

# Creative Writing with Mark Tredinnick

Crash course in creative writing and how to teach it

Friday 14 September 2018, 9.30am-3.30pm  
Sydney School of Education and Social Work



“Creative writing,” wrote E B White, “is communication by Revelation; it is the Self escaping onto the page.”

In literature each of us is all of us, and by asking more of language a writer finds out more about ourselves—about all ourselves.

Creative writing frees language—and frees and deepens the writer—from the usual, soul-denying constraints of functional and analytical writing. It proceeds, as E B White has it, by revealing first oneself to oneself, and then, to yourself and your readers, a little more of the truth of human nature and of the rest of the world in which we live our natures out; and creative writing proceeds by “Revelation”—scene by scene, object by object, moment by moment, self by self—rather than by summary and analysis, the modes in which other writing moves.

How do we invite students into the creative space? How do we allow them to feel, and feel entitled to, the courage they’ll need in order to bring out what is uniquely within each of them, and make a start on saying it on the page? It will help to understand more about the contrary nature of creativity itself; and it will help to learn a few of the disciplines of grace entailed in writing well—not just freewriting, but turning out sentences that do justice to the voice and being of the young ones who make them. There are creative practices, there are crafts, involved in such creative writing, and learning them helps a writer feel safe to let the Self escape. Learning them, helps a teacher work with their students to lead them deeper into creative expression.

#### For enquiries please contact:

Rachel Payne  
Office of Professional Learning  
Sydney School of Education and Social Work  
T +61 2 9351 8520  
E [rachel.payne@sydney.edu.au](mailto:rachel.payne@sydney.edu.au)

This workshop explores—in readings, in slides and provocations, in discussion and in writing exercises—these disciplines of grace. It opens a conversation about how to teach creative writing well.

To teach creative writing well, it also helps to know a little more about how creativity feels and what it asks of a writer, and Mark will speak from his experience as a poet, essayist and memoirist. It also helps to be writing creatively yourself, and to that end, Mark will use a prompt or two to invite you deeper into the idiom or yourself. Not only an acclaimed poet, Mark is the author of three books on the writing craft, and he’s taught creative (and functional) writing for twenty-something years. You’ll leave the workshop inspired and thinking differently about creative writing and how it’s made and how it might be inspired and workshopped into work that perpetuates art’s project and leads young people into lives that are, themselves, works of art (works of art we never reach the end of).

#### Registration & fees

\$297 per person (GST Incl). Includes workshop attendance, resources, morning tea and lunch.  
Register online by visiting: [http://sydney.nicheit.com.au/education\\_social\\_work/register.php?wsid=ws0784](http://sydney.nicheit.com.au/education_social_work/register.php?wsid=ws0784)

This workshop will be held at the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, Education Building, The University of Sydney.