

The sky was....blue? Writing the Summer Landscape

Writing Workshop with Jonathan Sapers

Course Activity	Key Concepts Explored	Skills Gained
Review readings, initial exercise (bring a photo of a favourite St. Andrews site and write 250 words about it), discuss what goes into landscape writing. Readings to be provided. Read aloud student efforts. Discuss.	What goes into descriptive writing. How to choose subjects.	Initial experimentation with description, writing exercises. Learning value of short exercises for exploring ideas.
Visit Campgrounds at end of the St. Andrews peninsula. Study landscape. Notes, description. Write 500 word exercises using details chosen to communicate how scene makes the writer feel.	Importance of choice of detail.	Contrast. Writing descriptive essay. Using description to show the way something makes us feel.
Day 3 Sailing trip. A trip around the island on the teacher's family's boat. Students will be asked to compose short stories based on the boat trip, using the natural phenomena as well as describing the experience.	How does a quintessential summer experience – boating – depend on the natural elements that make it happen? How do we describe that so that the elements become a kind of character?	Description: experimenting with short story writing.
Trip to Minister's Island or the Bar Road. Students can choose to write about the Bar Road as is or as a metaphor for something else. Reading from Thoreau. Reading from Hemingway? Students work on stories. Pass in Day 3 efforts.	Differing ways to approach rendering the experience of a place. Mimicking (or not) writers who've gone before. "Went three rounds with so and so." How do we approach rendering striking natural phenomena like the Bar Road? What metaphors work? What does it mean to use metaphors when a thing is so beautiful on its own?	Using description to render a complex site. Learning from writers who've gone before.

<p>Reading aloud and workshopping of student stories.</p>	<p>Offering and receiving edits to other writers.</p>	<p>Productive ways to edit, benefits of reading aloud.</p>
---	---	--