

Course Description: **Effective Writing and Storytelling** Grades 9-12, 2023-24

In this class, students will explore the fundamentals of effective writing and engaging story-craft, as taught by a professional ghostwriter. In addition, they will acquire the skills needed to surmount university-level writing assignments.

The class has four discrete sections: storytelling, effective writing, university preparation, and the culmination. In storytelling, students learn about plot, character, and story structure through Brandon Sanderson's lecture series, in-class discussion, and journaling assignments—crafting several of their own stories along the way. In the section on effective writing, students utilize *Steering the Craft*, *Elements of Style*, and their chosen book to complete the associated journaling assignments and quizzes, honing their ability to communicate effectively. In college preparation, students learn MLA format, citations, essay composition, and argumentation by creating a short research-based paper. Finally, in the culmination of the class, students bring all these new skills together and craft a final work of fiction, engaging in peer-review with their fellow students and the teacher, revising their work, and ending the course with a piece of portfolio-ready writing.

A weekly assignment plan will be provided, though students are welcome to work ahead if they wish.

Required Texts

- *Steering the Craft: A Twenty-First-Century Guide to Sailing the Sea of Story*, Ursula K. Le Guin - \$11
- *The Elements of Style*, Strunk and White - \$6
- One book of choice which the student enjoys and has already read (must be over 100 pages) - ??
- Brandon Sanderson's lecture series on Youtube - free

Cost of class does not include supplies or texts.

Teacher: Mr. Nathan Applebaum

Cost: \$400/year

60 min. class

Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 pm, at Chesterfield Presbyterian Church

9Up Student orientation: Aug. 10, 2023 Time TBA

Fall semester:* Aug. 17, 2023 to Nov. 17, 2023

***Please note: 9Up semesters are**

Winter semester:* Jan. 11, 2024 to April 18, 2024

longer than those for K-8 HSN.

This class will be cancelled if it does not reach a minimum of 8 students.

Mr. Appelbaum is a graduate of Truman State with a BFA in Creative Writing who works as a ghostwriter for several publishing companies, crafting books of fiction, fantasy, and fun. He is a working author who aims to equip students with the real-world skills they need to communicate effectively, in college and beyond.

Supply List

- A perforated notebook for journaling assignments
- Writing implement of choice
- Access to a computer or laptop