



REGISTER NOW

Young Writers PROGRAM 2025



AGES 6 - 18
JUNE 17 - AUG 15
LOFT.ORG/YOUTH



WELCOME TO THE LOFT'S 2025 YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM!

Welcome back to Summer Youth at Open Book! We are thrilled to see our summer programs return to our center and look forward to creating new memories with our students. A hub for all creative types, Summer Youth welcomes the young person wanting to discover their voice, create meaningful writing, make new friends, and explore the power of their imagination.

For 2025, we've split the summer into seven themed weeks to inspire and engage all young writers. Buckle up in Week One for some out-of-this-world and fantastical "Future Forward" stories! Week 2 offers "Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror" camps for fans of creepy, skin-crawling tales shared at the weekly Open Mics in the past. And because novel writing is so popular with our young authors, Week Three "Draft Lab" is all about jumpstarting your next project. Weeks 4 and 5 introduce two new programs called the "Summer Writing Intensives" for Ages 10 to 13 and 14 to 18, immersive cohort experiences culminating in a public reading and optional chapbook submission. To round out a fun-filled summer, Week 6 "Spectacular Worlds" and Week 7 "Storymakers" will unleash the magical creativity and artmaking side of our students as they imagine new and better worlds. We're thrilled to offer camps that ask students to think about building futures, to cultivate joy, and to celebrate community, all while exploring power, problems, and possibilities in the personal, public, and planetary.

As in past summers, most week-long camps provide a full day of creative writing fun. Camps are divided by age groups (ages 6 to 8, 9 to 11, 12 to 14, 15 to 18) to best represent the reading and writing levels of each group. The Writing Intensives for Ages 10 to 13 and 14 to 18 are application based, so make sure to apply via our website early as space is limited in each cohort! Each young writer should register for the age they will be at the start of the camp. Quick note: Any kiddo who participates in a Loft youth class from September 2024 - September 2025 is eligible to submit work to our Loft Young Writers' Anthology!

The Loft's Summer Youth Camps are designed to give every writer a supportive and creative environment to explore, express themselves, and find like-minded souls. Each camp will focus on a specific genre, so that campers can dive deeper into craft and produce focused work, meet new people or reunite with old friends, and most importantly, have fun!

We are deeply grateful to our community of teaching artists, students, and parents for their flexibility, creativity, and support in making this program possible. We welcome young writers whose imaginations are flowing, whose notebooks are bursting to the seams, whose unique voice deserves a mainstage! Whether you have plans of publishing your own book or dabbling in writing, we can't wait to have you join us this season for Summer Youth at Open Book!

Cheers,

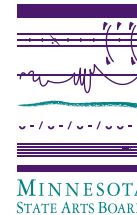
Marianne Manzler

Program Manager, Education

General Program Info	4
Week 1 (June 17–20)	6
Week 2 (June 24–27)	10
Week 3 (July 15–18)	14
Week 4 (July 22–25)	18
Week 5 (July 29–Aug 1)	20
Week 6 (Aug 5–8)	22
Week 7 (Aug 12–15)	26

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

The Loft's youth programming is made possible by Friends of the Loft, the Hearst Foundations, and by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



HEARST foundations

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Registration

Registration is open as long as there is space available in a class. You can register your child or teen online at www.loft.org or by calling **612-379-8999**. We are here to help. A detailed confirmation letter will be emailed once your registration has been processed. Please note that you will be asked to fill out a Health and Safety form after registering, which will be included as a link in your confirmation letter.

Age Ranges and Writing Ability

The age ranges listed for each class are suggested guidelines, but before registering your child for a class outside of their age range, please consider that teaching artists propose classes based on age ranges they are comfortable teaching. Suggested age ranges also consider socialization, as well as more mature class discussions; you may have an incredibly gifted child who excels at writing and learning, but please consider whether they would be comfortable in a class with children much older/younger, comfortable participating in more mature class discussions pertaining to writing for older audiences, and how it would affect the learning environment for the other students. If you have questions please call **612-379-8999**.

Access Funds

The Loft is pleased to announce our commitment to offer access funding for up to two students in each of our youth writing camps and intensives. Please consider a contribution to the Loft to help support this effort to break down barriers to participation in our youth programs. There are at least two Access Fund seats in each youth camp, but please give us a call or send an email to see what is available! You can also join the Youth Access Funds Pool to learn about discounted camps and events on a monthly basis at loft.org/access.

Parents With Children or Teens With Special Needs

Children and teens with special needs or disabilities are always welcome at the Loft! Please call us at **612-379-8999** if you would like to discuss how the Loft can accommodate the needs of your child or teen (hearing or sight impairments, children with PCAs, learning challenges, closed caption needs) in order for them to more fully participate in and enjoy Loft classes!

