

Creative Writing in Cambridge

The Pembroke College ~ National Academy of Writing Summer Programme 2015
International Programmes at Pembroke College: www.pem.cam.ac.uk/creativewriting

PEMBROKE COLLEGE
University of Cambridge

27 July ~ 21 August 2015



The Thought-Fox
I imagine something else is alive
Beside the dock's loneliness
And this blank page elsewhere
Through the window I see no star
I've never heard a hind-knee
Cold delicate lyas the dark snow
The fox's nose touches the snow
And eyes see a gleam of movement
And again now, and now, and
sets neat prints into the snow
Betwixt trees, and duns, and
Of a body that is bold to
Across clearings, an eye, a
widening of a deepening greenness,
Brilliantly, concentratedly
Coming about its own business
Till, with a sudden harphestria
It enters the dark hole of the
head.



The window is still as a fish
The page is printed

Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate 1984-1998, conceived his poem 'The Thought-Fox' from a dream while an undergraduate in Pembroke College
Much of Ted Hughes' poetry was inspired by his love of nature, particularly water, fish and fishing

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This collaboration between the National Academy of Writing and Pembroke College provides a unique opportunity for those with a commitment to developing their writing to meet and work with leading practitioners in the delightful setting of one of Cambridge's oldest and most forward-looking Colleges.

The programme, taught and led by experts in writing and teaching, will explore aspects of effective narrative writing, from the generation of ideas to methodologies for editing with the aim of helping students to understand how best to apply these principles. It is designed for those with at least some, and possibly quite an extensive, background in creative writing who are looking for inspiration and practical advice.

The outstanding guest lectures, given by award-winning practitioners and literary figures, will cover a broad range of approaches to a variety of genres and forms. These lectures act as a focus for seminar-based discussion, and speakers in recent years have included David Almond, Terence Blacker, Sophie Hannah, Sir Michael Holroyd, A. L. Kennedy, Deborah Moggach and Erica Wagner.

Through lectures, seminars and workshops the course conveners will look at the challenge of creating compelling narratives, whether as fiction or creative non-fiction. Writing exercises will challenge students to explore new techniques for themselves, and exemplary texts from the canon of literature in English will provide the basis for further discussion.

Students will also benefit from a series of Cambridge-style *supervisions* or *tutorials* over the course of the programme. These supervisions will concentrate on writing that students bring with them or create while in Cambridge, and offer an invaluable opportunity for students to work closely with established practicing writers.

The principal Convenor of the programme will be **Richard Beard**, Director of the National Academy of Writing and author of six novels and three books of non-fiction.

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