



The National Emerging Writer Programme

Have you always wanted to write a book?



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Recommended Reading

There are a huge number of books on writing, but here our authors' make their recommendations:

On Writing by Stephen King

Part memoir, part master class by one of the bestselling authors of all time, this superb volume is a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King's advice is grounded in the vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported, near-fatal accident in 1999 - and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery.

There is a reason why Stephen King is one of the bestselling writers in the world, ever. Described in the *Guardian* as 'the most remarkable storyteller in modern American literature', Stephen King writes books that draw you in and are impossible to put down.

The Writers Club - Maeve Binchy

'The most important thing to realise is that everyone is capable of telling a story. It doesn't matter where we were born or how we grew up?' Maeve Binchy. *The Maeve Binchy Writers' Club* gives a unique insight into how a No.1 bestselling author writes. Inspired by a course run by the National College of Ireland, it comprises 20 letters from Maeve, offering advice, tips and her own wonderfully witty take on the life of a writer, in addition to contributions from top Irish writers, publishers and editors. Whether you want to write a saga or a thriller, comedy or journalism, or write for the radio or stage, this also gives advice on the best way to get started, and what editors, publishers and agents are looking for. *The Maeve Binchy Writers' Club* is a fascinating and informative guide to inspire all budding writers as well as entertaining Maeve Binchy fans the world over.

Writers on Writing Collected Essays from the New York Times

The Right To Write - Julia Cameron

'We should write because it is human nature to write' Julia Cameron. For those jumping into the writing life for the first time and for those already living it, the art of writing will never be the same after reading this book. Provocative, thoughtful and exciting, you'll return to it again and again as you seek to liberate and cultivate the writer residing within you. This isn't a book of rules, which can stifle creativity - and certainly not about how to write that query letter, how to find a market for your work, or how to find an agent. It's about using writing to bring clarity and passion to the act of living. The secret's in breaking loose from the grip of your established thought process, to unleash the wave of creativity striving to express itself within. Here are techniques illustrative stories to help you make writing a natural, intensely personal part of life. And this book includes the details of Cameron's own writing processes when creating her bestselling books, which include the phenomenal and world famous [*The Artist's Way*](#) and *Vein of Gold*.

From Pitch to Publication by Carole Blake

A leading agent's detailed analysis of exactly what happens from when your book is accepted by a publisher. Contracts, rights, territories and much more. This book is on every published writer's shelf.

Carlo Gébler suggests:

Anything by Anton Chekov

The Short Stories of Liam O’Flaherty: Simple 3rd person stories in the past tense that demonstrate how point of view and tense should work.

A Million Little Pieces by James Frey : A 1st person, present tense, simple & uncluttered narrative. James Frey wakes up on a plane, with no memory of the preceding two weeks. His face is cut and his body is covered with bruises. He has no wallet and no idea of his destination. He has abused alcohol and every drug he can lay his hands on for a decade - and he is aged only twenty-three.

What happens next is one of the most powerful and extreme stories ever told. His family takes him to a rehabilitation centre. And James Frey starts his perilous journey back to the world of the drug and alcohol-free living. His lack of self-pity is unflinching and searing.

A Million Little Pieces is a dazzling account of a life destroyed and a life reconstructed. It is also the introduction of a bold and talented literary voice.

Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt – demonstrates the importance of discipline, as the story moves forward we only know what the narrator knows. Frank McCourt’s sad, funny, bittersweet memoir of growing up in New York in the 30s and in Ireland in the 40s. It is a story of extreme hardship and suffering, in Brooklyn tenements and Limerick slums – too many children, too little money, his mother Angela barely coping as his father Malachy’s drinking bouts constantly brings the family to the brink of disaster. It is a story of courage and survival against apparently overwhelming odds.

Written with the vitality and resonance of a work of fiction, and with a remarkable absence of sentimentality, ‘Angela’s Ashes’ is imbued on every page with Frank McCourt’s distinctive humour and compassion. Out of terrible circumstances, he has created a glorious book in the tradition of Ireland’s literary masters, which bears all the marks of a great classic.

The Outsider by Albert Camus: A peerless work of philosophical fiction that is as shocking today as when it was first published. Meursault will not pretend. After the death of his mother, everyone is shocked when he shows no sadness. And when he commits a random act of violence in Algiers, society is baffled. Why would this seemingly law-abiding bachelor do such a thing? And why does he show no remorse even when it could save his life? His refusal to satisfy the feelings of others only increases his guilt in the eyes of the law. Soon Meursault discovers that he is being tried not simply for his crime, but for his lack of emotion - a reaction that condemns him for being an outsider. For Meursault, this is an insult to his reason and a betrayal of his hopes; for Camus it encapsulates the absurdity of life.

In *The Outsider (L’Étranger)*, his classic existentialist novel, Camus explores the predicament of the individual who refuses to pretend and is prepared to face the indifference of the universe, courageously and alone.

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