



Syllabus with Lesson Table

Course Description

Through 78 video lessons, *The One Year Adventure Novel* high school English curriculum guides 9th–12th graders step by step in creating an original, fully-structured, compelling adventure novel—in one school year (two semesters). The program’s unique approach to writing begins where many writing courses don’t go at all, with an exploration of Story. Students learn the basic elements that make stories fulfilling and meaningful and how to identify and use three-act story structure and the basic fictional modes. They read Anthony Hope’s foundational *The Prisoner of Zenda* and excerpts from other classic adventure novels, and, most importantly, complete their own original novel!

Course Credit

The course, taught by award-winning author Daniel Schwabauer (Masters of Creative Writing, University of Kansas), takes approximately 120 hours to complete and is worth one full high school English credit as a Creative Writing program.

Objective

Students should complete the *One Year Adventure Novel* course, understanding and applying basic elements of storytelling in the creation of a rough draft of a unique adventure novel in one school year (two semesters).

Students will:

1. Learn the basic elements that make stories fulfilling and meaningful.
2. Understand three-act story structure.
3. Recognize and practice the basic fictional modes.
4. Complete their own original novel of 15,000–24,000 words.

Overview

Semester one:

The five elements of story
Character roles and depth
Conflict (disaster & dilemma)

Story structure (acts & scenes)
The four defining moments of every story
The novel outline: twelve chapters and their characteristics

Semester two:

How to write - writing a novel rough draft
Creating emotion and the illusion of reality
Modes (summary, detail, dialogue)
Modifiers
Various techniques of fiction (character masks and handles, the unexpected, cliffhangers, etc.)
Revision

Grading

Grading is based on 26 weekly quizzes and the parent educator/teacher's evaluation of the lessons in the workbook and the student's rough draft of a novel. The teacher's evaluations are simple rubrics explained in the *Teacher's Guide*. Weekly quizzes impact the student's final grade about as much as a single lesson. The final draft of the novel in the second semester has slightly more impact on the final grade than the lessons in the workbook.

Reading

Students read through Anthony Hope's classic adventure novel, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, as well as the textbook (*The Compass*).

They also read excerpts from other classic adventure novels. All excerpts discussed in the course are printed in the textbook. Some of the excerpted novels are also available in full as PDFs on the Resource disk/Resources section of the Cloud platform. Reading the complete texts is optional.

Excerpted in textbook but not available in full:

The Man-Eaters of Tsavo – Lieut.-Col. J. H. Patterson, D.S.O.
The Man That Time Forgot – Edgar Rice Burroughs
Runt the Hunted – Daniel Schwabauer
Ghosts of the Past Haunt Us – Daniel Schwabauer (newspaper column)

Available in full (those in **bold** are excerpted in the textbook):

A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens
Badge of Infamy – Lester del Ray
Black Rock – Ralph Connor
Captains Courageous – Rudyard Kipling
The Gift of the Magi – O. Henry
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
King Solomon's Mines – H. Rider Haggard

Rupert of Hentzau – Anthony Hope
Tarzan of the Apes – Edgar Rice Burroughs
That Printer of Udell's – Harold Bell Wright
The Blood Ship – Norman Springer
The Jungle Book – Rudyard Kipling
Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stevenson
Wulf the Saxon – G. A. Henty

Contest

At the end of the school year, students will have the option to enter their completed novel into our annual Student Novel Contest. The deadline is usually in mid-August. For further details, please read the contest webpage: (<https://clearwaterpress.com/oneyearnovel/events/young-writers-novel-contest/>)

Additional Support Resources:

Webinars

Throughout the school year, Mr. Schwabauer runs a series of optional live streaming meetings, offering coaching on more complex story concepts and addressing extra writing topics such as offering critique to fellow writers, pursuing publishing, etc. These webinars include a chat feature so students may ask questions. For more information on how to view a webinar, please see: <https://clearwaterpress.com/oneyearnovel/events/webinars/>

Student Forum

Participation in our closed online Student Forum is optional, but encouraged. (For an overview of the forum, please see: <https://clearwaterpress.com/oneyearnovel/studentresources/forum-overview/>) It will be especially helpful for students to post excerpts of their work in the critique boards and review the work of their peers. The process of analyzing another student's work is an excellent way for a young writer to learn to recognize what works and what doesn't work in fiction. Seeing it in someone else's work makes it easier for the student to see the strengths and weaknesses in his or her own.

