

# Story Design

## Description

All good stories contain certain basic elements: a main character, a quest, a series of events, a struggle, and some kind of outcome. But some stories use these elements in more powerful and effective ways. What is it that makes some stories so much more engaging? And how can we use this knowledge to write entertaining stories of our own?

Audiences have certain expectations when they read a story or watch a film. In addition to these basic elements, the flow of the story must be logical, and the sequence of events must lead to a satisfying climax. In short, your story must be well-designed.

In this course, we will take a close look at exactly how this is done, starting with the basic elements of story. In each lesson, we will read/watch examples of good stories and talk about why they work so well, improving our ability to understand exactly how that happens. Then each student will put this learning into action, creating an outline for an original short story of their own, and sharing it with the class, and as a group, we will discuss each story and offer ideas to improve its effectiveness.

Based on the feedback received, each of us will expand the outline into an original short story, and all the stories will be compiled into a class anthology to read and to share with others. Newbies will discover their creative potential, learning to craft an effective short story from scratch, bringing characters to life, and building a narrative that captivates readers and viewers. For more experienced writers, this is an opportunity to refine your existing skills and techniques, developing a more effective approach to story design, and finding better focus for your creative process.

## Objectives

The goal of this course is to help each student develop a reliable process for creating a story that is compelling and that connects strongly with others. If you come to this course with an open mind - and are prepared to read, watch, share ideas, and create - you will be surprised at how confident you will become as a writer of your own stories.

## Trainer's Profile

Mark D'Oliveira has been developing stories in various media (including film and television) for over thirty years. He holds a BFA in Film Production (from Emerson College, Boston), a Certificate in Graphic Design (from Massachusetts College of Art), and a Master of Education (from the University of Western Australia). Since 2006, he has been a senior lecturer and curriculum developer at the polytechnic level in Singapore, creating and delivering a variety of courses based around story development, helping students to understand why stories are important and what makes them effective.

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## Course Outline

- Session 1: What is a Story?
- Session 2: The Basic Elements of Story
- Session 3: Thinking about Main Character
- Session 4: Story Design
- Session 5: Developing a Story Outline
- Session 6: Presentation of Outlines
- Session 7: Creating Your Short Story
- Session 8: Sharing and Reflections

The course is interactive and will be adjusted according to the experience and personal goals of the participants. All attendees are expected to participate in class discussions, sharing ideas and opinions, and helping each other to create better short stories of their own.

## Date & Time

DATES-TIME will be confirmed when Interested Sign Ups are consulted.  
2 hours x 8 sessions

## Mode

Face 2 Face

## Medium and Requirement

English; Basic English Proficiency

## Course Fee Payable

S\$392

S\$78.40 (after NSA subsidy, for Singapore Citizens & PRs aged 50 & above).

## Payment

PayNow to UEN Number '**200614780G**' before course commence. Please leave name and contact number. Cheque payment is also possible, contact us for more details

## Registration/Enquiry

Email: nsamt12@gmail.com / WA +65 8388 4311 (MTL NSA Admin)