



Writing Fiction

Voice, Style and Wonder.

Name of Course Adult - Writing Fiction	Start Date September 20th 2025	Awarding Body Sahab Collective Writing Academy
Tuition Time 12 three-hour sessions	Finish Date December 6th 2025	Location Al Safa Design & Art Library
Independent Study Time Seven hours	Date of final Submission March 2026	Fees AED 2,500
Entry requirements A willingness to share your work, engage with others' writing, and participate actively. We value a commitment to collaboration, community, and creativity.	Outcome Certificate of completion, publication in <i>Sahab Collective Journal</i>, 5,000 word original submission, and a critical commentary	Ages 18+

Contact Details	Fees	Ethics
Telephone +971 585724225	In-person AED 2,500	All efforts have been made to ensure that materials and discussions are in line with the values of our host nation.
Email info@sahabcollective.com	Payment Writers may register for the full course, a five-session bundle, or individual sessions.	Course participants are reminded of their duties to other members of the Collective. All members adhere to a positive spirit of collaboration.
Website www.sahabcollective.com	Available Discounts 20% discount when the full course is purchased.	Compliance with Sahab Collective's ethics ensure continued membership and inclusion in the <i>Sahab Collective Journal</i>.
Course Leader Louis Garratt		

Motivation	Experience	In-person
Are you drawn to storytelling, reflection, or creative experimentation? This course is for writers who want to express themselves, develop their voice, and take their craft seriously. Whether you're writing fiction, memoir, or something in between, we welcome those who want to write with purpose—and in community.	You may be returning to writing after time away, or seeking structure for a project already in progress. What matters most is your curiosity, commitment, and willingness to engage. We support writers at all levels, and shape the course around each group's needs and interests.	Sessions take place in a creative, collaborative space in Dubai. With access to shared tables, readings, and peer dialogue, this setting is designed to help adult writers grow their work through conversation, structure, and presence. You'll be part of a collective where writing is both a private craft and a shared act.
Apply for the Academy		



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Course Overview

The literature courses of the Sahab Writing Academy are designed to help participants develop their potential as writers. The courses are delivered by published authors and educational specialists.

At Sahab Collective, we believe writing fiction is both a craft and a conversation. Our twelve-week course is designed for adults who are serious about producing literary fiction that connects, challenges, and endures. Here, writing is not an act of isolation but of communication—an art that begins with intention and comes alive in the presence of readers.

Guided by an experienced educator and published author, this workshop invites participants to explore the structures, voices, and theories that shape contemporary storytelling. Through academic inquiry, literary analysis, and close practice, each session leads participants through rigorous discussion, sustained reading, and constructive peer critique.

This is not just a writing course. It is a studio for developing consequence on the page. You will study short and long forms, dissect narrative architecture, and explore how desire, perspective, and voice shape a reader's experience. Whether you are writing realism, fantasy, or experimental fiction, our course equips you to write with precision, awareness, and artistic integrity.

You will:

- Engage with literary and theoretical perspectives that deepen the craft of fiction—from Bakhtin's dialogism to Kristeva's intertextuality, from Freud's interior landscapes to Barthes' reader-response.
- Analyse how writers such as Virginia Woolf, Toni Morrison, and Italo Calvino construct character, time, and emotion through language.
- Learn to design narrative structure, refine voice, and create fiction that invites, challenges, and rewards the reader.
- Produce a polished manuscript extract, a critical reflection, and prepare your work for submission or publication.
- Join a vibrant community of writers committed to literary practice, collaboration, and shared readership.

In line with Sahab Collective's ethos, this course is rooted in the belief that writing flourishes through community and critical engagement. Writers will build an industry-standard portfolio, with eligible work published in the Sahab Collective Journal and presented at seasonal events.

Whether you are an emerging author, educator, or writer returning to your craft, this course offers both the structure and reflection needed to move from private intention to public authorship.

At Sahab, we believe you do not need more motivation—you need readers. This course provides them.