About the Instructor

Daniel Schwabauer, Th.D., is creator of *The One Year Adventure Novel Byline*, and *Cover Story* creative writing programs. His professional work includes stage plays, radio scripts, short stories, newspaper columns, comic books and tele-scripting. His novels (*Runt the Brave*, *Runt the Hunted*, *The Curse of the Seer*, *Operation Grendel*, *Maxine Justice: Galactic Attorney*) have received numerous awards, including the Ben Franklin Award, the Eric Hoffer Award, and the Realm Award. Daniel earned an M.A. in Creative Writing in 1995 under science fiction legend James Gunn and completed his doctoral work in semiotic theology with Leonard Sweet, another legend, in 2023. He currently teaches English at MidAmerica Nazarene University.

Lesson Table

	Week	Lesson	Title	Run Time	The Map	Zenda	Rough Draft
<i>Semester One</i>							
<i>Story Building</i>	1	1	<i>The Heroic Quest</i>	<i>15:42</i>	1	— N/A —	<i>Student starts rough draft in Semester Two.</i>
		2	<i>Point of View</i>	<i>14:10</i>	2	— N/A —	
		3	<i>The Synopsis</i>	<i>10:39</i>	3	— N/A —	
	2	4	<i>The Five Elements of Story</i>	<i>16:52</i>	4	Chapter 1	
		5	<i>Someone to Care About</i>	<i>21:22</i>	5	— N/A —	
		6	<i>Someone to Care About, pt 2</i>	<i>20:42</i>	6	Chapter 2	
	3	7	<i>Something to Want</i>	<i>7:30</i>	7	Chapter 3	
		8	<i>Something to Want, pt 2</i>	<i>16:23</i>	8	— N/A —	
		9	<i>Something to Want, pt 3</i>	<i>8:10</i>	9	Chapter 4	
	4	10	<i>Something to Dread</i>	<i>15:33</i>	10	— N/A —	
		11	<i>Something to Dread, pt 2</i>	<i>9:39</i>	11	— N/A —	
		12	<i>Something to Dread, pt 3</i>	<i>8:10</i>	12	Chapter 5	
	5	13	<i>Something to Suffer</i>	<i>8:02</i>	13	Chapter 6	
		14	<i>Something to Suffer, pt 2</i>	<i>14:11</i>	14	— N/A —	
		15	<i>Something to Suffer, pt 3</i>	<i>17:18</i>	15	Chapter 7	
	6	16	<i>Something to Learn</i>	<i>12:31</i>	16	Chapter 8	
		17	<i>Something to Learn, pt 2</i>	<i>15:43</i>	17	— N/A —	
		18	<i>Something to Learn, pt 3</i>	<i>20:19</i>	18	Chapter 9	
	7	19	<i>The Supporting Cast</i>	<i>10:01</i>	19	— N/A —	
		20	<i>The Villain</i>	<i>8:51</i>	20	— N/A —	

	Week	Lesson	Title	Run Time	The Map	Zenda	Rough Draft
<i>Semester One</i>							
	8	21	<i>Synopsis, pt 2</i>	<i>16:11</i>	21	Chapter 10	<i>Student starts rough draft in Semester Two.</i>
		22	<i>Conflict</i>	<i>21:36</i>	22	Chapter 11	
		23	<i>Disaster</i>	<i>8:31</i>	23	Chapter 12	
		24	<i>Dilemma</i>	<i>12:12</i>	24	— N/A —	
<i>Story Skeleton</i>	9	25	<i>Acts and Scenes</i>	<i>11:52</i>	25	Chapter 13	
		26	<i>The Four Defining Chapters</i>	<i>7:41</i>	26	Chapter 14	
		27	<i>Chapter One: The Inciting Incident</i>	<i>9:26</i>	27	— N/A —	
	10	28	<i>Chapter Three: Embracing Destiny</i>	<i>7:20</i>	28	Chapter 15	
		29	<i>Chapter Nine: The Black Moment</i>	<i>10:06</i>	29	— N/A —	
		30	<i>Chapter Eleven: The Showdown</i>	<i>11:51</i>	30	Chapter 16	
<i>The Novel Outline</i>	11	31	<i>The Novel Outline: Formulas, Plots and Subplots</i>	<i>14:08</i>	31	Chapter 17	
		32	<i>Chapter Two: Promises, etc.</i>	<i>13:03</i>	32	Chapter 18	
		33	<i>Chapter Four: The New World</i>	<i>7:00</i>	33	— N/A —	
	12	34	<i>Chapter Five: The Middle Cycle</i>	<i>11:52</i>	34	— N/A —	
		35	<i>Chapter Six: Failure</i>	<i>9:20</i>	35	Chapter 19	
		36	<i>Chapter Seven: Lessons</i>	<i>8:07</i>	36	Chapter 20	
	13	37	<i>Chapter Eight: Achievement & Atonement</i>	<i>9:31</i>	37	— N/A —	
		38	<i>Chapter Ten: The Coming Storm</i>	<i>14:37</i>	28	Chapter 21	
		39	<i>Chapter Twelve: Denouement</i>	<i>16:29</i>	39	Chapter 22	

