

MAGIC METHODS, MYSTIC OBSTACLES

Class 1

MODULE

- Seminars
- Portfolio

In the form of a creative or imaginative writing in English, supplemented by critical reflection

formative (end Wk 5: 13.00 Fri 4 Mar): 1000 words

final portfolio (end Wk 12: 13.00 Fri 6 May): 3000 words

MODULE

Reading: primary reading list (essential)

secondary list – highly advised/recommended

keep reading, and keep a list of other texts that you have read and find inspiring

Please bring relevant texts to the class.

A WRITER'S BEGINNINGS

Group discussion

1. Am I a talented creative writer? How much does talent count towards success?
2. Daydream vs writing: I enjoy writing, but how do I become a 'good' writer?
3. There are so many stories out there already. What should/can I write about?
4. Why is editing necessary?
5. I don't have time to write. What to do?
6. Does everyone have writer's block and how do I overcome it?

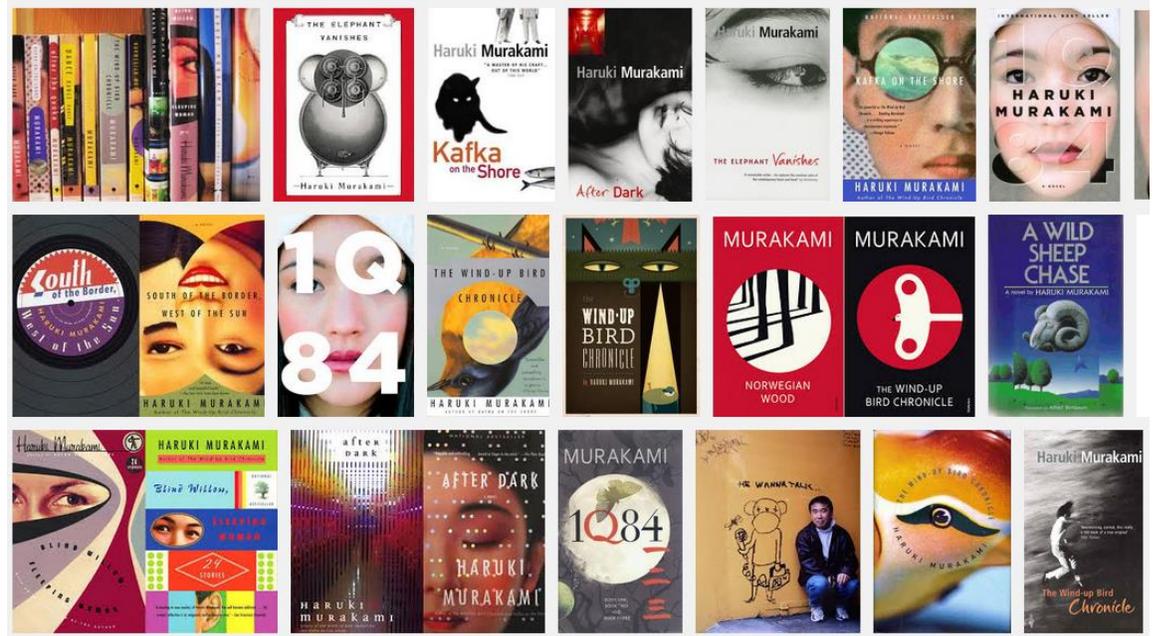
LEARNING FROM MURAKAMI

Tips and advice from Murakami(!)

Interview with Murakami: what can you learn from his writing journey?

Interview from Paris Review

[HERE](#)



When I start to write, I don't have any plan at all. I just wait for the story to come. I don't choose what kind of story it is or what's going to happen. I just wait.

I didn't want to become a writer - it just happened.

I started writing from the kitchen table after midnight. It took ten months to finish that first book; I sent it to a publisher and got some kind of prize, so it was like a dream...



READINGS

'Gesturing' by John Updike, from *The Best American Short Stories of the Century* anthology (Houghton Mifflin 1999)

'You were a bird' by Katherine Kilalea, from *The World Record* anthology (Bloodaxe Books 2012)

'A Stranger in the Streets', from Dorothea Brande's *Becoming a Writer* (Harcourt Brace 1934)

CREATIVE EXERCISE 1: PAINTER AND HIS COLOUR PALETTE

- Observe the colour palette in front of you
- Make up new words for the colours (top 3)
- Try to use words that are as appealing and interesting as possible
- Share your creative output and rationales

blue	slate	sky	navy
indigo	cobalt	teal	ocean
peacock	azure	cerulean	lapis
spruce	stone	aegean	berry
denim	admiral	sapphire	arctic

Brights Collection

- Regal Rose
- Melon Mambo
- Rich Razzleberry
- Pacific Point
- Tempting Turquoise
- Old Olive
- Daffodil Delight*
- Pumpkin Pie
- Tangerine Tango
- Real Red

Neutrals Collection

- River Rock
- Chocolate Chip
- Soft Suede
- Early Espresso*
- Crumb Cake
- Sahara Sand
- Very Vanilla
- Whisper White
- Basic Gray
- Basic Black

Regals Collection

- Elegant Eggplant
- Night of Navy
- Not Quite Navy
- Always Artichoke
- Garden Green
- More Mustard
- Cajun Craze*
- Riding Hood Red
- Cherry Cobbler*
- Bravo Burgundy

Subtles Collection

- Pink Pirouette
- Pretty in Pink
- Rose Red
- Perfect Plum
- Marina Mist*
- Bashful Blue
- Baja Breeze
- Wild Wasabi
- Certainly Celery
- So Saffron

CREATIVE EXERCISE 2: BUILDING A UNIQUE WORLD FROM AN IMAGE

- Check out Jeff Wall's staged photograph
- Imagine what is happening in the photo
- Make up the beginning 2-3 lines of the story. Max 60 words.
- Make it as original as possible. If you wish, you can make your story surreal.



CREATIVE EXERCISE 3: FICTION VS TRUTH/REALITY

- Imagine you are now married (with or without kids). What is your life like compared to your former self? How do you feel now?
- How is your partner or your relationship like?

TAKE HOME PROJECT

Collect three quotes on writing that inspire you.