

the WRITE place

Welcome to the Writing Resources Center!

Hello! Thank you for reading this latest edition of *The Write Place*, the official newsletter of the UNC Charlotte Writing Resources Center (WRC). We are excited for the new academic year, and we know that every new year comes with a fresh set of challenges to meet and memories to be made. Of course, new classes and new professors inevitably mean new assignments and new writing to be done. Luckily, the WRC is staffed with specially trained tutors, and we're here to help you face any type of writing with confidence and clarity. It's our job, and we love to do it!

In this issue, you'll find answers to questions you might have about the WRC and how it can work for you. We understand that writing is a difficult process and, importantly, one that is almost impossible to do entirely on your own. So please know that, whether it's a paper, essay, book report, presentation, personal statement, short story or even just an idea in your head, the WRC is here to help with any stage of the writing process. There is no one who has figured out how to write perfectly, so you should never be discouraged about your own writing. With that said, don't be scared of the Writing Center or this spooky newsletter. Our peer tutors are here to help guide you to a better understanding of how to approach the writing process, and to learn right alongside you!

IN-PERSON

DAYTIME: Cameron 125

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am-12pm

NIGHTTIME: Atkins G34

Monday-Thursday 4pm-7pm

ONLINE

(Zoom or eTutoring)

Monday- Thursday 9am-9pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Sunday 2pm-5pm

Special Halloween Edition

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What can the **WRC** do for you?

Everyone is welcome in the Writing Resource Center!

It is important to remember that the WRC is primarily concerned with developing your writing skills. When you come in, you will not be bombarded with harsh criticism about what needs to be fixed in your writing. Instead, tutors at the WRC will talk through your work with you in order to provide feedback and revision strategies that fit your writing process. Below are just a few questions that we can help you answer on your journey to becoming an accomplished writer.

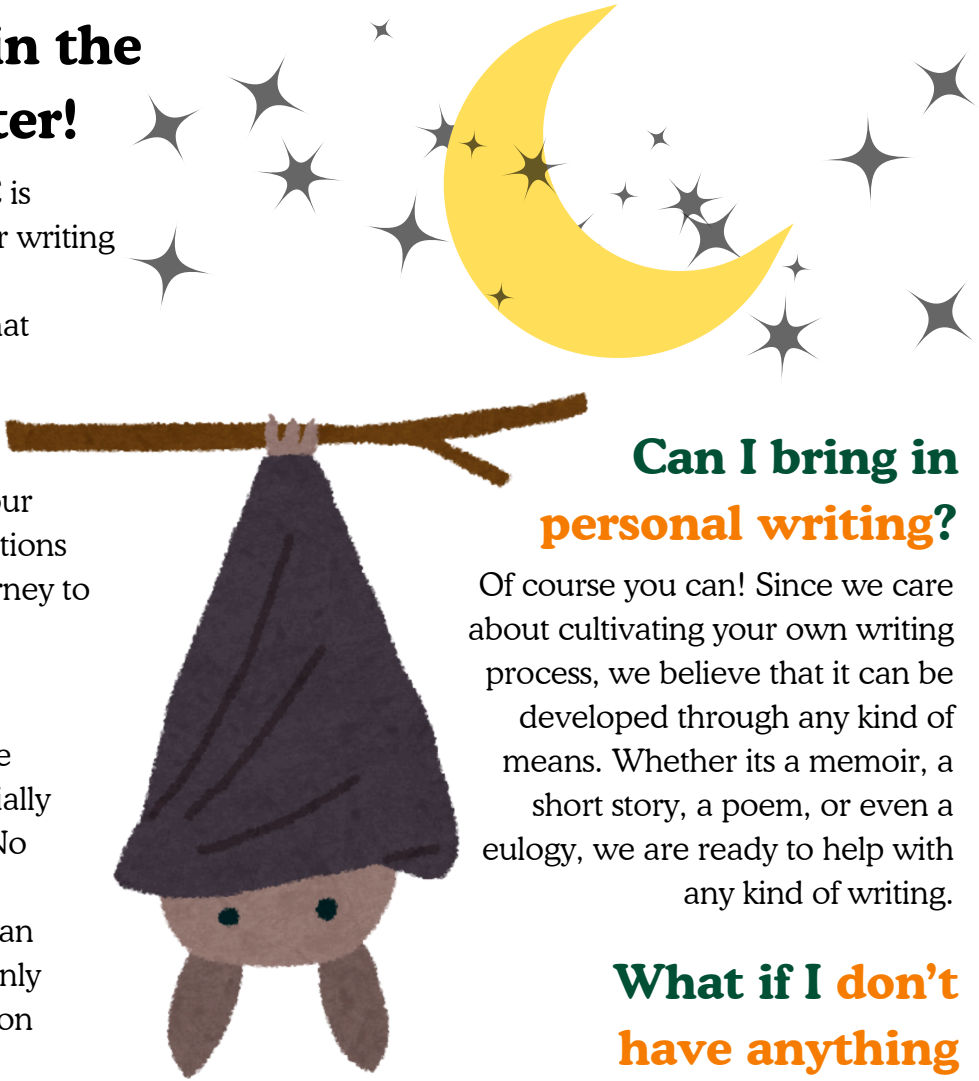
What if I'm nervous?

