

# English Stage 6

# Module C: The Craft of Writing Support Document

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#### Introduction

The selection of texts for *Module C: The Craft of Writing* for the English Standard and English Advanced courses may be drawn from any types of texts and do not contribute to the prescribed text requirements.

There are no prescribed editions of texts listed for study in *Module C: The Craft of Writing*. The sources referenced in this support document are suggested sources only.

Students examine and analyse at least two prescribed texts as well as texts from their own wide reading, as models and stimulus for the development of their own ideas and written expression. Students may also revisit prescribed texts from other modules to enhance their experiences of quality writing.

In choosing the texts listed, the literary merit of the work was considered and its potential to engage the reader/audience using a variety of techniques and strategies. This support document also provides a brief overview of the content and stylistic features of each text.

The prescribed texts provide a springboard for students, individually and collaboratively, to conceptualise, plan, draft and refine their own wellcrafted compositions in a range of forms and for a range of expressive purposes.

## English Standard Module C – The Craft of Writing

#### DESCRIPTION

In this module, students strengthen and extend their knowledge, skills and confidence as writers. They write for a range of authentic audiences and purposes to convey ideas with power and increasing precision.

Students appreciate, examine and analyse at least two challenging short prescribed texts as well as texts from their own wide reading, as models and stimulus for the development of their own ideas and written expression. They examine how writers of complex texts use language creatively and imaginatively for a range of purposes, to describe the world around them, evoke emotion, shape a perspective or to share a vision.

Through the study of texts drawn from enduring, quality texts of the past as well as from recognised contemporary works, students appreciate, analyse and assess the importance and power of language. Through a considered appraisal of, and imaginative engagement with these texts, students reflect on the complex and recursive process of writing to further develop their ability to apply their knowledge of textual forms and features in their own sustained and cohesive compositions.

During the pre-writing stage, students generate and explore ideas through discussion and speculations. Throughout the stages of drafting and revising, students experiment with a range of language forms and features for example imagery, rhetoric, voice, characterisation, point of view, dialogue and tone. Students consider purpose and audience to carefully shape meaning. During the editing stages students apply the conventions of syntax, spelling, punctuation and grammar appropriately and effectively for publication.

Students have opportunities to work independently and collaboratively to reflect, refine and strengthen their own skills in producing crafted, imaginative, discursive, persuasive and informative texts.

*Note:* Students may revisit prescribed texts from other modules to enhance their experiences of quality writing.

PROSE FICTIO	PROSE FICTION			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source	
The Pedestrian Ray Bradbury	A short story representing a dystopian future, demonstrating third-person limited narration, dialogue and irony.	A best-selling American author and screenwriter, Ray Bradbury was awarded a Special Citation in the 2007 Pulitzer Prize.	Bradbury, Ray <i>Ray Bradbury Stories Volume 2</i> HarperVoyager, 2008 ISBN: 9780007280582	
<b>Report on the Shadow Industry</b> Peter Carey	Brief and deceptively simple, this 1974 story adopts a first-person point of view and employs descriptive language and an anecdotal style to present a bitter satire of American consumerism and corporate exploitation.	Critically acclaimed Australian author Peter Carey is a two-time Booker Prize winner and was named an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2012.	Carey, Peter <i>Collected Stories</i> Penguin, 2015 ISBN: 9780143571254	
Home Catherine Cole	This long short story employs shifting verb tenses and an episodic narrative structure to conflate time, memories and hopes within a character's imagination and experiences. Evocative imagery and motifs are used to communicate the thoughts and emotions of the protagonist, a refugee from war-torn Iraq, and to establish a vivid sense of place.	Catherine Cole is an Australian writer who has been commended/shortlisted for a range of awards including the Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize.	Kennedy, Cate (ed) <i>The Best Australian Stories 2011</i> Black Inc, 2011 ISBN: 9781863955485	

