

## Classes Presented by Frank Milligan

### 1. **Writing for the Fun of It**

(NVCC, Wren, Lorton Arts, WALT) seven sessions of 2 to 2 1/2 hr. each or a 2 day workshop.

**Description:** This relaxed and fun overview ranges from learning to think like a writer to publishing your work. Discussion and exercises reveal simple yet effective tools for organizing your thoughts. Learn to choose the best form to convey your unique vision: fiction or non-fiction, poetry, or drama, and the essential building blocks of each. A quick grammar and style refresher shows why you don't have to be a grammar expert to be a good writer. On a project you'll begin in class, or one you've already started, learn to apply professional techniques that will elevate your writing to the next level.

[**Note:** When presented as a two day workshop as at Lorton Arts, or reduced to six sessions as at Christopher Wren, eliminates two hour workshop session where writers share their work for comment. If reduced to four sessions as at Williamsburg Area Learning Tree, eliminates workshop session, grammar and style refresher, and how to get published sessions with corresponding change to course description. Grammar and style refresher and how to get published sessions can be added in as separate courses as described below.]

### 2. **Practical Techniques for Beginning Creative Writers**

(Lorton Workhouse Arts Center) full day workshop 7 or 8 hr.

**Description:** Explore the elements common to creative writing including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Become well-grounded in understanding story, plot, and theme; building believable characters; knowing when to show or tell; crafting realistic dialogue; generating suspense; and using other tricks of the writer's trade to bring your fiction and nonfiction stories to life and to keep the reader turning pages.

### 3. **Practical Steps to Publishing Your Writing**

(Lorton Workhouse Arts Center) 3 hr.

**Description:** Whether you want to publish fiction or nonfiction for yourself, for your business, for your family and friends, or commercially, this workshop will show you how. We'll cover self-publishing v. commercial publishing; publishing articles and short stories v. nonfiction books and novels; and the role of agents, editors, and publishers. Learn how to develop queries and proposals and how to prepare your manuscript for publication.

### 4. **Practical Grammar and Usage Refresher**

(Lorton Workhouse Arts Center) 3 hr.

**Description:** Worried you've forgotten what you need to know about grammar, punctuation, and usage to succeed in creative (or business) writing? Learn to make your writing more lively and interesting while developing confidence and overcoming fear of making mistakes. Discover practical techniques to help you identify and fix problem writing. Picky grammar police need not attend this real-world writing class.

**5. Learn to Think Like A Writer: How to Have Fun and Write More with Less Strain by Making Writing Second Nature to You**

(Memoir Writing Symposium, Vienna, Va.) 1 hr.

**Description:** This class will teach you how to cultivate the habit of thinking like a writer. Learn to process the daily events of life in ways that continuously contribute to your development and growth as a writer. Discover useful tools and techniques that help make writing as effortless and stress-free as possible.

[**Note:** While initially developed for memoir writers, this class can be used for general writing groups, keynotes, or adapted to other types of writing.]

**6. Start Writing Today: Everything You Need to Know to Get Started in Creative Writing – Write Now!**

(Presented at multiple libraries) 2 to 2 1/2 hr.

**Description:** If you've ever dreamed of becoming a writer, don't miss this class. This fast-moving and fun session will give you an overview of the writing life from thinking like a writer to publishing your work. Learn the four critical elements every successful story must contain; understand use of techniques to make fiction and nonfiction stories come alive; discover the two critical techniques required for any fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or drama to succeed; and learn to decide who should tell your story and how. Don't miss this opportunity to get down-to-earth answers to all of your writing questions.