It is totally normal to be nervous or unsure about going into a tutoring session, especially if it's your first time coming to the WRC. No matter how technical or professional the assignment is, your writing will always be an extension of your own self-expression. It only stands to reason that sharing that expression with someone else under the assumption that it will be critiqued can be intimidating. Once you come in, however, you can be assured that your writing will be cared for by whomever is tutoring you.

The vast majority of writers who enter the WRC leave satisfied by the results of their session and more confident in their abilities as a writer. Don't let feelings of worry stop you from improving your writing!

What if I have questions about the rubric?

Here at the WRC, we are more than ready to help you go over any potential concerns you might have about the instructions for your assignment. Our feedback is at its best when we have knowledge of the full context for a paper, so if there is anything about an assignment that is confusing you, don't hesitate to bring it up at a session.



Can I bring in personal writing?

Of course you can! Since we care about cultivating your own writing process, we believe that it can be developed through any kind of means. Whether its a memoir, a short story, a poem, or even a eulogy, we are ready to help with any kind of writing.

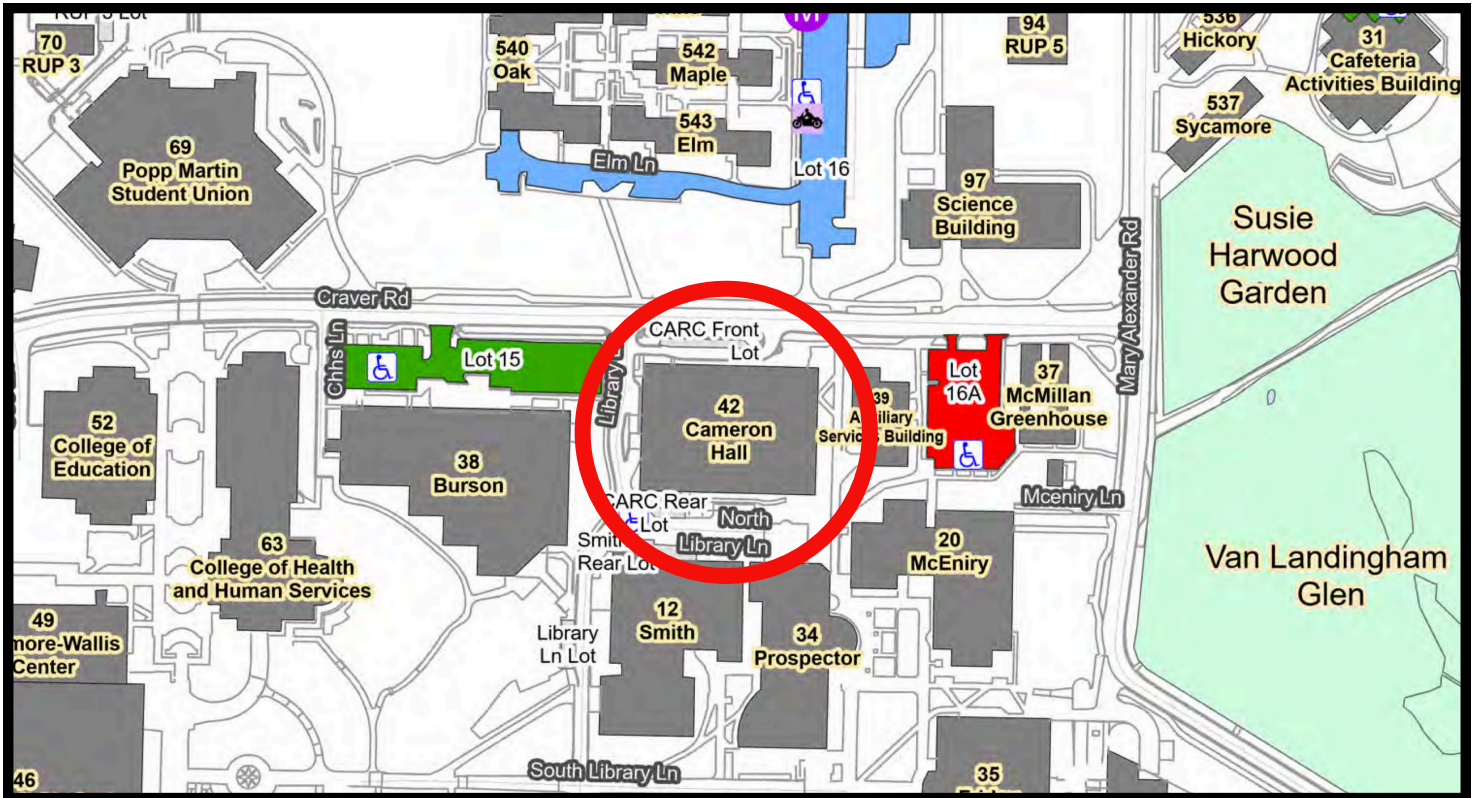
What if I don't have anything written down yet?

