

PREPARATION EXERCISES (optional)

Part 1: Adventurous writing

Keeping the topic of ‘adventurous writing’ in mind, please:

1. Select a paragraph or even a sentence of another writer’s work that you admire for its risk or ambition.
2. Jot down some notes about the paragraph, and the book from which it comes, to explain why you like it so much and the nature of the risks taken. Please note: the paragraph can display any kind of risk at all – the writing need not be especially experimental or wild, but I want you to be able to identify what is ‘risky’ about it to you, and why it speaks to you.

Part 2: Adventurous careers

1. Think of two people in public life you admire professionally – for the quality of their work, how they comport themselves publicly, for their artistic choices, for their successes and how they manage their failures. Think big and wide! They don’t have to be writers or even artists necessarily. These people can be dead or alive, as remote and stellar as Prince or Bowie or Caravaggio or Celine Sciamma or Ai Wei Wei or James Baldwin or Svetlana Alexievich, or someone much closer to home. In fact a combination would be great – someone at the highest of heights professionally, and perhaps someone working at a more modest level of achievement, but whose work and conduct you admire.
2. Make a list of what it is about each person you so admire, and why.