

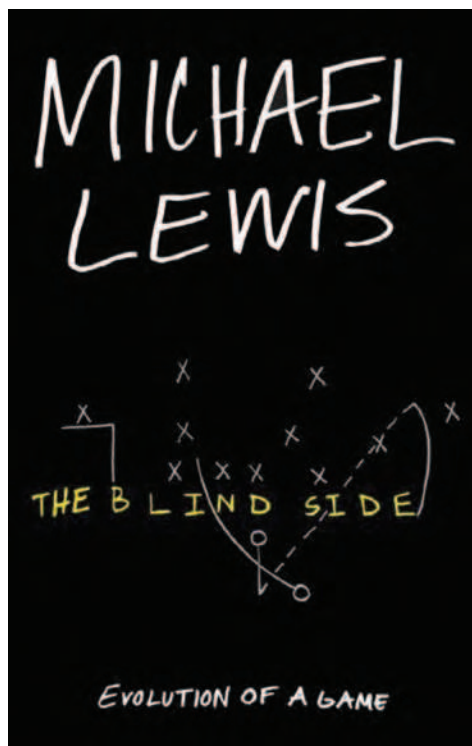
WONDERWORKS

and the

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

present

a reading-intensive introduction to
literary journalism for high school students
plus documentary films,
films based on nonfiction sources,
and writing practicum



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 85) and landing a job at Salomon Brothers' London and later New York offices trading bonds. His first book, *Liar's Poker* (1989) -- a memoir based on his experiences on Wall Street -- became an instant best seller, and was followed by a book on Silicon Valley (*The Next New Thing*, 1999) and major league baseball as seen through the statistics-based management practices of Billy Beane and the Oakland Athletics (*Moneyball*, 2003). *The Blind Side* is the first of his nonfiction books to be made into a major studio film; *Moneyball* is currently in pre-production and will be released in 2011.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

14 JUNE – 16 JULY 2010
10 AM – 4 PM, MONDAY – FRIDAY
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

STRANGER THAN FICTION is open to high school students of special promise and ability who will be entering grades 10, 11, 12 and college. In most cases, students admitted to the program must have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Tuition is \$650. Scholarships are available, but only for students demonstrating true financial 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 5 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 recommendation section. Your teacher or counselor should then mail (and/or fax) the completed form along with an official transcript reflecting your grades (and PSAT, SAT and/or Stanford Text scores, if available) and any additional documentation required for scholarship consideration to:

Wonderworks
PO Box 667550
Houston, TX 77266-7550
Fax: 713.523.6145

To ensure full consideration, applications must be received by 3 May; early applications are encouraged. All applicants will be notified of acceptance by 28 May; early applicants may 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. For additional forms visit www.wonderworkshouston.org.

Truth, of course, must of necessity be stranger than fiction, for we have made fiction to suit ourselves.

GILBERT KEITH CHESTERTON
Heretics, 1905

Whereas journalists once felt humbled by the novel, we now live in an age in which the novelist lives in a state of anxiety about nonfiction. You see it most clearly with films in the lust to be able to put at the end of the film, "This is a true story."

MICHAEL LEWIS
Interviewed by Robert S. Boynton, *The New New Journalism*, 2005

Michael Lewis has experienced just such a Hollywood ending himself – his book, *The Blind Side*, was recently made into a movie that became a surprise box-office success. The book and movie tell the improbable story of Michael Oher, who faced homelessness and other adversities growing up in Memphis but with the help of a "second family" managed to become an All-American offensive tackle at the University of Mississippi and later a first-round draft pick and starter for the Baltimore Ravens. As part of STRANGER THAN FICTION, you'll read an article from *The New York Times Magazine* taken from the book, see the movie, and also read another article by Malcolm Gladwell from *The New Yorker* about the perils of repetitive brain trauma in football at all levels. And this is only one day out of twenty-four in which we'll show you how matter-of-fact can turn into matter-of-interest in the hands of an alert and imaginative writer and/or filmmaker.

The "literature of fact" encompasses both narratives of extraordinary interest and explorations of matters 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 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 the likes of David Isay and Ira Glass, and even rare finds from YouTube. To top it all off, each afternoon you'll watch unforgettable films made from nonfiction sources as well as documentaries guaranteed to 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 good writing is contagious, we also hope you'll feel the urge to develop one or several portfolio-ready short pieces based on your own observation and reporting about things that interest you and might interest others. For avid readers and budding writers only.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from **Houston Endowment Inc.**

www.wonderworkshouston.org

STRANGER THAN FICTION

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT

After you have completed the student part of this form, give it to your teacher or counselor to complete and have them submit it WITH A TRANSCRIPT plus any supporting documentation required for scholarship consideration either

by mail:

STRANGER THAN FICTION
Wonderworks
PO Box 667550
Houston Texas 77266-7550

**EARLY
DECISIONS
FOR
EARLY
APPLICATIONS**

or by fax:

STRANGER THAN FICTION
713.523.6145

To be filled out by the student (please print):

name (last, first, middle)

mailing address

city/zip code

e-mail address (your own or that of a parent or teacher)

home telephone

date of birth sex

high school grade you will enter next fall

school district

mother/female guardian's name

address

telephone

e-mail address (if any)

occupation college graduate?

father/male guardian's name

address

telephone

e-mail address (if any)

occupation college graduate?

To be filled out by the student and parent/guardian ONLY if applying for a need-based scholarship.

Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches and/or are enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) automatically receive full scholarships, subject to verification; other students may be eligible for full or partial scholarships based on family income as reflected on their parents' or guardians' most recent Federal Income Tax return(s).

All scholarships are need-based and therefore not available to students whose parents or guardians can afford tuition and fees without undue financial difficulty. This program is able to sustain its policy of need-blind admissions only by reserving scholarships for those who actually need them. If you truly need a scholarship, ask for it, but if you don't, don't.

I receive a free or reduced-cost lunch at school:
☐ yes ☐ no

Verified by school official:

signature of school official

printed name title

I am enrolled in the Texas Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

☐ yes ☐ no
Please include a copy of the enrollment certificate.

If the answer to either of the questions above is yes, you need not fill out the remaining section.

My family's TOTAL INCOME for 2009 (or 2008 if the 2009 return has not yet been filed - circle one) as reported to the US Internal Revenue Service on line 4 of Form 1040EZ; line 22 of Form 1040; or line 15 of Form 1040A was: \$

As verification, you must also include a copy of first page of Form 1040EZ or the first two pages of Forms 1040 or 1040A.

I affirm that the information provided above is true and correct.

signature of parent or guardian

printed name of parent or guardian

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

To be filled out by a teacher who knows you well and/or a counselor.

Cumulative grade point average: _____

Class ranking (approximate):

☐ top 10 per cent ☐ top 50 per cent
☐ top 25 per cent ☐ other

The curriculum the student is taking can best be described as:

☐ honors ☐ regular
☐ gifted ☐ college prep
☐ vocational

The student's behavior is:

☐ always courteous and respectful
☐ usually courteous and respectful
☐ sometimes rowdy and/or has difficulty getting along
☐ frequently rowdy and/or has difficulty getting along

Overall, I would recommend this student:

☐ most highly
☐ highly
☐ with reservations (please explain)

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

signature

printed name

title

daytime/evening phone numbers

e-mail address



Have you remembered to include a transcript?