

Welcome to

Creative Writing

an invitation



*A small writing studio for our younger writers —
once a week, 45 minutes, one carefully kept room.*

Please find a cozy chair

~ turn the page ~

● our year together

This class is your studio.

A small studio. One class each week. Lots and lots of room to begin again —
and to be surprised by what your own ideas can do.



Anchor one

***Imagine things
no one has imagined.***



Anchor two

***Try tools. Take risks.
Get a little messy.***



Anchor three

***Grow into
your own voice.***

Here's a little about me.

*“You can make anything
by writing.”*

- C.S. Lewis



*Hi, I'm **Ms. Martocello.***

I've been teaching at our school for 6 years, and I am so excited to lead our Advanced English Lit and Creative Writing classes this year. As a former librarian, I love a great story—especially anything by Suzanne Collins or spooky tales by Edgar Allan Poe!

When I'm not celebrating my favorite holiday (Halloween! 🎃), you can find me at concerts, plays, or museums. At home, I hang out with my dog, Milo, and volunteer with animals—this summer, I even raised and released baby quails!

I know we are going to have an incredible year together!

Books I keep returning to

I absolutely adore the Hunger Games Series and Lord of the Rings (though The Hobbit is my favorite).

how to reach me

Martocello@schoolnova.org

Four beats, in forty-five minutes.

Each session follows the same shape — borrowed from real writers' studios.

*How do we
spend our*

45

minutes?

~ 5 MIN

01

Quick Warm-Up

A short creative prompt to loosen the page and let the first ideas arrive.

~ 10 MIN

02

Mini Lesson

A small, focused breakdown of one craft tool — verbs, dialogue, "show don't tell," and more.

~ 20 MIN

03

Studio Writing

The hush part. Drafting time paired with one short teacher-student conference.

~ 10 MIN

04

Share & Reflect

Read aloud from the Author's Chair, or trade kind "Praise & Polish" notes between partners.



*Twenty-nine weeks, **five units**, one finished artist by spring.*

Unit one

The Writer's Toolbox

weeks 1 — 5

Journal building, Heart Maps, fixing run-on sentences, and the magic of "Show, don't tell!"

Unit two

Character & World-Building

weeks 6 — 11

Profile design, dialogue mechanics, setting maps, and seeing with all five senses.

Unit three

Plot Structure

weeks 12 — 16

Scaling the Plot Mountain — from explosive hooks all the way to epic, earned climaxes.

Unit four

Genre Exploration

weeks 17 — 22

Fractured fairy tales, mini-mysteries, poetry, and graphic novel comic layouts.

Unit five

Revision & Publication

weeks 23 — 29

Peer editing, book cover design, and our Grand Exhibition — the "Book Cafe" with families.

We don't race through. We walk — and we look out the windows as we go.

Three promises for our class.

01 *Promise one*

Bring Your Gear

Your writing notebook, a folder, and a sharpened pencil, every single week. The room needs your tools the way a kitchen needs a wooden spoon.



02 *Promise two*

First-Draft Mindset

In this room, mistakes are just first drafts.

You don't have to be a "perfect" writer. You just have to keep trying, and let the page wait on you.

03 *Promise three*

Supportive Community

Listen with respect: Give everyone your full attention.

Cheer big risks: Celebrate your peers' original ideas.

Give helpful feedback: Keep your words kind and encouraging.

Stay engaged: Speak up to support each other; never tear down

One more promise lives on the next page – and it is the most important one.

*Original voices **only.***

Your brain.

Your voice.

Your original words!

Generative AI tools, ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, or anything like them, are not permitted for our class assignments. Writing here is about *your* ideas.

This is a no-robot studio. It has always been one.

why it matters

Your story.

Your voice.

***Every story you write starts
somewhere true and personal.***

***Every poem comes out of your
own heart; not a chatbot's.***

***Every line must be yours
— honestly, messily, all the way.***

if you ever get stuck

Bring your draft to me — we'll sit together and find the next sentence together.

● before we begin

Four questions — so I can know you.

Pick any — answer in your notebook, on a sticky note, or out loud.

01

What's a story — book, show, anything at all — that stuck with you long after it ended?

02

If your notebook could open a door to anywhere on its own, where would you tell it to go?

03

What's something you know a lot about — or really wish you did?

04

If you could instantly speak fluent animal language, which animal would you talk to first, and what is the first question you'd ask them?

- your first studio prompt

Try *this* today.

~ FIVE MINUTES

*Imagine a tiny door appears
at the back of your desk drawer.
It wasn't there yesterday.*

Write what you find on the other side — and what happens next.

Begin anywhere. There is no wrong answer. The page is patient.



- a small note for grown-ups

What your writer is learning, and how you can help from the kitchen table.

a quiet truth

This studio pairs creative expression with the NYS Next Generation & ELA Learning Standards.

STANDARD

4W3

Narrative writing

STANDARDS

4L1 — 2

Language mechanics

STANDARD

4W5

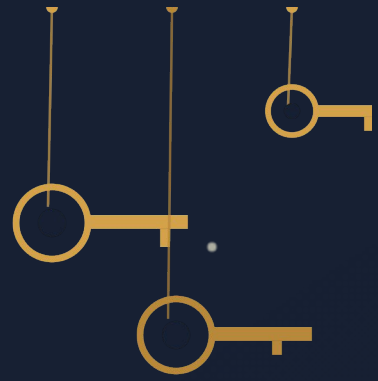
Public speaking

from the kitchen table

You don't need to teach writing at home — but a few small things help.

- ***Ask about their weekly Heart Map entries***
— *those tiny personal pages are windows into what they're thinking about.*
- ***Encourage their wild, original ideas***
— *even (especially) the ones that sound strange at the dinner table.*
- ***Cheer for finished work***
— *the Book Cafe in spring is a real celebration, with families invited.*

Thank you for trusting me with your writer.



● one last thing



Let's make
something great.

I'm so excited to write together this year—let's fill our pages⁺ with
honest,⁺ bold, and surprising stories!