# Reinventing the Protagonist:

**Opportunity for Deaf and/or Disabled and/or Neurodiverse Writers to join a virtual creative writing course**

This document includes information about the content of the course, eligibility, accessibility, and details of how to apply. Our website includes further information, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions and downloadable versions of the application form. You can find everything here: [Reinventing the Protagonist](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/reinventing-the-protagonist/)

## Background

**Reinventing the Protagonist** is a free digital course for Deaf and/or Disabled writers living in Wales. This opportunity is organised by Literature Wales in partnership with Disability Arts Cymru. The course is run as a series of 5 digital workshops and one-on-one sessions, led by internationally acclaimed playwright and writer **Kaite O’Reilly.**

The course was held for the first time in 2023 with 10 writers taking part. Literature Wales and Disability Arts Wales are proud to work in partnership again and run the course during winter 2024 and spring 2025.

## What does the course include?

Using stimulating examples of poetry, fiction, and plays written by Disabled and Deaf writers, our online group workshops will invite you to consider how we can be more inclusive and representative in the creation of characters, perspectives, narratives, and fictional worlds. Through discussions, writing exercises and prompts, you will be encouraged to look at your writing anew. We will challenge the stereotypes, and consider new narratives, reinvented protagonists, surprising endings, and a refreshed language for our work.

**Session 1** (6 November 2024)

In this session we will introduce ourselves and get to know the group of writers.

The content of the session will explore representation of Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent people in literature. We will read extracts from accomplished or subversive poetry, fiction, and plays written by Disabled and Deaf writers and discuss how we can implement some of the good techniques and ideas we will have read and discussed into our own work.

In this initial session, we will set out the groundwork for reinventing our protagonists, exploring models of disability, and setting ourselves the challenge to change stereotypes, consider new narratives, and using refreshed language in our work.

**Session 2** (13 November 2024)

This session will focus on monologues. Even if your writing in progress is not a monologue or a script, this workshop will help you develop your craft in writing from your own – or from another first person’s – perspective.

**Session 3** (20 November 2024)

This session will focus on fiction. Depending on the group’s work in progress, we might decide to focus on writing for children and young people, fiction, or creative non-fiction. We will touch on storylines, characters and dialogue.

**Session 4** (27 November 2024)

This session will focus on poetry. Even if your writing in progress is not poetry, the workshop will be useful for efficient and precise writing. Through the sample poems we will analyse imagery and how poetry can be a powerful tool to make your readers empathise and understand. We will be joined by a special guest reader, who will co-host the session.

**Session 5** (Week of 13 January, 2025. Specific times will be agreed upon by the participants and tutor at the beginning of the course)

Following a six week break for you to develop your work in progress, each writer will receive a one-to-one session with Kaite to discuss your individual projects. You can expect detailed feedback and tailored encouragement during these sessions, as well as specific advice about opportunities which may be of interest to you.

**Session 6** (March 2025)The final session will be a celebration, and an opportunity for each writer to perform a short piece of their own written work to the rest of the group.

## Eligibility

This opportunity is for Wales-based writers over the age of 18 who are **Deaf** and/or **Disabled** and/or **Neurodivergent** according to the \*social model of disability.

\*The Social Model of Disability holds that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference.

The course is suitable for highly committed emerging writers looking to expand their writing toolkit, and more experienced writers looking to reinvent their protagonists. The course is relevant for writers of all genres, including poetry, prose, non-fiction and scriptwriting.

The course will be delivered in English. However, we welcome writers who primarily write in Welsh to join, as the skills and craft you will learn on the course will apply to creative writing in all languages. For Deaf writers, we will discuss your access needs, and ensure that BSL interpretation will be provided, or a live captioning service – depending on your preference.

Further information can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/reinventing-the-protagonist/reinventing-the-protagonist-frequently-asked-questions/)page.

## Accessibility

This course will be run on the video platform Zoom. Each session will last 2.5 hours, with a comfort break in the middle. If required for access purposes, sessions can be recorded for the participants to watch back in their own time, to digest the workshop at their own pace.

Literature Wales will issue Access Riders to all successful applicants, to ask for access requirements so we can provide adequate support where needed. For example, Literature Wales can organise a live captioner or a BSL interpreter to be present during the sessions. Literature Wales staff will also be available for discussions prior to the course about how we can ensure that the course is as accessible, comfortable, and enjoyable for each individual beforehand.

## How do I apply?

To apply, please fill out this [application form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9M36JWB) on SurveyMonkey. If you would prefer to fill on the form as a Word document, you can [download the application form](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/reinventing-the-protagonist/reinventing-the-protagonist-downloads/) from our website. Dyslexia Friendly and a Large Print Version are also available.

If you would rather fill out one of these forms rather than the application form on SurveyMonkey, please return your form to [post@literaturewales.org](mailto:post@literaturewales.org) along with your example of creative work **by 12.00pm Thursday 29 August 2024.**

Our application form will ask you to tell us why you want to take part in this course. We will also invite you to upload a short extract (1,000 words or up to five poems) of your original creative work. This can be poetry, prose, non-fiction or a script.

Please ensure that you have [read the FAQs](https://www.literaturewales.org/our-projects/reinventing-the-protagonist/reinventing-the-protagonist-frequently-asked-questions/) before applying.

If you would like to chat to a member of staff before applying, please e-mail Literature Wales on [post@literaturewales.org](mailto:post@literaturewales.org) or call us for a chat: 01766 522 811 (Tŷ Newydd Office) or 02920 472266 (Cardiff Office).

**Deadline to apply:** 12.00 pm,  Thursday 29 August