focusing primarily on the short story and its development: to do this, we will be working on tales from 'The Penguin Book of the British Short Story from Daniel Defoe to John Buchan'. We shall also be reading together shorter verse forms and reflecting on their power, their concision and the skills required to write with fewer words. This is a progression/advanced course.

Course description

Literature can be experimental and playful, searching and profound. In this course, we will be discussing literature which is short in length! As a basis for this course, we will be drawing primarily from the fascinating collection 'The Penguin Book of the British Short Story from Daniel Defoe to John Buchan'. Using this text as our springboard, we will be discussing a range of short stories written over time, including authors such as Daniel Defoe and Viola Meynell. Learners will need to bring their own copy of the text to each session. We will also be reading and discussing together shorter forms of poetry from haiku to the sonnet, and examples of shorter drama. Keeping it brief presents authors with particular decisions to make. What are they to include and what are they to miss out? How do they compress their writing whilst also expressing their key ideas or emotions convincingly and deeply? How much is writing in shorter forms a type of game or puzzle, and does this affect the quality of the text positively or negatively? How much work do writers make the reader do? Sharing our ideas together promises many discoveries and delights.

This is a progression/advanced course.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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