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## A CHRONOLOGY OF THE MINI-LESSONS

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This chronological listing of the *Lessons That Change Writers* reflects the quirks of my school calendar—we have two weeks off in December, a week in February, and another in April—as well as CTL’s rituals and evaluation procedures. The school devotes considerable class time to student self-evaluation and portfolio preparation in late November-early December, March, and June. In addition, every eighth grader writes and delivers a graduation speech, which is another focus of June instruction that doesn’t show up here.

I want to be careful not to suggest that this is *the* order to conduct the lessons described in the book. At best, it’s a rough timeline of one year in my life as a writing teacher. But there are constants. I conduct versions of the lessons that appear in boldface type every year, and I present them pretty much on this schedule, with an emphasis on memoir and free-verse poetry in September and October, fiction in November, holiday gifts of writing in December, book reviews in February, punctuation in March, essays in April, and humor writing and Mother’s Day poems in May.

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### ■ **September**

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<b>Writing Territories: Launching the Writing Workshop</b> .....	(Lesson 1)
<b>What Is Writing?</b> .....	(Lesson 8)
<b>Ineffective and Effective Memoirs</b> .....	(Lesson 27)
<b>Weekly Word Studies</b> .....	(Lesson 60)
<b>Questions for Memoirists</b> .....	(Lesson 2)
<b>A Brief History of the English Language</b> .....	(Lesson 59)
<b>The Rule of <i>So What?</i></b> .....	(Lesson 9)
<b>Good Titles</b> .....	(Lesson 13)
<b>The Individual Proofreading List</b> .....	(Lesson 57)
<b>Final Copies: What Readers Need</b> .....	(Lesson 15)
<b>Heart Mapping</b> .....	(Lesson 3)

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### ■ **October**

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<b>Polishing</b> .....	(Lesson 14)
<b>Stories That End “The End”</b> .....	(Lesson 26)
<b>Personal Survival Words</b> .....	(Lesson 61)
<b>Thinking on Paper: Planning Sheets</b> .....	(Lesson 16)
<b>Narrative Leads</b> .....	(Lesson 12)

Figure 4 Lessons That Change Writers, September–June: A Chronology

Thoughts and Feelings .....	(Lesson 10)
Proofreading for Spelling .....	(Lesson 62)
Where Poetry Hides .....	(Lesson 4)
The Rule of Write about <i>a</i> Pebble .....	(Lesson 11)
The Power of <i>I</i> .....	(Lesson 34)
Beware the Participle .....	(Lesson 35)
Breaking Lines and Stanzas and Punctuating .....	(Lesson 38)
Leads: Begin Inside .....	(Lesson 36)
Conclusions: End Strongly .....	(Lesson 37)
Cut to the Bone .....	(Lesson 39)

■ **November**

Two Things at Once .....	(Lesson 41)
Can a Reader See It, Hear It, Feel It? .....	(Lesson 17)
What's Easy about Writing Bad Fiction? .....	(Lesson 28)
What's Hard about Writing Good Fiction? .....	(Lesson 29)
Problems to Explore in Fiction .....	(Lesson 5)
The Main Character Questionnaire .....	(Lesson 30)
Considerations in Creating a Character .....	(Lesson 31)
Short Story Structure .....	(Lesson 32)
Ways to Develop a Character .....	(Lesson 33)

■ **December**

Use Repetition .....	(Lesson 40)
A Movie behind Your Eyelids .....	(Lesson 18)
Gifts of Writing #1 .....	(Lesson 47)
How a Thesaurus Can Help .....	(Lesson 19)
The Really Bad Words .....	(Lesson 20)

■ **January**

Sestinas and Tritinas .....	(Lesson 42)
Too-Long and Too-Short Paragraphs .....	(Lesson 21)
Exclamation Points .....	(Lesson 24)
The Truth about <i>I</i> before <i>E</i> .....	(Lesson 63)
Passive Sentences .....	(Lesson 23)
Hopefully .....	(Lesson 25)

Figure 4, *continued*

■ **February**

Effective Book Reviews ..... (Lesson 48)  
The Missing *I* ..... (Lesson 22)  
Irregular Odes ..... (Lesson 43)  
Memoir Poems ..... (Lesson 46)

■ **March**

Twenty Actions ..... (Lesson 6)  
A Brief History of Some Common Punctuation Marks ..... (Lesson 68)  
Essential Punctuation Information ..... (Lesson 69)  
Some Foreign Words Used in English Texts ..... (Lesson 64)

■ **April**

Effective Essays: Teasing Out Criteria ..... (Lesson 49)  
Itches to Scratch in Essays ..... (Lesson 7)  
How Do I Scratch the Itch? ..... (Lesson 50)  
Write with Information ..... (Lesson 51)  
Order the Information ..... (Lesson 52)  
Leads for an Essay ..... (Lesson 53)  
Experiment with Essay Conclusions ..... (Lesson 54)  
Thirteen-Ways Poems ..... (Lesson 45)

■ **May**

Ted L. Nancy Letters and Other Genres for Humorists ..... (Lesson 55)  
Gifts of Writing #2 ..... (Lesson 47)  
Root Words and Prefixes ..... (Lesson 65)  
Suffixes: To Double or Not? ..... (Lesson 66)  
Other Suffix Rules That Mostly Work ..... (Lesson 67)

■ **June**

Haiku ..... (Lesson 44)

Figure 4, *continued*