No problem! The WRC is here to help with all stages of the writing process. Got an idea of what to write about but aren't sure where to start? Book an appointment and have a tutor guide you on the next steps. The WRC can help you with all kinds of strategies for your writing, be it crafting an outline, helping you find topics to research, or simply providing an active listener during the brainstorming process. If you are struggling with putting pen to paper or fingers to keys (as every writer does), don't hesitate to reach out. We're here for you!

**Walk-Ins
Accepted for
In-Person and
Zoom Hours!**

Where can I find the WRC?

The Writing Resources Center is located on the ground floor of Cameron Hall! Enter on the side of the building facing Craver Road. Enter the Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies (WRDS) department and follow the hallway down to Cameron 125. If we are open, then our door will be open and ready for you to walk in! If we're not open, you can make an appointment with us online. Here's our location:



Ready to schedule an appointment?

Follow the easy steps below:

- 1) Scan the QR code on the right.
- 2) Click on "Schedule" an Appointment in the green box.
- 3) Sign in to the Scheduler with your UNC Charlotte username and password.
- 4) Choose whether you want Cameron, Online-Only, or Atkins hours.
- 5) Find an available time that works for you and schedule your session!



New Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Megan Keaton

Dr. Megan Keaton is the Associate Director of the Writing Resources Center at UNC Charlotte. We met with Dr. Keaton to talk about her experiences in education and her new role at the Writing Resources Center.

What was your background before coming to UNC Charlotte?

I've wanted to teach since I was six. My earliest memory of wanting to teach was when I wanted to be a ballet instructor. I was in ballet. I didn't want to be a ballerina; I wanted to teach it. In third grade, I decided I wanted to teach school because my third grade teacher gave us candy. So I decided I would give my kids candy. And it just sort of evolved from there. I have never really considered any other career but teaching. When I went to Michigan State, I got a degree in English and Education. I did my internship in Michigan teaching eighth grade and then moved here and taught tenth grade in CMS. And then after a little while, I was like, "Okay, let's see what it's like to teach college." So I came to UNC Charlotte and got my master's here in English. I was taking Mark Hall's literacy seminar my first semester, fell in love with rhetoric and composition, with writing studies. Then I got my PhD at Florida State, still in rhetoric and composition, taught upper and lower rhetoric and composition courses there. And then I was the writing center director and assistant professor, got promoted to associate while I was at Pfeiffer for eight years.

What was the writing center at Pfeiffer like?

The cool thing that I got to do at Pfeiffer was I built the writing center. It was previously in the learning center and it was, like, one room. The people there before me wrote a proposal and got it approved. We would be able to hire more tutors, we'd be able to build it into a real space. So they hired me to figure out what this writing center was going to be. And now I'm here.

The thing about running the Writing Center at Pfeiffer was that I was alone, and so the buck stopped with me. We didn't really need a second person. I only had six to eight tutors I was working with, maybe five people working at the desk. So as far as managing it, we really only needed me.

What's different about being at UNC Charlotte?

Being able to work with [WRC Director] Katie [Garahan] means that I have someone I can consistently collaborate with when new challenges come up. It isn't just me being like, "Uh, what do I do?" At Pfeiffer, I could talk to people, but they weren't writing center people, so they didn't know the answers. It's been really fun for me to actually have a partner to collaborate with. And with Katie and I, it's very much a partnership. We do everything in collaboration. We handle different facets of being able to run the Writing Center. It's actually been a really good shift for me. I'm a very collaborative person, so I actually work a whole lot better when I can work in tandem with other people, as opposed to just being me on my island making all the decisions

Is there something about UNC Charlotte that you are the most excited about?

The thing I am most excited about is working with this particular student population. Students here tend to be really motivated and very college ready, which is a different dynamic. So that's been really fun for me. At Pfeiffer I was able to work one-on-one with folks a whole lot; since it was such a small school there weren't that many faculty members, and so I got to see students in a lot of my classes repeatedly, they'd work in the Writing Center with me and we would collaborate on research projects together and publish together. That's very much what I want to carry over. And even though this is a big school and we have tons of people in the Writing Center, tons of people in classes, I still want to find ways of maintaining those close one-on-one relationships, both in terms of, like, being there for them as a person, and then also being able to collaborate in research projects, conferences, papers, that kind of stuff.

What can you tell us about your own writing process?

I very much don't have everything figured out and writing is hard. My process is super, super messy, and I'm very comfortable with that. I usually start with reading a whole bunch of things. Right now I'm looking into AI and critical reading. So what I'm doing is just collecting everything I can find to read, and I read through it and take notes and figure out, "Where are the holes? Where are the things that I'm really getting interested in? What are the questions I'm asking?" From there I do that gathering work, whether that involves research or bibliographic essay. But then when I actually get to writing, I create a very, very, very rough outline where it's just big, big, big, big main points. And then I start writing where I have ideas. I never start with the introduction. Usually I'm starting on, like, page six because I'm like, "I know what I want to say here." A blank page to me is very anxiety inducing. So I always go, "Okay, well, I know I'm going to say stuff up here and I know I'll revise this piece, but, let's just get it down on the page."