Crouch End Stephen King	Originally published in 1980, the story combines elements of crime fiction, mystery and horror and incorporates dialogue, flashbacks and allusions to the fiction of HP Lovecraft to portray a well-known London locale in a sinister light.	Stephen King is a prolific and bestselling American author whose work spans multiple fiction genres. His novels have received American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults recommendations and he has won numerous awards and prizes including the British Fantasy Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. King was honoured with the National Book Award Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters in 2003.	King, Stephen <i>Nightmares and Dreamscapes</i> Hodder and Stoughton, 2012 ISBN: 9781444723182
<b>Dreamers</b> Melissa Lucashenko	Shifting between two time settings and alluding to significant moments and events in the nation's social and political history, the story draws on the archetypical Australian trope of the lost child in the bush. It depicts the fragile bond that develops between an Aboriginal woman and her non- Aboriginal employers.	Melissa Lucashenko is an Australian writer and recipient of the 1998 Dobbie Literary Award. She won the 2013 Deloitte Queensland Literary Award for Fiction, the 2013 Walkley Award for long feature writing and the 2014 Victorian Premier's Award for Indigenous Writing.	Carlin, David and Rendle-Short, Francesca (eds) <i>The Near and the Far: new stories</i> <i>from the Asia-Pacific region</i> Scribe, 2016 ISBN: 9781925321562

NONFICTION	NONFICTION			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source	
Dear Mrs Dunkley Helen Garner	Written as a moving letter to her childhood teacher, the author's use of simple and direct language powerfully evokes a child's perspective as well as the wisdom and insights that come with age.	Helen Garner is a critically acclaimed Australian writer of fiction and nonfiction. She has received numerous awards and prizes including the Melbourne Prize for Literature, the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction and the Windham– Campbell Literature Prize for nonfiction.	Garner, Helen <i>Everywhere I Look</i> Text Publishing, 2016 ISBN: 9781925355369	
The Sporting Spirit George Orwell	First published in 1945, this essay presents a scathing critique of competitive and team sports made forceful by well-chosen examples and logical argumentation.	As a highly regarded and influential British novelist and essayist of the twentieth century, the Orwell Prize for political writing and the Orwell Award for critical analysis of public discourse are named in honour of George Orwell.	Orwell, George <i>George Orwell: Essays</i> Penguin, 2000 ISBN: 9780141183060	
<b>A Comparison</b> Sylvia Plath	This short essay published in 1962 uses vivid and visceral imagery to explore the differences between writing a novel and a poem.	A celebrated American poet, novelist and short story writer, Sylvia Plath was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry posthumously in 1982.	Plath, Sylvia <i>Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams</i> Faber and Faber, 2005 ISBN: 9780571049899	
What He Said There Sarah Vowell	Combining personal anecdote and reflections on contemporary American society and culture, the essay recounts a journey taken in the footsteps of President Abraham Lincoln as he travelled to Gettysburg to dedicate the civil war cemetery	Sarah Vowell is an American journalist, essayist and media commentator. She has written seven bestselling books on American history and culture.	Vowell, Sarah <i>The Partly Cloudy Patriot</i> Simon and Schuster, 2003 ISBN: 9780743243803	

	there and reflects on the significance and legacy of the speech he made.		
SPEECHES			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source
First speech to the House of Representatives as Member for Barton	A largely autobiographical political address incorporating song and personal anecdotes, the speech moves fluidly between personal, social and political contexts.	Linda Burney is the first Indigenous woman to be elected to the Australian House of Representatives.	http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_ Members/Members/FirstSpeeches/Lin da_Burney
Linda Burney			
How To Live Before You Die Steve Jobs	The 2005 Stanford University Commencement Address adopts a tripartite structure and uses autobiographical anecdotes to communicate a message of resilience and personal integrity.	Co-founder of Apple Inc. and one of the pioneers of microcomputer technology, Steve Jobs was named the most powerful person in business by <i>Fortune</i> magazine in 2007.	http://news.stanford.edu/2005/06/14/jo bs-061505/
Funeral Service of The Unknown Australian Soldier Paul Keating	A formal public address delivered on Remembrance Day in 1993, the speech is a powerful and moving eulogy for all Australians killed in war. As a speech, it demonstrates how inclusive language, rhetorical patterns and sentence structure can be used to create an inspirational memorial tribute.	Paul Keating is a former Prime Minister of Australia and is widely regarded as a highly effective orator.	http://www.keating.org.au/persistent/c atalogue_files/products/19931111unkn ownsoldier.pdf