Programme

Session 1 September 20th
The Hidden Adult

Session 2 September 27th
Building Characters

Session 3 October 4th
Nonsense & Play

Session 4 October 11th
Short Storytelling

Session 5 October 11^{8^h}
Breaking the Rule

Session 6 October 25th
Building Suspense

Session 7 November 1st
Global Narratives

Session 8 November 8th
Writing for Change

Session 9 November 15th
Imagining Futures

Session 10 November 22nd
The Natural World

Session 11 November 29th
The Uncanny

Session 12 December 6th
The Sound of Words

**End of year celebration scheduled
aacross the Collective**

January

Private Workshop 1: A focus on prose

February

Private Workshop 2: A focus on the critical commentary

March

Final submission Deadline

June

Season showcase of submissions

**Dates are subject to change based on
participation**

**Private workshops must be booked
two weeks in advance.**



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	Core Texts	Watch/Short-Reads	Additional
Session 1 September 20th The Hidden Adult	<i>The Little Prince</i> - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry	<i>The Tiger Who Came To Tea</i> - Judith Kerr	<i>The Little Prince</i> - Antoine de Saint Exupéry
Session 2 September 27th Building Characters	<i>Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine</i> - Gail Honeyman	<i>Elmer</i> - David McKee	<i>Piranesi</i> - Susanna Clarke
Session 3 October 4th Nonsense & Play	<i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> - Salman Rushdie	<i>Rhyming Dust Bunnies</i> - Jan Thomas	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> - Lewis Carrol
Session 4 October 11th Short Storytelling	<i>Custom Shorts</i> - Compiled by Sahab	<i>Where's Spot</i> - Eric Hill	<i>How to Pronounce Knife</i> – Souvankham Thammavongsa
Session 5 October 18th Breaking the Rules	<i>Grief is the Thing with Feathers</i> - Max Porter	<i>Press Here</i> - Hervé Tullet	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> - Sandra Cisneros
Session 6 October 25th Building Suspense	<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i> - Trenton Lee Stewart	<i>Goodnight Gorilla</i> - Peggy Rathmann	<i>Death Sets Sail</i> - Robin Stevens
Session 7 November 1st Global Narratives	<i>The Bridge Home</i> - Padma Venkatraman	<i>Hats of Faith</i> - Medeia Cohan	<i>Inside Out & Back Again</i> – Thanhha Lai
Session 8 November 8th Writing for Change	<i>Refugee</i> – Alan Gratz	<i>A is for Activist</i> - Innosanto Nagara	<i>Ghost Boys</i> - Jewell Parker
Session 9 November 15th Imagining Futures	<i>The Giver</i> – Lois Lowry	<i>Oh No!</i> - Mac Barnett	<i>The Wild Robot</i> – Peter Brown
Session 10 November 22nd The Natural World	<i>The Secret Garden</i> – Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>The Lost Words</i> - Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris	<i>Journey to the River Sea</i> – Eva Ibbotson
Session 11 November 29th The Uncanny	<i>We Were Liars</i> – E. Lockhart	<i>The Dark</i> - Lemony Snicket	<i>The Graveyard Book</i> - Neil Gaiman
Session 12 December 6th The Sound of Words	<i>Punching the Air</i> - Ibi Zoboi and Yusuf Salaam	<i>More Than Words</i> - Roz MacLean	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> - Jacqueline Woodson

Availability

All works are available in the United Arab Emirates, either at bookstores such as Kinokuniya, online through major retailers, or as e-books via app stores. The short-reads can be found on Youtube.

Suitability

All efforts have been made to ensure that the materials align with the values of our host nation. If any part of the content does not reflect this, please inform us promptly so we can make adjustments.

Expectations

Reading the core texts will ensure writers are equipped to contribute to discussion and gain the most from the programme. Additional texts are recommended for those wishing to deepen their insight.



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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost of the course?

The course fee is AED 2,500.

What's included?

- 12 in-person seminar sessions (3 hours each).
- A curated academic reading pack shared weekly, and a reading list of selected fiction.
- Two private workshopping sessions with personalised feedback.
- An opportunity for publication in the Sahab Collective Journal, provided the following are met:
 - A final creative piece and accompanying critical commentary are submitted.
 - The work is respectful and culturally appropriate within the context of the UAE
 - Active participation in the course community

What's not included?

Participants are expected to provide their own writing materials and to source the recommended fictional texts independently. Reading these is strongly encouraged in order to fully engage in discussions and maximise the benefit of each session.

What's the idea behind this course?

This is the course we wish we had when we began our creative journeys: an alternative to a university-led MA in creative writing, with the same depth of academic engagement and the added intimacy of a committed creative community. Rooted in the mission of Sahab Collective—to empower artists through collaboration and critical growth—the Writing Academy is designed to feel like a professional and personal home for your writing.

Is this the right course for me?

This course is for you if:

- You want to be part of a thoughtful and supportive community
- You're ready to invest time in your growth as a writer
- You're open to collaboration and peer feedback
- You're serious about refining your voice, craft, and purpose

How much time should I expect to commit each week?

Each weekly seminar runs for three hours. In addition, you should plan for around seven hours of independent work per week. This includes reading assigned texts, writing your own creative work, and preparing for in-class discussions and workshops.

Where does the course take place?

Sessions are held at Al Safa Art & Design Library, within the activities hall and auditorium. For those who cannot attend in person, an online format is available.

Will I receive accreditation?

Upon completion, participants receive a certificate of completion. If your final creative piece is submitted and accepted for publication in the Sahab Collective Journal, you'll also be invited to present your work and reflect on your process at a seasonal showcase event, where you'll receive a published copy of the journal.

What are the objectives of the course?

The course aims to:

- Develop your literary voice and stylistic confidence.
- Provide a platform for publication.
- Enable you to critically position your work alongside contemporary children's literature.
- You'll complete a 5,000-word creative piece and a reflective commentary, equipping you with material suitable for submissions to agents or further development into a novel.

I'm not sure what kind of writing I want to pursue—picture books or young adult fiction!

This course is perfect for you. We explore the full spectrum of children's literature—from picture books to young adult fiction—so you can discover your natural fit or expand your interests. A broad foundation often leads to more confident, purposeful writing.

I'm already published or have an agent. Is this course still worth it?

That depends on what you're hoping to achieve. If you're seeking time, structure, and a stimulating community to deepen your practice, expand your critical perspective, or begin a new project with fresh energy, then this course offers tremendous value. It's a space to grow—whether you're just beginning or looking to recalibrate as a writer.