I do regularly have to stop myself from trying to make it sound perfect. I'll be like, "Oh man, I'm so repetitive here, and oh, this just sounds terrible." And I literally out loud go, "Stop it, Megan, just write." I say it out loud to myself, to just write. And then it's never as bad as I think it is. Like, it needs revision, but it's not horrible. I talk a lot in my process as well. So, like, I go to [Madison], my husband, and I'm like, "I'm thinking these ideas," and he talks them up with me. I've got a colleague at Pfeiffer who is in business and has really interesting perspectives on things like AI, and the questions he asks me as it relates to the field of writing studies are really, really helpful. I talk a lot to people, trying to build on my ideas more. As you can see, my process involves people. I have to read a bunch first, and then I have to talk to people throughout. Then I have people read it, and usually it's a really messy, awful first draft, and I get their feedback on content stuff, and then I go back over it as many times as needed, and then Madison reads it to proofread it.

What would you say to students who feel uncertain about coming to the Writing Center?

I tend to start with, "Every writer needs feedback." I have three degrees in writing and I seek out feedback. I do writing well and I still look for feedback. That's kind of the first thing I try and do, is demystify this whole, like, "I'm supposed to be able to do it by myself," kind of thing. If you're going to grow as a writer, that's not going to happen in a vacuum. You do need outside input. And it's really beneficial to get that outside input before your professor is grading it.

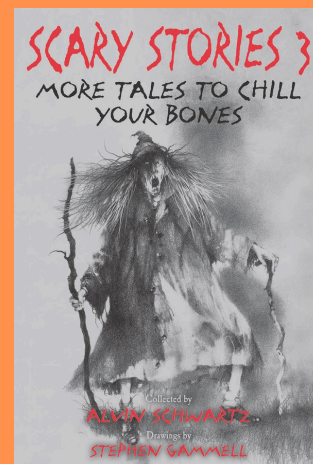
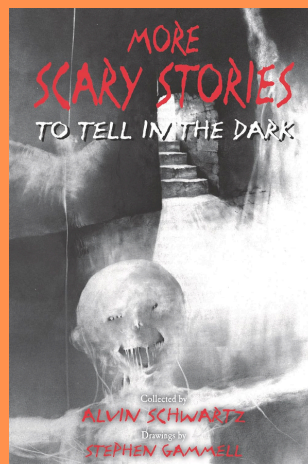
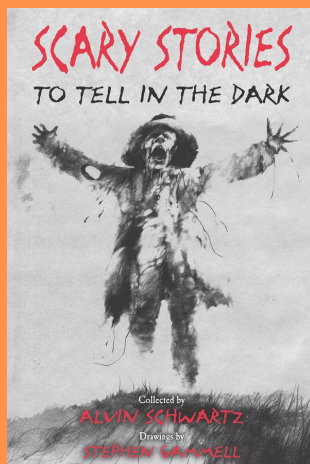
Is there anything students should know before visiting the WRC?

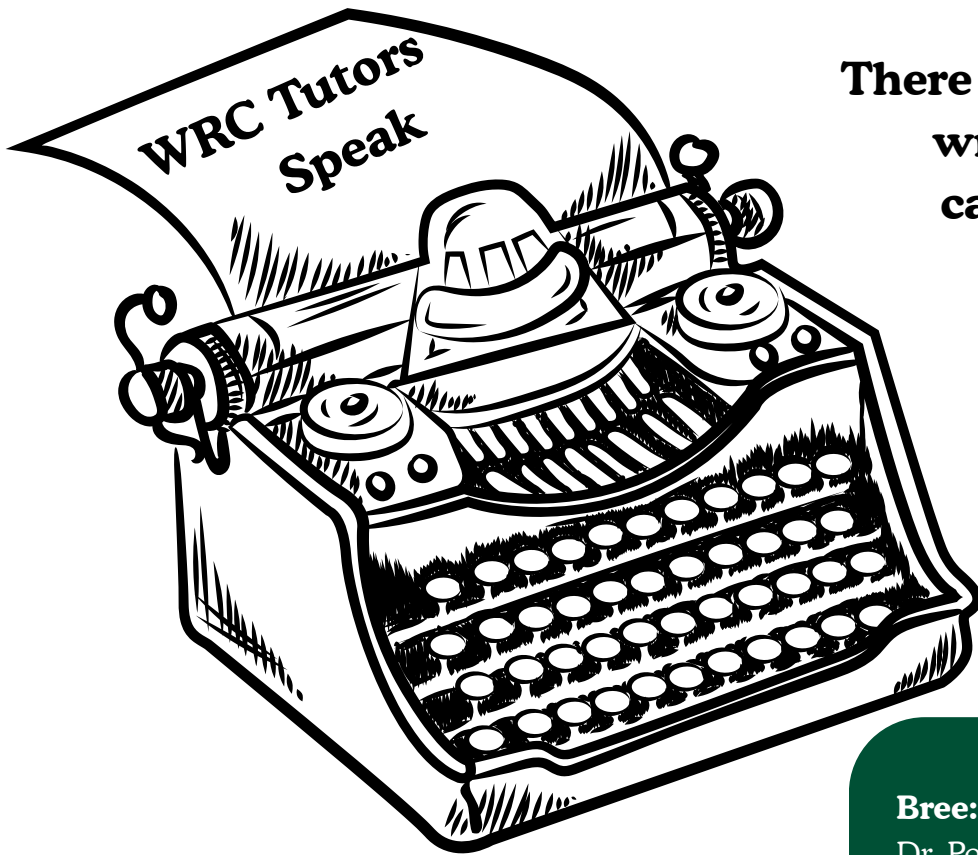
I guess two things. One would be, come prepared. And that can look different depending on where you are in the process. That might just mean bring your assignment sheet. That might be, come with questions. And then I guess the second half is, since it's supposed to be something they're engaging in, they should come ready to engage. Like, be open to hearing what people are saying, and be open to responding to that and asking your own questions, taking ownership of your writing while understanding that an outside perspective is helpful.

