

# Writer Application 2016

# FIRST STORY

Changing lives through writing

## About Us

At First Story we believe that writing can transform lives and that there is dignity and power in every young person's story.

Our programme places talented, professional writers into secondary schools serving low-income communities. Our residency model allows writers the opportunity to work alongside teachers and students to inspire creativity, foster communication skills and build confidence.

Such sustained, long-term support enables writers to build deeper relationships and explore concepts in more detail whilst our wider network provides a framework for further support and collaboration.

Our success and the value of our work has been widely recognised. With the support of key partners including Arts Council England, Teach First and the Royal Society of Literature we aim to strengthen and build for the future to reach as many young people as possible through our programme.



## Testimonials

'If you're able to write, to express yourself in your own voice, to tell stories about your own experiences, and your own world, that's an incredibly powerful thing, incredibly validating.'

**William Fiennes, Co-Founder of First Story and former Writer-in-Residence, Cranford Community College, London.**

'First Story offers the chance to spend a sustained period of time with the same group. You get to know them, they grow to trust you and, in that process, the work that gets produced can often be breathtaking.'

**Andrew McMillan, former Writer-in-Residence Buttershaw Business & Enterprise College, Bradford.**

'There is a definite benefit in the way this work raises the students' aspirations. They are encouraged and validated. Many of the children have very low self esteem. Writing can help to lift that.'

**Kate Clanchy, Writer-in-Residence, Oxford Spire Academy, Oxford.**

'Coming to school even once a week was something completely new in my life and incredibly rewarding...I go in thinking I'm not sure this exercise will work, I'm not sure I'll get any good pieces back, or they won't be inspired by this one, and then I'll get ten great pieces back all of which leave me slightly humbled, and glad I didn't read my own out.'

**Peter Hobbs, Writer-in-Residence, Wembley High Technology College, London.**

## Working With Us

We are currently looking for writers with a talent for teaching creative writing to nurture the skills of young writers and help them to find their own voices.

### What we're looking for:

- Acclaimed writers, with a publication record of at least one book and/or an established reputation as a performance poet or playwright.
- At least three years' experience teaching creative writing, preferably to young people.
- Ambassadors for the programme and for creative writing in the region.
- Some editing experience is desirable but not essential.

Above all, we're looking for writers who can enthuse students and help them discover a love of writing. If this is you, please do get in touch!

# Becoming a Writer-in-Residence:

First Story writers work with a selected group of students to inspire their love of writing and build their confidence.

Although we offer different levels of engagement for our school partners across the country the core elements of our residencies remain the same.

For each programme we ask First Story writers-in-residence to:

- Plan and deliver workshops to a group of up to 21 students:
  - **Year-Long:** minimum 16 workshops of 90 minutes  
(residency runs throughout autumn & spring terms)
  - **Term-Long:** minimum 8 workshops of 90 minutes  
(residency runs in either the autumn or spring term)
  - **Week-Long:** 8 workshops of 90 minutes across 1 week  
(residency available throughout the year)
- Collate and edit students' work for publication in a First Story anthology.
- Organise and host, with your school, the First Story anthology book launch.
- Deliver one teacher training session for up to 21 teachers at your school.
- Attend meetings of the First Story teachers and writers in your region.
- Attend a writers' Skills Sharing Day in London for First Story training and to share good practice.
- We also offer the opportunity for writers to lead workshops at Regional Events, our Young Writers' Festival and Summer Residential (for additional fees).

## Remuneration:

- **Year-long:** a grant of £4,000
- **Term-long:** a grant of £2,400
- **Week-Long:** a grant of £1,000

## To Apply:

- A copy of your CV and a covering letter stating why you would like to be a First Story writer-in-residence.
- A sample of a secondary school workshop for a 90 minute session.

Please send a cover letter, CV and sample workshop plan to [info@firststory.org.uk](mailto:info@firststory.org.uk). Interviews for suitable candidates will be held on a rolling basis.

**Please note:**

Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

First Story welcomes applicants regardless of race or colour, nationality or national or ethnic origin, religion or religious belief, sex or marital status, sexual orientation, disability or age. We are committed to the safeguarding of children and child protection screening (including DBS) will apply to this post.

