

## WONDERWORKS

and the

Department of English and  
Creative Writing Program,  
University of Houston

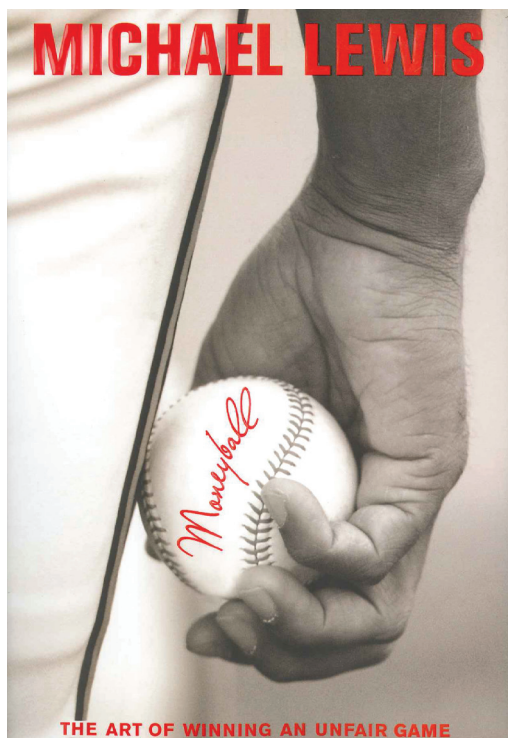
present

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

11 JUNE – 13 JULY 2012

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 85) 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

**STRANGER THAN FICTION** is open to high school students of special promise and ability who will be entering grades 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 average.

Tuition is \$500. 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 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 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) plus 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 4 May; early applications are encouraged.

All applicants will be notified of acceptance by 25 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](mailto: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 and 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**.

# 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  
or by fax:

**STRANGER THAN FICTION**  
713.523.6145

**EARLY  
DECISIONS  
FOR  
EARLY  
APPLICATIONS**

### 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). If parents are divorced, BOTH must provide copies of their tax returns.

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 already qualify for a tuition waiver and do NOT need to provide information concerning family income. Otherwise, please furnish the following information:

My family's TOTAL INCOME for 2011 (or 2010 if the 2011 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.*

For all tuition waiver applicants:

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?

WonderWorksHouston.org