And finally, because it's October, do you have a favorite scary story from fiction?

I'm not as into scary stuff anymore. When I was younger, *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* was the title of the book. And then there were *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*. It was a series of just, like, really short scary stories. I'd watch *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* I read *Fear Street* and *Goosebumps*, all the scary stories. I was very into it as a kid. And then at some point, I was just like, "Meh, I'm good."

DR. KEATON'S SPOOKY READING SUGGESTIONS:





There is no one correct way to write. The writing process can be very different from person to person, so we asked WRC tutors to say a few words about their own writing process.

Bree: "Two words: Dr. Pepper."



Lauren: "I always get another person to look at my writing before I turn it in."



Maya: "I like to take a long walk, preferably on a greenway, before I write. Or, I sit down to write, get incredibly frustrated, scream into my pillow for 20-35 seconds, then lock in."



Silverixx: "I always keep a tiny notebook with me. When random inspiration hits me, a story or phrase or a new word I just learned, I write it down."



Mary: "I work best at Amélie's Cafe & Bakery. Last week I wrote a six-page paper in one sitting, fueled by their coffee."



Tanisha: "Word vomit. One of those cloud bubbles, and lots of doodling. Then I connect it all together, and take it in to the WRC."



Carter: "I like to sit in my empty bathtub with my computer in the dark and just force words out until I get something good."



Don't have anything to bring to the Writing Resources Center? We might have quite the *frightening* solution...

WRITE YOUR OWN SCARY STORY!

Sometimes writing can be a bit spooky. You might be haunted by half-baked ideas, jump-scared by typos, or simply find yourself screaming your head off at a blank sheet of paper. Many of us find that the first steps of the writing process are the hardest, and struggle to find the right thought to put down on paper. What if there was a way to easily begin your journey and write something entirely unique to you? Well, as it turns out, writing a scary story can do just that!

When writing in the genre of horror, the tone of your piece is already set for you, meaning you don't have to decide how you intend to make your audience feel. There is a wealth of popular horror stories and tropes that you can draw from to supplement your writing or provide a baseline to begin your story. Here are some helpful tips to remember when crafting your terrible tome.



Did you know?

Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein* was originally a submission for a scary story writing contest between her and her friends!

Tip #1: Let your imagination run wild!

The subject of horror tales ranges from creepy dolls to time-controlling vampires to a literal rubber tire, so don't feel like anything is too outlandish! Remember that if something creeps you out, it can probably do the same for other people too.

Tip #2: Length doesn't matter!

Because horror is primarily concerned with evoking the feeling of fear, the length of your story is not your primary concern when writing a scary story. The recent proliferation of scary stories shared on internet forums like Reddit are proof of this; some stories are only two sentences long!

Tip #3: Read your story to a friend!

It can be hard to seek out constructive criticism, especially for something you have worked hard on. But with horror stories, it is easy to understand how an audience member should react to your work. So feel free to share it with a friend and see if they're spooked by your writing. And if you feel like something is lacking, you can always bring your story in to the WRC!

New Faculty Spotlight



Professor E. E. Hussey

Professor Erica Hussey is a new Assistant Professor of English at UNC Charlotte. She teaches Graduate and Undergraduate Creative Writing. *The Write Place* sat down with her at the end of September to talk about her background and her writing process.

Tell us a little about your background.

I actually kind of did a roundabout to get into education. I was in medical research for a while as a surgical research specialist, and I ended up as a science writer and editor. And you know when you go and become an English major, everyone's advice is like, "Do not become a writer, are you crazy?" So I listened to that and I went into the sciences for a hot minute. I went to grad school and did two stints: science writing, and I did my MFA in prose. When you're in your MFA, you have to teach, and that's when I realized, oh, this is a job I can actually do. I can sit and have conversations with people who also really love stories and love to write. And that became the catalyst to me pursuing this. So I ended up right back here. But I really appreciated my time in STEM.

Do you think your science background influences your writing?

Oh, yeah, all the time. I have a really bizarre piece about verifying death in African clawed frogs. It comes from some experiences that I had where we actually did have to go in and do a secondary verification of dead frogs in a fertility study. And I mean, it was a tank of hundreds of them. We just had to make sure that they were actually dead. Little things like that, yeah, I do draw from it. Also, you know, you work with a lot of incredibly intelligent people. One of my favorite people was an old boss who was a neuroscientist and a veterinary pathologist, probably the smartest person I've ever met. She made it ok to be kind of scatterbrained and pick all the things that she's interested in, but somehow, you know, she would get to the point. That was just a beautiful representation for how I write. It's across disciplines. That kind of thing was helpful to see.

