

Go Write Now Course Information

Welcome to my courses.

I have written for most of my adult life. It's now time for me to put something back, to help others by teaching them everything I have learnt along the way.

I have developed courses that guide you and encourage you to write. These courses contain all the information I wish I had known when I was starting out.

My current courses are:

Go Write Now for children

Go Write Now memoir

Go Write Now poetry

You have enquired about writing for children.

I hope you will find something here that will assist you.

Janice

www.gowritenow.nz

Go Write Now for children

This course will suit busy people who need to be able to fit their assignments and their writing around other activities in their lives.

This course has modules that give you skills and knowledge, but more than half of each course's modules are selected by you, the student. You get to customise your course and choose what aspects of writing you want to develop.

Each module has assignments that give you the chance to apply your learning, and all work is assessed and commented on by, me, the course creator and tutor. I try to fit in with your needs.

The biggest difficulty for ALL writers is confidence. Writing, and sharing with others can seem such an exposing activity. I am here to support you, encourage you, and to give you confidence.

Before you start

Upfront you complete a questionnaire about your reasons for doing this course, your expectations and motivations. You tell me what writing you have done, why you want to complete the course, and what your goals are. Thus, before you start the course, I have a good idea of how best to enable you to write on the topic of your choice, and in your own style.

One to one communication with your tutor

During the course you have the opportunity to communicate with me on the phone or through email. I have discovered this to be important as such personal connection allows you to guide your own development.

If you want to continue working with me after the course is completed, this is easily arranged.

You'll be surprised how fast you will learn, how the clarity and originality of your work will improve, and how easily you will develop your own unique writing style.

This will all help you create the sorts of word pictures you want to achieve and significantly increase your chances of publication success if this is your goal.

Don't delay. The sooner you learn, the sooner you will be able to apply your training to all your writing.

About your tutor, Janice Marriott

Janice Marriott is an experienced writing teacher, manuscript assessor and mentor.

She has taught over 400 students in the last five years.

For two years in a row one of her students has won the StoryLines Joy Cowley Award for an unpublished script for a picture book.

She is a member of the NZ Association of Manuscript Assessors and The NZ Society of Authors (PEN).

She is a course creator of writing courses delivered by the New Zealand Institute of Business Studies.

She has been the moderator of Northtec's Creative Writing courses since 2006.

She has tutored and mentored for The Creative Hub, Auckland, and Katherine Mansfield House, Wellington.

She mentors and assesses manuscripts for NZ Society of Authors.

She has been on the selection panel choosing beginning writers for the NZSA mentor programme.

She has judged the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Awards 2011.

She is frequently asked to give workshops for both children and adults.

Her popularity as a tutor rests on her attention to detail, her precise and appropriate comments, her broad knowledge of the publishing industry, and her own career as an internationally successful writer.

“I enjoy equipping people with the skills they need to make their own stories and poems come alive. When a student finally feels they have been able to put into words something dear to their hearts I feel a great deal of satisfaction.”

She has been published in a wide range of genres by publishers in Europe, America, Australia and New Zealand.

She is a multi-award-winning internationally published writer of novels, plays, poems, gardening books, four books of memoir, short stories, radio plays, songs, TV scripts for Weta Workshops, literacy texts for educational publishers, non fiction texts, and advice for parents about preparing children for school. Janice has published particularly widely in the field of writing for children.

She has won the NZ Post Junior Fiction Award, Aim Senior Fiction Award, Aim Book of the Year and Esther Glen Medal for Fiction, and been a prizewinner in the Kevin Ireland Poetry Competition.

Janice has a Masters degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a teaching qualification.

Why do you want to write for children?

Writing for children is always fun.

Janice says, 'For myself I like writing about the extraordinary in ordinary daily life. I like to see the world through fresh eyes, the way a child sees it. I like the energy of children and their sense of humour. Even my non-fiction books for children have humour in them.'

Children never ever want to be bored.

Whether you plan to write young adult fiction, non-fiction, or picture books, this 7-module course will guide you through the process of writing clearly, freshly, and vividly for the child reader.

It will help you create the best child-friendly material you can, on the topic and in the style of your choice.

Flexible learning is the key.

What You Will Learn - Course Overview

3 modules are foundational and 4 you pick to suit yourself.

The three foundation modules help you to critique your work, organise your work, develop your writing style, and think about publication options. These modules will give you the knowledge and skills to achieve the sort of writing you dream of.

You choose 4 other modules that suit your interests, and allow you to specialise. You complete these modules when the foundations have been laid. Some of these are double modules.

This choice encourages you to follow your own path and write what you want to write.

In each module you will be asked to apply your learning by writing.

These assignments will be read and commented on by your tutor. The most important part of this course isn't contained in the course notes. It is the work you will write while you are taking the course, and the comments you will get back from your tutor about your writing.

By the end of the course you will have a body of work you will be proud of, and the confidence to continue adding to it.

Go Write Now for children foundation modules are:

Foundation Module 1
What shall I write about?

This module shows you how to develop ideas for stories. It will stimulate you to generate unique story ideas best suited to your own style. Successful writers are simply those who have found the stories inside themselves that only they can write.