The Fringe Benefits of Failure and the Importance of Imagination JK Rowling	The 2008 Commencement Address to the Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association demonstrates the use of humour, anecdote and subversion of expectations. The speech also highlights the power of simple language to communicate a powerful idea.	JK Rowling is an acclaimed writer and winner of numerous awards including the National Book Awards Children's Book of the Year, the British Book of the Year, and the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award. She was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2000.	http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/ 2008/06/text-of-j-k-rowling-speech/
POETRY			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source
<b>Popcorn</b> Carol Chan	The poem adopts an informal register and uses enjambment and recalled encounters to present the autobiographical persona's reflections on living between cultures.	Carol Chan is a Singaporean writer whose poems have appeared in publications including <i>Quarterly Literary</i> <i>Review Singapore</i> , <i>Cordite Poetry</i> <i>Review</i> , <i>Meanjin</i> and <i>Mascara Literary</i> <i>Review</i> .	Aitken, Adam; Boey, Kim Cheng and Cahill, Michelle (eds) <i>Contemporary Asian Australian Poets</i> Puncher and Wattmann, 2013 ISBN: 9781921450655
Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening Robert Frost	First published in 1923, the poem uses imagery, rhyme and repetition to represent a persona's transitory experience of harmony in and with the natural world.	One of the most celebrated American poets of the twentieth century, Robert Frost was a multiple winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.	Frost, Robert <i>The Collected Poems of Robert Frost</i> Vintage, 2013 ISBN: 9780099583097
An Absolutely Ordinary Rainbow Les Murray	Published in 1969, the poem describes a man weeping in the middle of Martin Place in Sydney and the reactions of passers-by. The strangeness and tension of the scene is accentuated by the formal arrangement of stanzas and free	Les Murray was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to Australian literature in 1989, and has been awarded the Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry, the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.	Murray, Les <i>The Best 100 Poems of Les Murray</i> Black Inc, 2012 ISBN: 9781863955843

<b>The Surfer</b> Judith Wright	<ul> <li>verse mode, and the adoption of a first-person plural point of view.</li> <li>First published in 1945, the poem is a closely observed portrait of a body surfer in the ocean waves. Imagery, punctuation, syntax and sound devices are used to convey a visceral impression of the experience and of the sea's potent menace.</li> </ul>	A highly regarded Australian poet, Judith Wright received the Christopher Brennan Award and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.	Wright, Judith Judith Wright: Collected Poems 1942 to 1985 Fourth Estate, 2016 ISBN: 9781460752364
May your pen grace the page (performance poetry) Luka Lesson	Influenced by rap and hip-hop, this spoken-word poem explores the power of language and the relationship between the poet and the pen.	Luka Lesson is a Greek-Australian performance poet. He was the Melbourne Overload Poetry Festival slam champion in 2010 and won the 2011 Australian Poetry Slam final.	Lesson, Luka <i>Please Resist Me</i> (CD) <u>lukalesson.com.au</u>

### **English Advanced Module C – The Craft of Writing**

#### DESCRIPTION

In this module, students strengthen and extend their knowledge, skills and confidence as accomplished writers. Students write for a range of audiences and purposes using language to convey ideas and emotions with power and precision.

Students appreciate, examine and analyse at least two short prescribed texts as well as texts from their own wide reading, as models and stimulus for the development of their own complex ideas and written expression. They evaluate how writers use language creatively and imaginatively for a range of purposes; to express insights, evoke emotion, describe the wonder of the natural world, shape a perspective or to share an aesthetic vision.

Through the study of enduring, quality texts of the past as well as recognised contemporary works, students appreciate, analyse and evaluate the versatility, power and aesthetics of language. Through considered appraisal and imaginative engagement with texts, students reflect on the complex and recursive processes of writing to further develop their self-expression and apply their knowledge of textual forms and features in their own sustained and cohesive compositions.

During the pre-writing stage, students generate and explore various concepts through discussion and speculation. Throughout the stages of drafting and revising students experiment with various figurative, rhetorical and linguistic devices, for example allusion, imagery, narrative voice, characterisation, and tone. Students consider purpose, audience and context to deliberately shape meaning. During the editing stages students apply the conventions of syntax, spelling, punctuation and grammar appropriately and effectively for publication.

Students have opportunities to work independently and collaboratively to reflect, refine and strengthen their own skills in producing highly crafted imaginative, discursive, persuasive and informative texts.

*Note:* Students may revisit prescribed texts from other modules to enhance their experiences of quality writing.