What does your writing process look like?

I tend to think that I'm a reader before I'm actually a writer. So my process probably starts there. Because

8

of my background in science writing and editing,

I tend to research quite a bit. Anything that I'm curious about, I'll just sit and start reading tons of material. It might not even be related. And then I usually have this book that has observations or things that I'm interested in. Like, maybe I'll see someone walking and they're doing something crazy, or, you like smell something weird on campus, and I'll write that down too. Just things that, for that moment, caught my attention. And then I'll go back, and I will look at everything. There's usually something I'm obsessed about, a question or, like, that weird smell I smelled walking. I'll go back, and I will handwrite things and use a typewriter. Because if I get back on the internet, I will stay on the internet and start reading again. So that's the way I've trained myself to move into the next point.

Come see E.E. Hussey (and other authors) read their work:

Saturday, Nov. 1

at 7:30pm

**BOOK
BUYERS** 

**3040-B Eastway Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28205**

Do you have any recent or upcoming work?

I have book that comes out in January 2027, which is still far away. I'm doing a reading at Book Buyers [See sidebar]. It's a free event. The other readers will be Sarah Archer Moulton, Angelo Geter, and Shawn Bowers. After the featured readers, there will be an open mic for poetry and fiction.

Do you have any suggestions for people coming to the Writing Center?

Sometimes I think the biggest thing is just telling people, it's ok to have a "Shitty First Draft." I'm stealing that from Anne Lamott. That idea of perfection, the idea of having this gorgeous sculptured object, is something that I try to destroy in my writing classes and with any student. You have to get over that. You're not going to have this immaculate thing immediately. I encourage a sense of trust within their own process. A lot of times, students struggle with articulating their ideas of process, and that's where they get hung up. They can't figure out, maybe you're a writer that needs to walk to think about something, that is part of process. And they don't know that, they think you sit down and you put out this perfect thing. I think getting away from that idea of perfection is incredibly valuable. They see everything else, like peers doing really well, and I feel like they don't see the work behind it. So that's where we have to break down that wall, where it's not the product, there's a huge process behind it. I talk about my own failures all the time with my students. Like, the book that's coming out, it was rejected by everybody in publishing. And that's how it is. It's been years of putting that thing together. It was an essay at one point. Then a set of poems that I used to draft the novel. It is a continuation, that's just the process.

Do you think these sorts of practices can be translated to other writing disciplines?

It's a different type of writing, if you're switching gears, and you're looking at science writing or academic writing. But the process is still essentially the same. You might have an easier go about planning that kind of revision because, not in a disparaging way, there is more of a template that you can write from. Like, we know where a thesis goes. You have the ability to check boxes. But I think thinking of it still as process, and also thinking from a lens of your own curiosity, makes it so that those tasks don't become overwhelming, or you put them off because you don't want to do them, right? When I taught science writing classes, I would tell students, even if you're told you need to write this paper, pick something that you're interested in or it's just going to be the worst task imaginable.

Is there something you are particularly excited to teach at UNC Charlotte?

I'm hoping to start a reading series for the students, have them come somewhere, maybe off campus, try to build a sense of community between not only the grad students, but also undergrad. Have them read their work, try their work

Be sure to check out our next issue where we continue our new faculty spotlight series! →

PROFESSOR HUSSEY'S RECOMMENDATION FOR HALLOWEEN READING:



out. Three minutes, just read us the beginning of whatever you're working on. I think that writing's such a lonely process. I don't think that's negative, because I like being alone, I think I'm a kind of hermit. But community is so important, even if it's just a community between readers. That's a huge thing. And sometimes students forget that. They think there's something glamorous about, "I am the writer, and this is my precious product," But there's a lot more outside of the self. That community is so important. Even if it's just going and listening to people try new things.

Halloween is coming up. Do you have a recommendation for a scary or spooky literature?

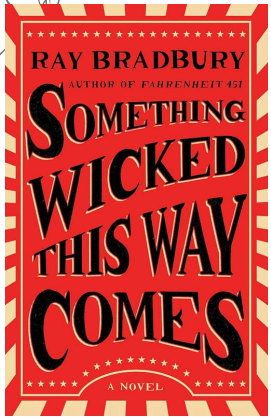
Yeah, I love literary horror so much. The one person I would say you should jump into would be Mariana Enriquez. She's a writer from Argentina, and she writes, like, the most ghoulish, grim work. I'm trying to think of the book...*The Dangers of Smoking in Bed*. That's a great collection. I would look into that 100%.

Interview with

Professor Helen Davies

Coming Winter 2025

Here's what tutors have been reading this fall...



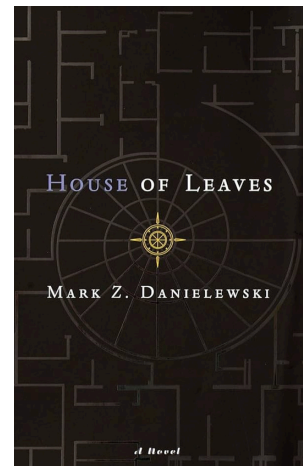
Sophie recommends...

