



# WRITING GREAT DIALOGUE MASTER CLASS

## FULL CURRICULUM

### WELCOME—BEGIN HERE

Introduction to Writing Great Dialogue  
How to Navigate the Course

### MODULE ONE—THE FIVE FUNCTIONS OF DIALOGUE

Introduction to the 5 Functions of Dialogue  
1—Reveal Character  
2—Advance Story  
3—Reflect Theme  
4—Enhance Setting  
5—Amplify Tone

### MODULE TWO—WRITING BELIEVABLE DIALOGUE

- How to Write Natural, Fluid, Authentic Dialogue
- When Dialogue is Unbelievable
- Cut Out Useless Talk
- What's Emotional, and What's Overwrought?
- Avoid "Know-It-All" Dialogue
- Dialogue as Mouthpiece for Research
- How Overwriting Can Deadend Dialogue

### MODULE THREE—CHOOSING CONTENT FOR DIALOGUE

- Make Dialogue Relevant to Your Story
- How to Write Subtext
- Pay Attention to What's Said and What's Unsaid
- Use Action, Not Activity (and how to tell the difference)

### MODULE FOUR—DIALOGUE THAT'S UNIQUE TO CHARACTER

- Writing Characters Who Aren't Like You
- Effectively Incorporate Dialect, Foreign Language and Jargon
- Resources for Writing Authentic Dialogue

## MODULE FIVE—WHAT YOUR CHARACTERS SAY & HOW THEY SAY IT—PART I

- Avoid Clichéd Language
- The Power of Being Specific
- Don't Intrude on Your Character's Voice
- Be Clear, Not Convolutéd
- Active Versus Passive Dialogue
- The Value of Lean Dialogue

## MODULE SIX—WHAT YOUR CHARACTERS SAY & HOW THEY SAY IT—PART II

- Use Evocative Language
- Body Language
- The Value of Brevity
- Dialogue Interrupted—Perfect the Pause
- The Power of Silence
- Emotional Dialogue that Resonates
- Use Humor Effectively

## MODULE SEVEN—GET THE BALANCE RIGHT

- When to Use Summary Exposition Instead of Dialogue
- Have You Written Too Much Dialogue?
- When and How to Interrupt Dialogue
- The Challenges of Dialogue in Group Scenes
- Reveal Backstory Through Dialogue

## BONUS MODULE—INTERNAL "DIALOGUE" (AKA, MONOLOGUE)

- How to Manage Speech When Your Character is Alone
- Conveying a Character's Thoughts

## BONUS MODULE—MECHANICS

- Dialogue Tags (Attributions)
- Choosing How Dialogue Appears on the Page
- Tenses and Punctuation

## ASSESS YOUR PROGRESS & DETERMINE WHAT'S NEXT

- Reflect on Progress and Value
- Farewell Video—What's Next for You?
- Resources—Books & Other Helpful Resources