PROSE FICTION			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source
The Awakening Kate Chopin	First published in 1899, this novella presents a provocative study of female identity and independence in a repressive society. It features a strong narrative voice, controlled descriptions and dialogue, and the use of foreshadowing, imagery and symbolism.	Acclaimed as a short story writer in her time, Kate Chopin's novella received renewed critical attention from the 1960s and is now regarded as an important precursor of modern feminist literature.	Chopin, Kate <i>The Awakening and Selected Stories</i> Penguin Classics, 2003 ISBN: 9780142437322
<b>The Fun of the Fair</b> Elizabeth Harrower	The story features strong characterisation, vivid imagery and vibrant dialogue. It presents a poignant depiction of the protagonist's emotional experiences.	Elizabeth Harrower is an Australian novelist and short story writer. She received the Patrick White Award in 1996.	Harrower, Elizabeth <i>A few days in the country and other</i> <i>stories</i> Text Publishing, 2016 ISBN: 9781925355550
<b>Metamorphosis</b> Franz Kafka	This 1915 novella fuses descriptions of quotidian domestic details and realistic characterisation with fantastic subject matter to explore themes of alienation and existential anxiety and regret, and is regarded as a seminal work of absurdist fiction.	A novelist and short story writer, Franz Kafka is widely acknowledged as one of the most influential figures of twentieth- century literature.	Kafka, Franz <i>Metamorphosis</i> Penguin, 2010 ISBN: 9780141194837

Love and Honour and Pity and Pride and Compassion and Sacrifice Nam Le	First published in 2006 and combining elements of autobiography, fiction and metafiction, the story presents an examination of identity, familial relationships and the narrator's Vietnamese heritage.	Nam Le is an Australian writer of Vietnamese descent. He has received numerous awards including the Pushcart Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize, the Australian Prime Minister's Literary Award and the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award.	Le, Nam <i>The Boat</i> Penguin, 2009 ISBN: 9780143009610
Thirteen Ways of Looking Colum McCann	Featuring the skilful use of narrative point of view to represent multiple perspectives, the story features an observational style and episodic structure.	Colum McCann is an Irish novelist and short story writer. He is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes including the 2009 National Book Award and the 2011 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.	McCann, Colum <i>Thirteen Ways of Looking</i> Bloomsbury, 2016 ISBN: 9781408869857
What Time Is It Now, Where You Are? Colum McCann	A self-conscious metafiction composed in thirteen sections, the story explores both the possibilities and the limitations of conventional storytelling.	Colum McCann is an Irish novelist and short story writer. He is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes including the 2009 National Book Award and the 2011 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.	McCann, Colum <i>Thirteen Ways of Looking</i> Bloomsbury, 2016 ISBN: 9781408869857
The Ghost of Firozsha Baag Rohinton Mistry	Published in 1987, the story is narrated from the point of view of a Goan servant and presents meticulously drawn characters and a sensitive evocation of place.	Rohinton Mistry is a Canadian author of Indian descent. Among his numerous awards are the 1991 and 1996 Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the 2012 Neustadt International Prize for Literature. He was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2015.	Mistry, Rohinton <i>Tales from Firozsha Baag</i> Faber and Faber, 2006 ISBN: 9780571230563

NONFICTION	NONFICTION			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source	
How to Marry Your Daughters Helen Garner	This 2016 review essay adopts a witty and playful tone as it narrates the author's experience of reading Jane Austen's novel <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> for, perhaps, the first time.	Helen Garner is a celebrated Australian writer of fiction and nonfiction. She has received numerous awards and prizes including the Melbourne Prize for Literature, the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction, the Queensland Premier's Award for Fiction and the Windham-Campbell Literature Prize for nonfiction.	Garner, Helen <i>Everywhere I Look</i> Text Publishing, 2016 ISBN: 9781925355369	
<b>Eight Days in a</b> <b>Corset</b> Siri Hustvedt	Published in 2006, the essay offers a feminist perspective on clothing and combines historical and literary references with personal anecdotes. First-person narration and the inclusion of snippets of dialogue create an informal discursive tone.	Siri Hustvedt is an award-winning American author of essays, nonfiction and fiction. She has received honorary doctorates from the University of Oslo, Université Stendhal (Université Grenoble Alpes) and the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.	Hustvedt, Siri <i>A Plea for Eros</i> Sceptre, 2006 ISBN: 9780340839782	
Politics and the English Language George Orwell	First published in 1946, the essay presents a forceful argument about the relationship between language and thought. Various excerpts and examples are dissected to illustrate the dishonesty that lies at the heart of political rhetoric and good and bad elements of writing style.	As a highly regarded and influential British novelist and essayist of the twentieth century, the Orwell Prize for political writing and the Orwell Award for critical analysis of public discourse are named in honour of George Orwell.	Orwell, George <i>George Orwell: Essays</i> Penguin, 2000 ISBN: 9780141183060	

