



The Stinging Fly

## **TSF 2024 Summer School Entry-Level Fiction**

### **In-person Workshop**

July 1st to July 5th with Sheila Armstrong and Olivia Fitzsimons  
10am to 4pm at the Irish Writers Centre

### **Online Workshops via Zoom:**

July 1st to July 5th with Maame Blue 2pm – 5pm

July 8th to July 12th with Danielle McLaughlin 4pm – 7pm

**Open for applications:** Tuesday March 12th to Tuesday April 2nd 2023.

Below are a series of course descriptions, written by workshop leaders, that detail how their Entry-Level workshops will operate.

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### **Sheila Armstrong & Olivia Fitzsimons**

#### **(Entry Level Fiction | In-person)**

This workshop, aimed at writers who are just starting out on their fiction journey, will introduce various aspects of craft, storytelling and style. Rather than a single project, the focus will be on providing broad tools that can be adapted to each writer's individual needs after the course has ended. Each day of the workshop will cover a different aspect of craft: plot and setting; character and dialogue; structure and style; and drafting and editing. Morning and afternoon sessions will begin with writing exercises to generate ideas, followed by sharing and discussion of the day's topics. Writers will be

encouraged to share their work with their peers and to give and receive feedback in a supportive environment. Participants will also be asked to read selected stories and extracts in advance. Each writer will leave with new creative work, a more confident understanding of their own writing process, and practical steps for the next stage of their writing journey.

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### Danielle McLaughlin (Entry Level Fiction | Online)

Over the course of five workshops, participants will, by examining extracts from a number of great short stories, consider aspects of writing craft, and will also undertake writing exercises designed to generate new stories.

Before the course commences participants will be provided with links to a selection of short stories which they will be expected to read in advance. During our workshops, we will consider ways of interrogating the everyday for stories, as well as looking at various approaches to generating story ideas.

Each day's session will begin with a talk on an aspect of writing craft with reference to some of the stories we've read in advance. Participants will then have a go at generating a new piece of writing, perhaps an opening paragraph or the scaffolding of a story, using a prompt which will be provided. This writing exercise will take place during the workshop, with participants on mute and cameras off.

We will all then re-group to chat about how we got on with the prompt, what it generated, what participants learned from the process. There will be time for a couple of volunteers each day to share what they came up with, if they wish. Nobody will have to share work if they don't want to. There won't be time for everybody to share their work every day, but over the course of the week everybody will get at least one turn.

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## **Maame Blue (Entry Level Fiction | Online)**

During this week-long workshop, workshop participants will learn how to write about complicated relationships whilst looking at point of view, character backgrounds, settings and realistic dialogue. Through close readings of contemporary fiction, discussion and writing exercises, these workshops are designed to elevate your fiction, add layers to your characters and deepen your creative writing skills.

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