

(Paperback) Writer

Book Club – Caroline Preller

B2-C2

The aim of this course is to read, discuss and respond to a selection of paperback books.

Course expectations

Why read books? Here, we will discover and discuss short stories and novels (which may be from different eras, as well as contemporary works) in order to ask ourselves what they bring to our lives. The works are read **before** the class, and questions asked so that the class can be devoted to discussion and debate of the themes and issues raised. We will also analyse some texts in class, to deepen our understanding of style and use of language.

The class will be divided into two half-groups (maximum 8 students per group). Each group meets every week for 45 minutes, and spends the other half of the class time reading or writing.

Learning goals

How are we affected by words on a page? How do the worlds we experience through literature influence the way we see our lives? We will look at questions of identity, displacement, narrative viewpoints, empathy, and more. By both experiencing literature, reflecting and reasoning, students will be developing critical thinking skills.

Language goals

As well as a weekly reading assignment, students will have regular writing tasks in class throughout the term. They will have many opportunities to speak and articulate different viewpoints, and increase their vocabulary.

Autonomy

Students will present a work that they have read in a medium of their choice.

Assessment

Active participation (40%), completing reading and written assignments (40%), final project (20%).

Works will be chosen at the beginning of term from a selection which may include the following authors: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; Barbara Kingsolver; WS Maugham; Toni Morrison; Richard Powers; "Saki"; Ali Smith; Kae Tempest; H.G. Wells.