

The Building Blocks of Adaptation: From Book to Screen

A special afternoon class led by Patricia K. Meyer & Megan Raveneau
Monday, July 25 – Friday, July 29, 2022

The majority of films and television series are based on source material, particularly books. Adapting a book, whether fiction or non-fiction, requires a comprehensive understanding of screenplay structure, character development, among other visual storytelling elements, so that the screenwriter can identify the dramatic structure of the material and realize its ideal screen version.

In this course writer/producers Patricia K. Meyer and Megan Raveneau will offer a practical approach to adaptation, applying the fundamentals of screenwriting, including dramatic structure, developing fully dimensional characters, and scene construction. You will learn how a screenwriter builds a scaffold for character transformation and theme. We will explore how character drives story and creates the plot, not the other way around. By examining the art and craft of screenwriting, writers of all story forms can gain tools for developing their protagonist's (and also antagonist's) arc. These are techniques you can take back to your prose writing and use to create more tension and stakes for your characters and their journey.

After examining specific films and series based on books, Meyer and Raveneau will use the final two classes to break down your 2-page synopsis of your book and discuss the dramatic structure for a potential film or series adaptation.

This class is only open to those enrolled in the Writers Workshops. Indicate your interest in the application form. **\$250 fee.**

Class Schedule: 4:00pm – 5:30pm

Monday – Wednesday: Presentation and Clips

Thursday: Day Off (Meyer and Raveneau will read two page synopses of books written by class participants. We encourage writers to read the synopses, too, to appreciate fully the final two classes.)

Friday – Saturday: Using a whiteboard, Meyer and Raveneau will identify the dramatic structure of participants' books based on their synopses. This will be interactive, as well.