Wonderworks
and the
Department of English and
Creative Writing Program,
University of Houston
present
a reading-intensive introduction
to nonfiction and literary journalism
plus documentary films,
films based on nonfiction sources,
and writing practicum

13 June – 15 July 2016
10 AM – 4 PM, Monday – Friday
University of Houston

Michael Lewis is an accidental journalist. Born and
raised in New Orleans, he majored in art history at
Princeton (BA 82) before studying at the London
School of Economics (MSc 86) and landing a job
at Salomon Brothers', London, and then later,
New York, trading bonds, which provided the
material for Liar's Poker, Janet Maslin, reviewing
Moneyball in The New York Times (12 May
2003), wrote: “As he has often demonstrated,
most dazzlingly in Liar's Poker and The
New New Thing, Mr. Lewis is a terrifically
entertaining explicator. Like Tom Wolfe (whose
enthusiasm for Moneyball is cited in its jacket
copy), he can be trusted to make anything
interesting, and to cast even the familiar in a
bright new light. You need know nothing about
baseball to appreciate the wit, snap, economy
and incisiveness of his thoughts about it.”

STRANGER THAN FICTION

For the beginning writer, understanding how
people see, hear, and react to the world
will introduce you to an exciting literary
world. This program is open to high school
students of special promise and ability who
will be entering grades 10, 11, or 12 next fall or who
will have just graduated from high school this
spring. Students admitted to the program must
have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point aver-
age on a 4-point scale or its equivalent.

Tuition is $500. Scholarships are available, but
only for students demonstrating true finan-
cial need. Admissions are determined on a
need-blind basis. No student will be prevented
from participating in the program because of
inability to pay tuition.

Classes are held at University of Houston
Central Campus, Monday – Friday, except 4 July.
This program is meant to be enjoyable, but it
is also challenging and requires focused effort
and commitment.

To apply, fill out the student section of this
form and then have a teacher or counselor who
knows you well complete the recommenda-
tion section. Your teacher or counselor should
then mail the completed form along with
an official transcript reflecting your grades and
PSAT scores plus any additional documentation
required for scholarship consideration to:

Wonderworks
PO Box 667550
Houston, TX 77266-7550

To ensure full consideration, applications must
be received by 2 May; early applications are
couraged.

All applicants will be notified of acceptance by
23 May; early applicants will be notified earlier.
Late applications will be considered only if
space remains available. If you have questions
or need additional information, e-mail info@
wonderworkshouston.org or call 713.301.4882.

Very few things are as simple as they seem. STRANGER THAN FICTION will introduce you
to a world of complexity and nuance, often hidden from view, which routinely surpasses
invention. Baseball is no exception. The “sabermetric” approach to player evaluation and
on-field strategy pioneered by Bill James has profoundly if quietly transformed how the
game is played at both major and minor league levels. It was Michael Lewis who found
a way to put a human face on this paradigm shift in the unlikely story of Billy Beane, an
early adopter of the Jamesian method and general manager of the financially challenged,
small-market Oakland A’s. Lewis’s book, Moneyball, tells the story so well it’s now been
made into a movie starring Brad Pitt as Beane and Jonah Hill as the numbers geek he trusts
to get the A’s into the playoffs through statistics-based, analytic “magic.” You’ll not only
read parts of Lewis’s book, you’ll also explore the back story of the sabermetric revolution
in a New Yorker profile of James by Ben McGrath, as well as the dramatic liberties taken by
Steven Zaillian and Aaron Sorkin in adapting Moneyball for the big screen. And that’s only
the beginning.

The “literature of fact” encompasses both narratives of extraordinary interest and
explorations of subjects whose ins and outs rival those of even the best mystery books.
You’ll read page-turning long-form articles and excerpts from books by A. J. Liebling, Joseph
Mitchell, Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson, John McPhee, Jane Kramer, Calvin
Trillin, Susan Orlean, Malcolm Gladwell, Margaret Talbot and others. The next morning,
you’ll discuss these in a seminar-like setting to see what makes them (and their writers)
tick; you’ll also consider some shorter pieces, interviews, driveway-moment broadcast
segments by David Isay and Ira Glass, and rare finds from YouTube. Each afternoon you’ll
watch unforgettable films made from nonfiction sources as well as documentaries that
keep you on the edge of your seat.

The readings and screenings will cover a wide range of topics: people, places, food,
war, politics, nature and the environment, medicine, art, music, sports, fashion, space
exploration and more. Since seeing can lead to doing, you’ll also have the opportunity to
develop one or several portfolio-ready short pieces based on your own observation and
reporting.

