

Junior Cycle English Assessment Task

Writer's Centre Interview with four young writers – Transcript

Inspiration

Well, I read a lot of horror... same with the TV shows and everything that I watch. I watch mostly fiction and horror – Walking Dead is probably my favourite TV show and it does come across a lot in my writing.

I usually like to read things that I can relate to. I don't usually read about magical worlds or anything like that. Usually when I write I think about things that have happened to me and I kind of draw on those because if I haven't experienced something I find it really hard to write about. When I watch things and read things, I don't like them to be too serious, because I think that life is serious enough.

I would really admire Oscar Wilde. I just think he's like... he was amazing. He just had, he had really weird ideas and he talked about them but he was kind of a comedian as well so he was, so he was different but he was... I think he was really cool.

My inspiration would be Tyler Joseph from the band 21 pilots. Every song is like a unique story and every time you listen to it you hear something different, like there can be so many ways you interpret what he's saying.

Writing and editing

To start, if I was just beginning something I'd go for paper and pen so I could kind... I like seeing it out quickly as opposed to having to type because I'm really slow at that. So I'd probably go for that to start off and then maybe if you gave me the option, once I'd developed it a bit I'd go for the digital device.

I'd say at the beginning I'd rather a phone or an electrical device because I get ideas from the internet as well as songs so it's mostly on mobile devices. But like once I have idea going, I just grab like a pen and paper and I start writing there.

Yeah, I just kind of start writing and then make it up as I go along. I'd edit it quite a lot, a few times and kind of change the ideas or the characters.

Collaboration and feedback

Depending on my mood, I could very much need to just be alone and have everyone go away and not talk to me, so I can just get something done. And there's other times when if I'm on my own I know I'm not going to get anything done so I need people there to kind of drive me on and get me going.

When I'm looking over it, I'd kind of... I'd find problems but I wouldn't be sure what else to put in there, so then I'd probably ask somebody to just read over it and say what they think about it.

Because you wrote it, so you're very comfortable with it and you might not see things that other people would see. Problems or what could be improved. So it is helpful.

Reader response

Most of the time if I'm just writing something, I kind of try just to focus on what's happening as opposed to how people will react to what's happening.

I do this strange thing, I don't know if other people do it but I like to put myself as the reader. If I read it and I'm not happy with what I read or like I saw everything coming, I don't like it and I feel like that's how a reader would react.

I rarely really go out to put a theme or something that I know into my writing. I might see it afterwards then, it just kind of pops up like a little mole.

I always think a bit about what people will think when they read it or hear it but I try not to too much because I think that writing should like essentially be for yourself and kind of expressing what's inside of you and your feelings and thoughts and what sort of world you want to create on the page. But I do want people to like it so I would be thinking about that.