Something Wicked This Way Comes, a novel by Ray Bradbury. This story follows the dark fantasy adventure of two 13-year-old boys as they explore a creepy carnival that seems too thrilling to pass up. However, the boys soon find out that the sinister nature of the carnival goes far beyond its mere aesthetic. Sophie recommends this novel if you like coming of age stories with a dark and imaginative twist!



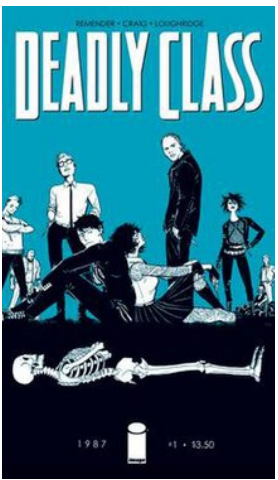
Sara recommends...

House of Leaves, by Mark Z. Danielewski. This is a complex but intriguing read that tests the boundaries, not only of the content of fiction but the very format of the book itself. This novel tells the constantly evolving story of a family who soon finds that their house is much larger on the inside than it appears on the outside. Sara recommends this book if you're looking for a tough but fun read that explores the limits of horror and mystery!



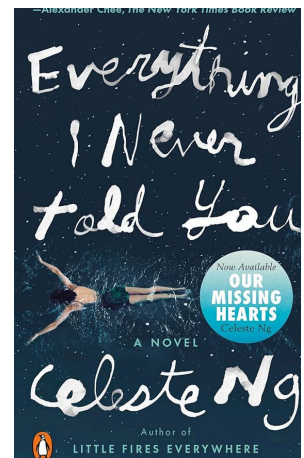
Brendan recommends...

Deadly Class, by Rick Remender. This is a comic series published by Image Comics that follows the action-filled and often perilous adventures of a group of teens with ties to a vicious criminal underworld. Its grounded setting and gritty depiction of reality makes for quite a thrilling read. Brendan recommends this series for comic lovers who are looking for a fresh take on the crime and mystery genre.

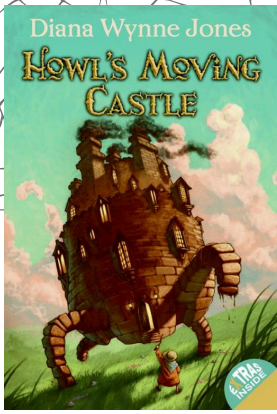


Meg recommends...

Everything I Never Told You, by Celeste Ng. This novel is centered around the experiences of a Chinese-American family after the tragic murder of their daughter Lydia. The story is told from multiple perspectives, with each family member divulging secrets that serve to slowly unravel both the family dynamic and the mystery surrounding Lydia's death. Meg recommends this book if you're looking for a mystery novel packed with surprising revelations.



Jason B. recommends...

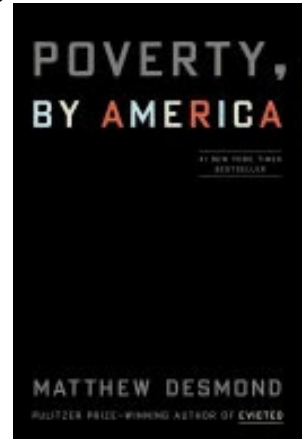


Howl's Moving Castle, a novel by Diana Wynne Jones. This fantasy story follows the escapades of Sophie, a young woman who inhabits an elderly body due to a witch's curse. To defeat this curse, she must seek the help of a wizard in a moving castle, but along the way she meets many more fantastic challenges that she must overcome. Jason recommends this if you're looking for a cozy read that's perfect for Halloween.



Tanisha recommends...

Poverty, by America, by Matthew Desmond. In this research-intensive book, sociologist Matthew Desmond explores the systemic issue of poverty in America and discusses how the accumulation of wealth among the highest earners is harming those who struggle for survival. Tanisha recommends this book for those looking to educate themselves on the history of poverty in America, as well as those who wish to imagine solutions for the most disadvantaged Americans.

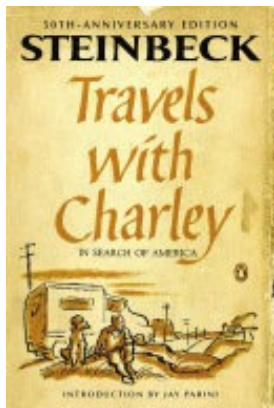


Don't forget our nighttime hours in Atkins G34 (near the Starbucks)! We tutor there from 4-7pm, Monday thru Thursday!



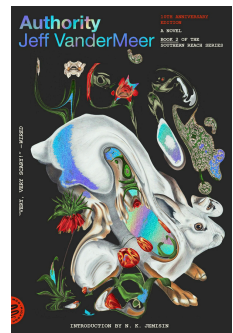
Caroline recommends...

Travels with Charley: In Search of America, by John Steinbeck. Known for works such as *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*, in this nonfiction account, Steinbeck travels the U.S.A. with his dog, Charley, and documents his interactions with the people and natural wonders that America has to offer. Caroline recommends this book if you are looking for a compelling read that offers insight into what one of America's greatest authors observes about the America of his time.