	Week	Lesson	Title	Run Time	The Map	Zenda	Rough Draft
Semester Two							
Writing	14	40	<i>How to Write a Chapter</i>	19:44			Write a rough draft of Chapter 1
		41	<i>Creating Emotion</i>	27:53			
		42	<i>The Illusion of Reality</i>	14:10			
	15	43	<i>Summary</i>	19:07			Write a rough draft of Chapter 2
		44	<i>Detail</i>	13:14			
		45	<i>Narrative Order</i>	10:42			
	16	46	<i>Dialogue</i>	23:54			Write a rough draft of Chapter 3
		47	<i>Gestures</i>	7:59			
		48	<i>To Be or Not To Be</i>	16:33			
	17	49	<i>Too Many Modifiers</i>	10:36			Write a rough draft of Chapter 4
		50	<i>Sliding Eyes & Grasping Hands</i>	7:12			
		51	<i>Symbols</i>	21:58			
	18	52	<i>Flashbacks</i>	8:04			Write a rough draft of Chapter 5
		53	<i>I Saw, I Heard</i>	6:18			
		54	<i>Raising the Stakes</i>	6:56			
	19	55	<i>What's Likely to Go Wrong?</i>	17:33			Write a rough draft of Chapter 6
		56	<i>Falling Bodies</i>	6:24			
		57	<i>The Character Interview</i>	11:01			
	20	58	<i>Setting</i>	17:24			Write a rough draft of Chapter 7
		59	<i>Character Masks</i>	7:43			
		60	<i>Character Handles</i>	7:28			
	21	61	<i>Unexpected Humor</i>	11:46			Write a rough draft of Chapter 8
		62	<i>Unexpected Tragedy</i>	7:22			
		63	<i>Unexpected Grace</i>	6:51			

	Week	Lesson	Title	Run Time	The Map	Zenda	Rough Draft
<i>Semester Two</i>							
<i>Revision</i>	22	64	<i>Cliches</i>	<i>6:06</i>			Write a rough draft of Chapter 9
		65	<i>Irony</i>	<i>11:35</i>			
		66	<i>Cliffhangers</i>	<i>7:50</i>			
	23	67	<i>Voice</i>	<i>9:17</i>			Write a rough draft of Chapter 10
		68	<i>Transparency</i>	<i>9:01</i>			
		69	<i>Double Disasters</i>	<i>7:51</i>			
	24	70	<i>Writing the Climax</i>	<i>10:53</i>			Write a rough draft of Chapter 11
		71	<i>Setups & Payoffs</i>	<i>6:05</i>			
		72	<i>Deus ex Machina</i>	<i>9:58</i>			
	25	73	<i>Loose Ends</i>	<i>8:35</i>			Write a rough draft of Chapter 12
		74	<i>Parting Words</i>	<i>10:01</i>			
		75	<i>Revision & Rewriting</i>	<i>8:54</i>			
	26	76	<i>Revising by Verb</i>	<i>4:19</i>			Revision
		77	<i>Formatting Your Manuscript</i>	<i>6:53</i>			
		78	<i>Sharing & Publishing Your Novel</i>	<i>12:30</i>			