



CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Autscape 2019

Structure of the Workshop

- Mission Statement (1 Minute)
- Introduction to Flash Fiction (2 minutes)
- ‘Word Cricket’ Writing Exercise (7 minutes)
- Flash Fiction Examples: Reading and Discussion (15 minutes)
- Flash Fiction: Best Practice & Advice (2 minutes)
- ‘Opening Lines’ Writing Exercise (10 minutes)
- Distribution of Prompts (1 minute)
- Quiet Writing Time (15 minutes)
- Sharing work (only if you want to – last 5 minutes)



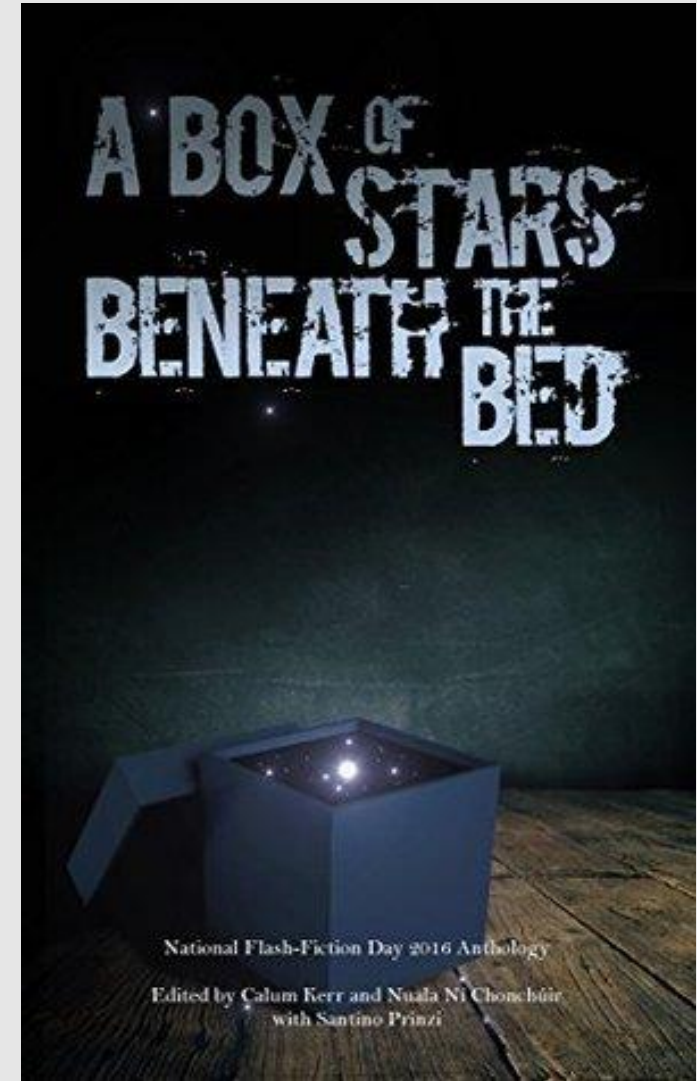
Mission Statement

I believe that everyone, regardless of who they are, where they are from, or how they think, can tell stories. Human beings are storytelling animals. All storytelling is valid and all stories deserve to be heard.

Never doubt your own ability to tell stories.

Flash Fiction

- Very short story
- Between 100-1000 words
- Average length: 300-600 words
- Tends to fit on one or two pages
- Tells a complete story but...
- ... leaves a lot to the reader's imagination
- Some websites which publish flash fiction:
 - 3AM Magazine: <https://www.3ammagazine.com/3am/>
 - Flash Fiction Online: <http://flashfictiononline.com/main/>
 - Smokelong Quarterly: <http://www.smokelong.com/>
 - Spelk Fiction: <https://spelkfiction.com/>
 - Every Day Fiction: <https://everydayfiction.com/submit-story/>
 - (there are LOADS more!)



National Flash Fiction Day Anthology, 2016

Word Cricket Writing Exercise

- I will give you the first line of a story. Write it down and then...keep writing. Don't stop. Keep going. Write down whatever comes into your head.
- When one minute passes, I will say a word. Incorporate that word into your next sentence and then...keep going.
- I will say another word after the second minute, and the third, fourth, fifth and sixth.
- Rules of 'Word Cricket':
 - Start writing...
 - ...and don't stop writing!
 - It doesn't have to be 'good', it doesn't have to make sense just...
 - ...don't stop writing!

Word Cricket

- First line: The plan hadn't worked and time was running out.
- 1 Minute Word: Thrilled
- 2 Minute Word: Balloon
- 3 Minute Word: Desperate
- 4 Minute Word: Kangaroo
- 5 Minute Word: Calm

Flash Fiction Examples

- *Night-Time Knitting* by Roz Mascall
- *Everything's West of Something* by David Gaffney
- *Ten Things That Happened After My Funeral* by Santino Prinzi
- *Little Ghosts* by Jan Carson

Flash Fiction: Some Advice

- Make your opening line very catchy - start where the actual story starts
- Don't try to include everything – leave some things to the reader's imagination
- Flash Fictions usually only feature one, two or three characters, and only one or two locations
- Keep it simple!
- Endings can be ambiguous
- Feel free to be experimental - think about the different formats a story can take. For example:
 - A list
 - A news report
 - A monologue
 - A recipe
 - A diary entry

Opening Lines: Writing Exercise

“Once upon a time there was a young girl called Little Red Riding Hood”

Or...

“It was dark inside the belly of the wolf.”

~ Margaret Atwood



Opening Lines: Writing Exercise

Character: XXXXXXXX

What conflict arises here?

Why is the character in this location?

What will they do with the object?

Location: XXXXXXXX

Write 3 different opening lines for this story – try to make each one more exciting than the last...

Object: XXXXXXXX

Opening Lines

Quiet Writing Time: 15 Minutes

Take...



One Random **Character**

One Random **Location**

One Random **Object**

Quiet Writing Time: 15 Minutes

Is the story set in the past, present or future?

Why is the object there? Has it been lost? Who does it belong to?

What does your main character want?

What does your main character fear?

Is there anything strange about the object?

Is your location dangerous...or a place of sanctuary?

What makes your character feel happy?



THE END

Read out your work, if you'd like to!

If you have any feedback about this workshop: davidhartleywriter@gmail.com