Ezra recommends...

Authority, by Jeff Vandermeer. This novel is the second book of the *Southern Reach Trilogy*, taking place a few months after the events of the first novel wrap up. After a disastrous expedition, the new captain of the Southern Reach team must lead a desperate group of people seemingly isolated from the normal world. Ezra recommends this if you're a fan of the first book and enjoy sci-fi elements mixed with Lovecraftian levels of horror.



TOP 5 HORROR MOVIES ON CAMPUS

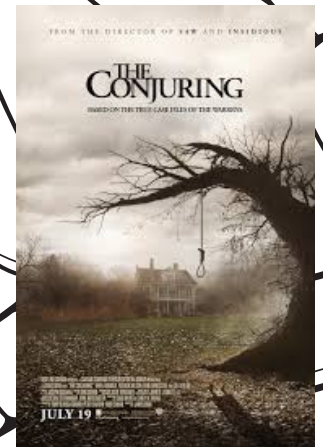
IT



Scream



**The
Conjuring**



**Friday
the 13th**



Halloween



We surveyed UNC Charlotte students and asked them what their favorite horror movies were. These are the top five movies chosen, with honorable mentions on the next page. Watch them if you dare!

Honorable Mention Movies:

Thanks for picking up a copy of *The Write Place*! Don't be spooked about coming to the WRC. We are happy to help with any writing!



Twitches



Jeepers Creepers



The Nun



Leprechaun



Smile



Get Out



The Black Phone



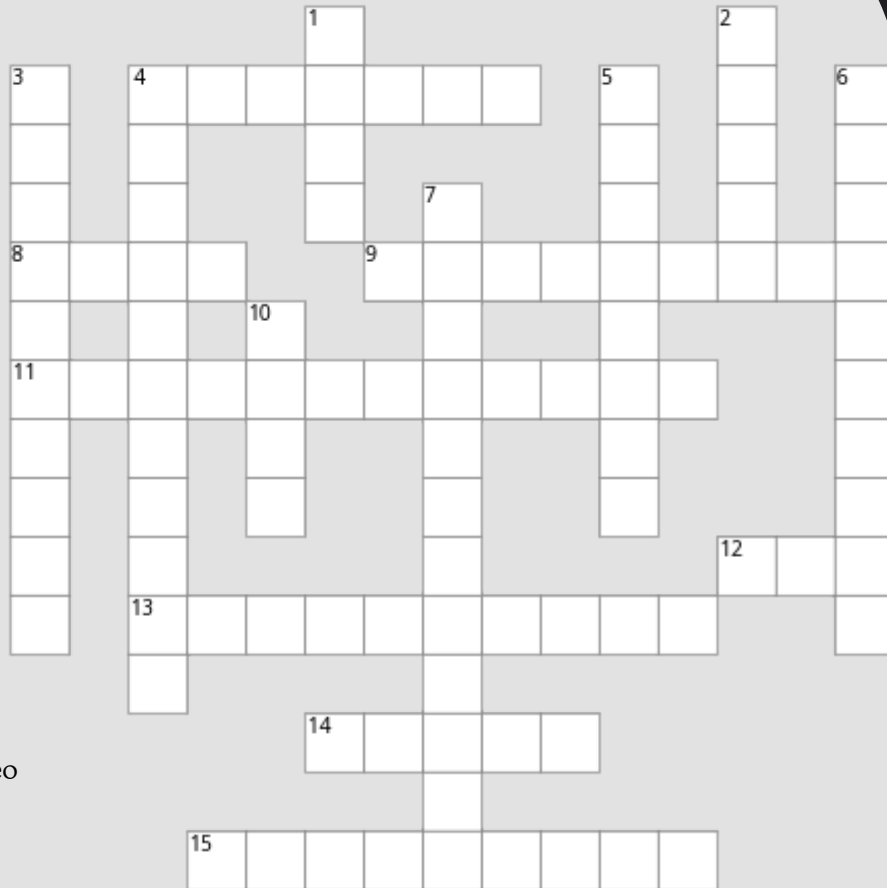
Coraline



Revisions of Terror

ACROSS

- 4) Newspaper story, or a word like "a" "an" or "the"
- 8) To change or correct a piece of writing
- 9) A book of synonyms
- 11) The first section of your paper, usually
- 12) ___ and paper
- 13) The last part of your paper, usually
- 14) WRC newsletter: *The ___ Place*
- 15) A group of sentences conveying one idea or theme



DOWN

- 1) Horror movie based on a video game: *Silent ___* (2006)
- 2) Post-apocalyptic zombie movie: *28 Days ___* (2002)
- 3) 2018 psychological horror drama starring Toni Collette
- 4) Horror movie starring and directed by Jim from *The Office*
- 5) Australian horror film with a pop-up book: *The ___* (2014)
- 6) Classic horror film starring Jack Nicholson
- 7) Horror film franchise about paranormal investigators
- 10) 2022 sci-fi horror film written and directed by Jordon Peele

Jason The Write Place Editors Jack

