

Blaam

the Memoir School

Your paragraph text

Orientation Guide
by Inger Kenobi

Welcome to BLOOM

Have a seat and make yourself at home!
I'm so glad you're here!

Please read through this guide and save it somewhere you can easily find it.

Let's start with a quote by Anne Lamott:

My writer friends, and they are legion, do not go around beaming with quiet feelings of contentment.

Most of them go around with haunted, abused, surprised looks on their faces, like lab dogs on whom very personal deodorant sprays have been tested.

But I also tell my students that sometimes when my writer friends are working, they feel better and more alive than they do at any other time.

And sometimes when they are writing well, they feel that they are living up to something.

It is as if the right words, the true words, are already inside them, and they just want to help them get out.

Writing this way is a little like milking a cow: the milk is so rich and delicious, and the cow is so glad you did it.

This is what we will do!

We will milk the cow, and WOW will our books be glad we did!

Over to Housekeeping

CLASSES

1. Mark the classes in your calendar.

(Here is a helpful [overview](#) over all the dates and times)

All calls will be recorded.

The Zoom link for all classes will be posted in our Facebook Group.

THE FACEBOOK GROUP

2. Click [here](#) to join the Facebook group.

Oh, and BTW, the Facebook group is **YOURS**. Use it. Ask questions. Share helpful resources.

Reading a helpful book?

Tell your fellow writers.

How to get the most out of this writing journey?

Show up for the classes (or watch the recordings).

Set aside time for writing.

Be kind to yourself.

Lean on the community.

Be a good host for your book and your creative ideas.

Think of BLOOM as your online writing retreat. I want you to feel empowered and have fun from day one.

Here we start where we are, so you don't have to run a mile a minute to catch up.

Sometimes your energy is low.

Sometimes life gets life-y.

Sometimes you're on a creative roll and dive into all the things, all at once.

Sometimes everything sucks.

Sometimes we daydream about our book launches.

This group, this community, this retreat is here to support you every step of the way.

And if there is anything, in particular, you'd like help with, wonder about, or would like to learn more about, raise your hand in the Facebook Group or in class.

Chances are, if you're wondering about something, others will wonder about it too.

Best Practice

Take 100% responsibility for yourself.

Here “Responsibility” means your power to create and practice writing.

Experiment.

Play.

Reach out.

Laugh.

Mix it up.

Dive in.

Be curious.

Create your own breakthroughs and a-ha moments. If all of your ideas stay in your head or in your notebooks, that’s where the results show up as well. *No, thank you!*

This doesn’t mean you’re alone and that you have to do everything yourself.

The entire purpose behind BLOOM is the shift from individual struggle to coming together as a community.

We’ll share our experiences, insights, wisdom, and resources. We’ll lift each other up. We’ll brainstorm. We’ll ask for help and receive guidance.

Together we’ll create the spirit of this group.

The idea here is that the community will care for the individuals, and the individuals will care for the community.

Coaching | pop-up artist dates | ad hoc workshops

This will also happen on Zoom, and I announce dates and times at least one week in advance.

For the coaching, bring anything that is relevant to your writing journey.

And before the call starts, set the intention that you will get the exact answer you need, regardless of who gets coached.

The Facebook Group

The Facebook group is our shared communal space. You are welcome and appreciated there and I am always happy to see you. Just imagine being in a room full of fellow writers who are a rare mix of fans, friends, and helpers along the way.

You are warmly encouraged to share your insights, celebrations, and breakthroughs.

Some basic guidelines for participation:

1. Assume you're among beloved friends.
2. Only posts pertaining to BLOOM are allowed. No outside links, self-promotion, or promotion of other programs or coaches. We constrain our attention to writing and creativity.

3. You may of course ask for feedback and comments, but first:

Tell us what YOU like about your work.

Tell us what specific aspect you'd like feedback on.

This is to provide a clear focus, instead of, 'What do you think about this?' or 'What do you think I should do?'

4. You may want to share something without inviting comments. Great. Just make sure you put that in the post. 'No comments, please.'

In conclusion: you're here to have a fabulous time write your memoir, take your creativity to new heights, and spend time with humans that will become your biggest fans.

Okay, I'm done with the 'how to get started' part now!

The rest is writing, play, and creativity.

And as Dani Shapiro reminds us:

How do we live the writer's life? There's only one simple answer: 'we write.'

Welcome to BLOOM!

Love,
Inger