That Crafty Feeling Zadie Smith SPEECHES	Adapted from a lecture presented to university writing students in 2008, this essay adopts a lively, self- conscious style and incorporates a broad range of literary and cultural references to reflect on different approaches to writing fiction.	Zadie Smith is a critically acclaimed English author and professor of creative writing at New York University. She was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2002 and has won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the Orange Prize for Fiction.	Smith, Zadie <i>Changing My Mind: Occasional</i> <i>Essays</i> Penguin, 2011 ISBN: 9780141019468
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source
Spotty-Handed Villainesses Margaret Atwood	By turns humorous and wryly subversive, this 1994 speech provides a modern feminist perspective on the representation of female characters in literature and culture throughout history.	Margaret Atwood is a highly regarded Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic and essayist. She has received numerous awards and prizes including the Canadian Governor General's Award, the Los Angeles Times Fiction Award and the Booker Prize.	NESA NSW Syllabus website
A Home in Fiction Geraldine Brooks	This 2011 speech incorporates literary and cultural references and personal anecdotes to narrate the author's development as a writer of fiction and the awe and appreciation she holds for the power of language.	Geraldine Brooks is an Australian- American author of fiction and nonfiction. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2006 and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2016.	NESA NSW Syllabus website

Eulogy for Gough Whitlam Noel Pearson	The powerful use of rhetorical devices, anecdotal recollections and historical and cultural references combine with the compelling narrative and nuanced tone of the speech to reframe the portrait and legacy of a significant twentieth-century Australian political leader.	Noel Pearson is an Aboriginal Australian lawyer, academic, land rights activist and political figure. His eulogy for former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam delivered at a state memorial service on 5 November 2014 has been hailed as one of the most significant political speeches of our time.	http://www.smh.com.au/comment/no el-pearsons-eulogy-for-gough- whitlam-in-full-20141105- 11haeu.html
POETRY			
Text	Overview	Merit/Cultural Significance	Suggested Source
Stamp Collecting Kim Cheng Boey	Published in 2008, the poem features an autobiographical persona and establishes a nostalgic mood as a father reflects on his family and cultural heritage and the expatriate experience.	Kim Cheng Boey is an Australian poet of Chinese Singaporean descent. He won the Singapore National Book Development Council of Singapore Award for Poetry in 1992 and the Singapore National Arts Council's Young Artist Award in 1996. His collection <i>Clear Brightness</i> was shortlisted for the 2014 Multicultural NSW Award.	Aitken, Adam; Boey, Kim Cheng and Cahill, Michelle (eds) <i>Contemporary Asian Australian</i> <i>Poets</i> Puncher and Wattmann, 2013 ISBN: 9781921450655
Father and Child Gwen Harwood	First published in 1969, the poem is structured as a diptych and uses rhythm and rhyme, and imagery and literary allusions, to portray the relationship between a child and father as it has changed over time.	Regarded as one of Australia's finest poets, Gwen Harwood was the recipient of numerous awards including the Grace Leven Prize for Poetry and the Patrick White Award. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1989.	Harwood, Gwen <i>Selected Poems</i> Penguin, 2001 ISBN:9780141006680

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird Wallace Stevens	First published in 1917, the poem presents a series of striking and evocative images and reflections. Marked by contrasts and shifts in perspective, the clipped rhythms and minimalist modes adopted in the thirteen sections of the poem are reminiscent of haiku.	A celebrated American poet of the twentieth century, Wallace Stevens won the National Book Award for Poetry in 1951 and 1955, and the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1955.	Wallace Stevens: Selected Poems Alfred A Knopf/Random House, 2011 ISBN: 9780375711732
<b>The Lady of</b> <b>Shallot</b> Alfred, Lord Tennyson	The long narrative poem is structured as a ballad and recasts Arthurian subject matter drawn from medieval legend to explore themes relating to both female and artistic identities and isolation from the world.	A much-loved Victorian poet and important influence on the Pre- Raphaelite movement, Alfred, Lord Tennyson succeeded William Wordsworth as Poet Laureate of Great Britain and Ireland in 1850.	Alfred Lord Tennyson: Selected Poems Penguin Classics, 2007 ISBN: 9780140424430
<b>Picture a Vacuum</b> (performance poetry) Kate Tempest	Influenced by rap and hip-hop, this spoken-word poem utilises first and second-person modes to explore the individual's relationship with and experience of the cosmos.	Kate Tempest is a critically acclaimed spoken-word poet and playwright. She won the Ted Hughes Award in 2012 and was the 2015–16 Visiting Fellow in the Department of English at University College London.	Tempest, Kate <i>Let Them Eat Chaos</i> (CD) 2016, Fiction Records