Foundation Module 2
How to shape a plot

This module focuses on structure: what to put in, what to leave out, building to a climax, beginnings and endings, suspense, anticipation. I will show you how to get the reader hooked.

Foundation Module 3
Character building

This module shows you what sorts of characters children like to read about, and why. It will give you techniques to help you create memorable characters who will come alive on the page. Learn how to write realistic dialogue, how to describe characters without losing the momentum of the story, and how to write from your heart.

The modules from which you can pick and mix 4 are as follows:

Module 4
Choosing the best words

Develop your writing style. Learn to polish up your writing, make it lively and bouncy, the sort of unforgettable writing children enjoy.

Module 5
The world of children's writing

Here you will find everything you need to know about the next steps for your finished manuscripts. We will tell you about what assessors, agents, marketers, and publishers do, and how children's books are categorized, designed, published and sold in this fast-changing world.

Module 6

Picture books

This module will provide you with useful critiquing templates, characteristics common to picture books, examples, and an opportunity for you to receive feedback on a picture book manuscript you are starting.

Module 7

Short chapter books and junior novels

This module will provide you with useful critiquing templates, characteristics common to short fiction, examples, and an opportunity for you to receive feedback on a manuscript you are starting.

Module 8

Writing non fiction for children

Children are fascinated by the world around them. Non-fiction is the biggest-selling section of the children's publishing industry. Learn how to write clearly, simply, and to engage the young mind.

Module 9

Writing literacy texts for the schools' market.

Learn to write for children learning to read.

Module 10 and 11

Rhythm and Rhyme

This popular two-module block focuses on writing rhyming verse for children. Usually these texts are published as picture books. Many people write them, children adore them, but few writers know how to write them well. Learn how to write verse that is fresh, unique, and has that wow factor.

Module 12

Editing Your Work

The difference between ordinary writing and quality writing that holds the reader's attention is usually editing. Here is how to review your work, correct any mistakes, and remove any ambiguity. Checklists are provided to help you. It is always satisfying to bring out the best in your writing.

Logistics

Modules are supplied as pdfs via email one at a time so you concentrate on that one discipline. My students, who are people with busy lives, have found this to be the ideal way to achieve their best work. It means you put your energy into one area, concentrate, focus, and then move on to the next.

In each module you will be asked to apply your learning by writing.

You need to allow for between two to eight hours to complete these assignments. The time taken is often a balance between familiarity with the topic, other responsibilities, and the effort you put in.

These assignments are not mere technical exercises. They will all be opportunities for you to expand and hone your writing skills and will become part of your portfolio of creative work.

As with any skill, practice is an essential part of success. By the end of the course you will have a body of work you will be proud of, and the confidence to continue with it.

The most important part of this course is the work that you will write while you are taking the course, and the comments you will receive from your tutor.

All your writing during the course will be read and commented on by me, either on your electronic file itself or in a separate letter, or both.

The close and careful reading of your work, and the specific comments and suggestions you will receive, will help you improve your skills and motivate you to produce your best writing.

Endorsements

"Janice was a superb tutor: supportive and encouraging, but frank when necessary. She brings with her knowledge, wisdom and that knack of bringing out the best in people." Emma Vere Jones, winner, Storylines 2014 Joy Cowley Award for an unpublished picture book.

"I would thoroughly recommend Janice to anyone wanting to develop their skills as a writer."

Joy H Davidson, winner, Storylines 2015 Joy Cowley Award for an unpublished picture book.

"A great place for me to start as an introduction to writing for children. It was informative and Janice was really supportive as a tutor. My favourite aspect was the mixture of being 'thrown in the deep end' to give things a go while at the same time having some fun and seeing myself as a real writer. "

Kate Saunders

"Thank you for your top quality help. I felt it was supportive, honest, well founded and professional.

Mike Taylor

"This information is fantastic."

Dan Rodgers

"Thanks very much for this. I have been writing for the last two years but recently got stuck. I couldn't quite figure out what else it needed. So thank you. I am inspired and excited again."

Janice McKay

"Many thanks again for your detailed, specific feedback and for giving it in such an encouraging manner."

Linda Hanlon

"The tutorials will remain an invaluable reference throughout my children's writing career thanks to JM's excellent content and skilled construction of them."

'Such appreciation and thanks to JM for devising such a well-structured and detailed course, and for her pertinent tutorial comments. She has opened up the world of children's writing to me, which I will treasure as a lifelong gift.'

Allannah O'Sullivan

"Your tutoring changes peoples lives. THANK YOU so much."

"I'm so pleased I did this. It's really given me an alternative career option."

Registration Info

Students are advised to do the whole course in order to get the full advantages from their relationship with their tutor, and in order to learn everything there is to know that will improve any subsequent writing they do.

Each of the foundation modules builds on the lessons learnt in the prior module.

If you are unable to take the full course, however, it can be arranged for you to do a section of it. Email me about this possibility.

I hope you will join me and, by doing so, devote some of your precious time to developing your talent to its full potential.

Find information regarding course fees by emailing me.

Click here:

janice@gowritenow.nz

There is no time like the present to develop new skills.

Give yourself this gift.

Become a writer for children.

Janice