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New workshops for primary and secondary teachers wanting to teach creative writing through a grammar approach, in August & September.

2 HIGH FLYERS WRITING CLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 10, 11 & 12

Do you know any students who are passionate about their writing? Perhaps you know of students who want to be journalists or professional writers? Why not suggest to them that they should join a group of elite young writers in a small class at the [Belconnen Arts Centre](#) on Monday afternoons in Term 3.

3 ADULTS WHO CAN'T SPELL

The statistics on literacy problems plaguing our adult population are quite disturbing. Many adults are embarrassed because they can't spell properly and it affects their careers and social life. Now they can do something about it.

4 SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL AUTHORS

New Grammar Essentials Workshops

1. ACARA & THE NEW NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR ENGLISH

The new National Curriculum for English comes into play from 2011 and even a brief perusal of the document reveals the importance placed on the explicit teaching of grammar.

This is both an exciting and a worrying development, for those of us who are old enough to remember the "rote learning" grammar rules and pointless parsing exercises we did in the 60s and 70s.

It was probably responsible for countless numbers of students hating English in those days, and I'm sure they were driven away in droves from Literature and all good literary pleasures at the time. They simply missed out because they were turned off by their English teachers.

So, if the grammar of old is to come back, where we teach grammar for grammar's sake or simply to show off in front of our students, demonstrating just how clever we are because we know how the subjunctive works, we will be back to where we started.

But, if this presents an exciting opportunity for us to engage our students in analysis of literary text using essential grammatical points of reference as tools, to find out just what makes writing engaging or even exciting to read, then we could be on the verge of a writing revolution.

And judging by the comatose state you endured when marking the last lot of writing from your students, perhaps it's not

a moment too soon for us to explicitly teach our students to write well!

How Much Grammar Is Enough?

Do you need to teach all of the metalanguage associated with grammar in order to improve your students' writing?

No, not necessarily. There are some grammatical concepts that will accelerate your students' understanding of text, however, and make a real difference to the quality of the writing your students will produce.

It must be a contextual, two pronged approach. You need to tackle writing from both ends of the spectrum. From the point of view of the reader and also from the writer's perspective.

Through error analysis and modelling, you will be able to inspire your students to write more effectively and to experience the joy of writing and reading, as you so much want them to do.

English teachers and other teachers who teach reading and writing generally, are passionate about literature and really wish to pass on that passion to their students.

Unfortunately, this is not always what happens. Sometimes, dare I say, we have the opposite effect and even drive our students away! (*I might add - "Mea Culpa" - I, too, have been guilty of this at times.*)

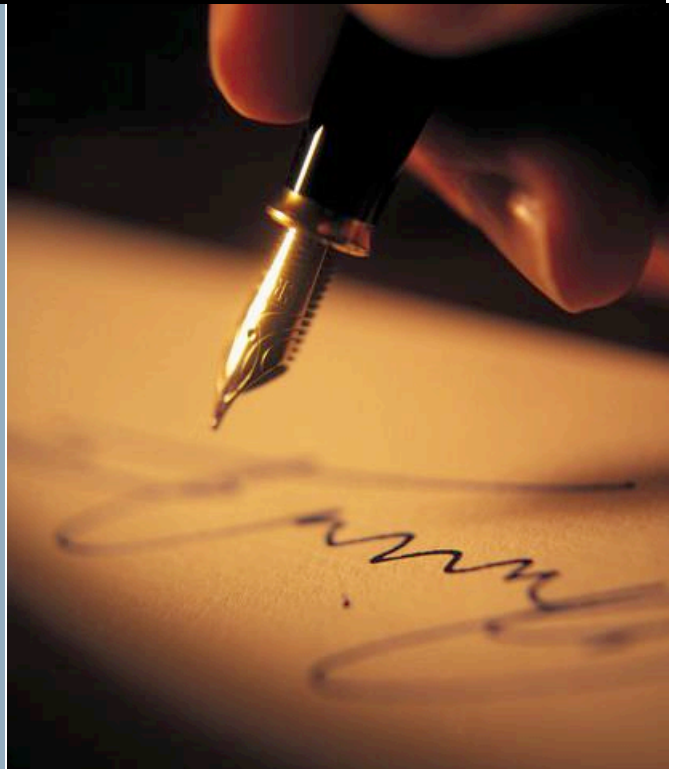
In August and September, come along to our Creative Writing Through Grammar Workshops to learn more about how to inspire great writers of the future! (See our [website](#) for details.)

ELITE WRITERS CLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 10, 11 & 12

In Term Three on Monday afternoons after school, there is a class commencing to support and enhance the writing skills of those students who love to write and who may indeed envisage a career in writing at one stage in the future.

“We are searching for students who are already passionate about their writing and write often for their own pleasure, as much as for an audience.” says Suzanne Kiraly, who will be teaching this class.

This class will be invaluable for the young writers to be in the company of other talented writers and to be inspired and taught the advanced techniques of professional writers. ([See website for details.](#))



Adults Who Can't Spell

Graeme B. is a very successful business owner. In fact, it would be fair to say that Graeme has owned quite a number of successful businesses over the years, both in the hospitality industry and also in tourism.

What is unusual about Graeme, however, is the fact that he dropped out of school at a very young age, after quite a troublesome time in our education system, when he attended school (he is now in his late 30s). He hated school and avoided it as often as he could. He tells us he couldn't get out of there quickly enough. He was not literate when he left formal education at the age of just 14, and has had the knack of hiding it ever since.

Graeme speaks of going to extraordinary lengths over the years to hide the fact that he can't read or write well, and his lack of even basic spelling skills makes his writing almost illegible.

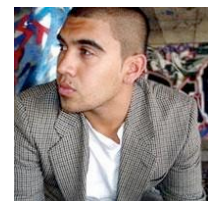
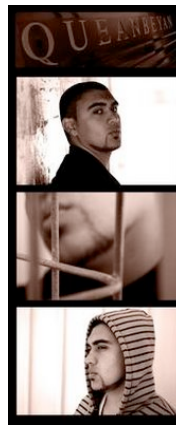
Nowadays, though, Graeme has decided that he needs to do something about his spelling. He feels that he has missed out on a lot over the years, having what he sees now as a major disability.

Having achieved the business successes already, he is no longer suffering from low self esteem issues. He knows he is intelligent, he has experienced success, but now needs to develop his writing/spelling skills further, so that he can go on and achieve more wonderful goals, which no doubt will be so much easier with good literacy skills under his belt.

Graeme is enrolling in our **SPELLING FOR ADULTS** classes in Term Four. Do you know anyone who could benefit from such classes? Send them to our [website](#) for more information.

We are so fortunate in having great literary talent in the ACT and the following is a sample of one local writer's work:

Spotlight on Local Authors



Omar Musa is from Queanbeyan, NSW Australia and is of Malaysian-Australian heritage. He has lived in California and London and spends most of his time on the road, writing and performing. His first hip-hop record, *The Massive EP*, was released in 2009. *The Clocks* is his first book of poetry. He has won numerous awards for music and poetry, including the Australian Poetry Slam in 2008.

Below is a poem from *Clocks*, reproduced by permission from the author. This book can be purchased at www.giftbookshop.com.au

BEING SILENT IS AN ART

**The seam of history
is stitched with the bones of those
Who remained silent**