

Your Words, Your Story

A Writing Workshop by Neela Vaswani

at CEH, IIIT, Hyderabad



24 - 27 February 2010

Good writing touches the mind, heart, and soul of a reader. How do we wield words to get closer to personal truths? How do we find and cultivate our own unique voice and style? The writer must convincingly portray not just the complex inner human experience, but also the forces—of environment, politics, and culture—that affect and shape our daily lives. In the course of this workshop, we'll be breaking our eyes open and thinking in new ways with all five senses blazing.

Each day will begin with an examination of published writing from multi-genre sources (fiction, nonfiction, poetry) as well as a second art form (film, photography, music, painting) to explore a particular aspect of writing and craft (character, dialogue, sense of place, plot, genre, style). The workshop will then participate, as a group, in guided writing exercises designed to put craft into practice. We'll also consider the role of writing in society—from social activism to pure joy—and what it means to be a storyteller.



This approach to the craft of writing will be useful and enjoyable for the beginner, the seasoned writer, and everyone in between.

Neela Vaswani, PhD is the author of *Where the Long Grass Bends*, a collection of short stories, and a forthcoming memoir, *You Have Given Me A Country*. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *Shenandoah*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Epoch*, and the *Cimarron Review*, among other publications, and have been widely anthologized, including in the Norton edition of multiracial literature. She is the recipient of a 2006 O.Henry Prize, a 1999 Italo Calvino Prize, and has been a Visiting-Writer-in-Residence at the Jimenez-Porter House, the Whitney Museum in New York City, Knox College, and other institutions. Her research on bicultural identity has been highlighted at academic venues and received a scholarly CHASA Prize. She teaches fiction and literature at Spalding University, Adult Literacy and ESL at the Center for Reading and Writing in New York City, and works with a number of activist organizations in India and the United States.

Venue: IIIT, Hyderabad, India

The **workshop fee** (including boarding and lodging, and workshop materials) for this four-day workshop is **Rs 4000 per participant**. For registration please write to Vinish / Harsh with your name, email, phone, address at gupta.vinish@gmail.com or call **+91.9640284217 (Vinish) or +91.9948318162 (Harsh)**.

There are limited seats for the workshop, so please register as early as possible. A few need-based scholarships / partial waivers may be available.