This program is made possible in part by a support from Houston Endowment Inc
and The Brown Foundation.
General information
To be completed by the student:
Which program are you applying for? (circle one)
☐ Yes ☐ No
☐ Need-based financial aid
☐ Need-blind

If yes (and you do not receive a free or reduced-cost lunch), please attach a copy of the enrollment certificate.
If the answer to either question above is yes, you qualify for a tuition waiver, and need not provide family income information below.
If the answer to both questions is no, but your family cannot afford the tuition, please provide the following information:
My family’s TOTAL INCOME for 2015 (or 2014 if the 2015 return has not been filed—circle one) was:
☐ $0 ☐ $1-10,000 ☐ $11,001-20,000 ☐ $20,001-30,000 ☐ $30,001-40,000 ☐ $40,001-50,000 ☐ $50,001-60,000 ☐ $60,001-70,000 ☐ $70,001-80,000 ☐ $80,001-90,000 ☐ $90,001-100,000 ☐ $100,001-120,000 ☐ $120,001 and above

As documentation, you MUST attach a copy of the first page of Form 1040 or 2014-104 or the first two pages of Form 1040 or 1040A. If parents are divorced, both must provide income documentation.
For all tuition waiver applicants:
I affirm that the information provided above is true and correct and that this is a full disclosure of our family’s financial circumstances and also that we truly need assistance.

Academic profile
To be filled out by a teacher who knows you well and/or a counselor. Your teacher or counselor should then mail this application, along with an official transcript and unofficial copies of PSAT score reports plus any supporting documentation for financial aid, directly to:
WONDERWORKS
P.O. Box 667550
Houston, Texas 77266-7550

Your application cannot be processed without an official transcript and PSAT scores.
Cumulative grade point average:
☐ Top 10 percent
☐ Top 5 percent
☐ Other (explain)

Class ranking (approximate):
☐ Top 10 percent
☐ Top 5 percent
☐ Other (explain)

PSAT scores
Critical Reading ☐ Mathematics ☐ Writing ☐ Other (explain)
Month and year taken
Please provide a copy of official score report.

The student’s curriculum can best be described as:
☐ Honors/gifted
☐ College prep
☐ Regular

The student’s behavior is:
☐ Always courteous and respectful
☐ Usually courteous and respectful (please explain)

Overall I would recommend this student:
☐ Most highly
☐ Highly
☐ With reservations (explain)

Any additional comments you feel would help us assess the student’s abilities:
(Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Signature of parent or guardian

Please remember that all information provided in this section is subject to independent verification. False or misleading statements and/or material omissions will cause the application for enrollment as well as financial assistance to be denied.

WONDERWORKS Summer 2016
P.O. Box 667550 Houston, Texas 77266-7550

www.wonderworkshouston.org

How to Apply
Admission is competitive — WONDERWORKS requires at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average plus a high level of achievement in relevant core subjects and PSAT scores consistent with the College Board benchmark criteria for college readiness in order to consider an application. Enrollment is limited to students who will be entering grades 10, 11, or 12 next fall or who will have just graduated from high school this spring.

All admissions decisions are made on a need-blind basis — we don’t take into account whether you can or cannot afford the tuition, we’re just looking for the very best students, period. Tuition waivers are made available to all qualified students who demonstrate financial need according to criteria specified in the financial aid section of the application form. To sustain this policy, no other financial aid is offered apart from need-based tuition waivers. If you truly need a tuition waiver, ask for it and show us why, but if you don’t need assistance, don’t ask for it — we need to save it for those who do.

As a rule of thumb, if you receive a federally-funded free or reduced-cost lunch at school and/or are enrolled in the state Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), you automatically qualify for a tuition waiver, subject to verification.

Any additional comments you feel would help us assess the student’s abilities:
(Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Signature of parent or guardian

Please remember that all information provided in this section is subject to independent verification. False or misleading statements and/or material omissions will cause the application for enrollment as well as financial assistance to be denied.

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P.O. Box 667550 Houston, Texas 77266-7550

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BONUS!
College Essay Workshop
18-21 July

An interactive opportunity to brainstorm, organize, develop and refine preliminary responses to one or several of the Common Application essay prompts for 2016-17. Students will examine successful essays based on past prompts and receive individual feedback on practice drafts they submit. In response to a current prompt (or prompts) of their choosing, some out-of-class writing will be required. Available only to students who have completed any of the WOWWorks Summer 2016 programs.

M-Th, 10 AM – 4 PM; FREE

WONDERWORKS Summer 2016 is produced in collaboration with the
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Jack J. Valenti School of Communication
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