COVID Safety

Masking is not required. If the student is feeling ill or has a temperature over 100 degrees, please stay home and notify the Education department of any absences by calling 612-379-8999 or emailing edu@loft.org. If the student or someone in their immediate household tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

In the event the Loft has to cancel a class, you will be notified in advance and issued a 100% refund. If you need to cancel, notify the Loft education office before the start of the second class meeting to receive our standard 85% refund. Unless the Loft cancels a class, no 100% refunds can be given once registration has taken place, as there is a registration fee of 15%. No refunds will be given after the start of the second class meeting.

Become a Friend and Support the Loft Community

Your contribution is the lifeblood of the Loft and contributes directly to the development of writers and the literary community. As a Friend of the Loft, you receive benefits and discounts as well as the knowledge that your support ensures the future of the Loft programs you value. For details on Friends of the Loft, visit loftlit.co/Friends or call 612-215-2597.

Accessibility at the Loft

The Loft Literary Center strives to be accessible to all, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, veteran status, economic status, sex, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, or disability. As possible, we will remove barriers to participation in our programs to persons with disabilities. To arrange for accessibility accommodation, please contact the Loft at 612-379-8999 or edu@loft.org at least three weeks in advance. Accessibility services are partly supported by the Rachel Vaughan Memorial Fund. For more information about accessibility, see loft.org/accessibility.

Please note: The elevator at the Loft at Open Book will be down for modernization from July–August 2025. Classes take place on the 2nd and 3rd floor of Open Book and these classes will only be accessible via stairs. We will need to relocate a student's class to a nearby site if they can't navigate stairs. Therefore, it is especially important to let us know as soon as possible if you will need this accommodation.

The Loft and Your Academic Journey

Are you getting ready for the next chapter of your life: college? The Loft's renowned teaching artists can work with you one-on-one to perfect and elevate your college application and scholarship essays through our Academic Application Support services! Let us help you tell your story! Visit loft.org/services/academic-application-support.

Want to Get Published?

Submit your work to The Loft's Young Writers' Anthology!

- up to 3 typed, double-spaced pages
- Work must have been written, started, or revised in a Loft workshop from September 2024 to September 2025
- Submissions close Sept 8 (submit here: LOFTLIT.co/youthanthology)

Lunch & Enrichment for Camps and Intensives

We'll break for lunch with more activities that will inspire us to express ourselves while having fun! We may explore Gold Medal Park, Guthrie Theatre, Mill City Museum, and more to seek creativity outside the classroom! Please bring a packed lunch. Youth in classes for Ages 15 to 18 are welcome to join us in the Performance Hall for lunch, dine on the patio, or grab food from the cafe on the first floor! Supervised lunch is included in all intensives.

WEEK 1 June 17-20

THEME
Future Forward

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

WEEK 1: AGES 9-11

THE WRITER'S PLAYGROUND

with Dralandra Larkins & Holly Day

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | POETRY & FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Scrapbook Poetry with Dralandra Larkins: We will dive into a river of words, imagery, metaphors, and creativity. This series encourages curious beginners of all backgrounds to share their imagination and creativity using their unique voices in the form of performance poetry known as spoken word.

Session 2 Help! I Don't Know What to Write with Holly Day: We'll go over dozens of ways writers get their creative engines revved up and moving, from exercises in basic character formation and development to creating vivid scenes and scenarios for your characters to live and participate in.



Dralandra Larkins is an award-winning spoken word poet, teaching artist, storyteller



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.

CREATE YOUR OWN UNIVERSE

with Ellen Fee & Kat Shepherd

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | MULTIGENRE & FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Welcome to My World with Ellen Fee: In this class, we will create a brand-new, imaginative planet and build all the details through a variety of writing and art projects. At the end of class, we will craft a time capsule containing all the elements of their fantasy world.

Session 2 Pick-a-Path Stories with Kat Shepherd: This class offers the chance to plan and create pick-a-path stories, and you'll walk away with your own pick-a-path book to share with family and friends. You'll learn the secrets behind creating a thrilling interactive multi-plot story that will keep readers coming back for more!



Ellen Fee teaches creative writing at an after-school program. Her poems have published widely.



Kat Shepherd is a writer and educator. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers.

WEEK 1: AGES 12-14

IMAGINATION TO PAGE

with Kelsey Daly & John Schaidler

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Spark New Ideas with Kelsey Daly: Our week together will be filled with playful writing prompts and activities- serious, silly, and everywhere in between- that will help spark your imagination and get the words flowing out of you and onto the page.

Session 2 Get Into Character with John Schaidler: We will learn to create realistic and compelling characters by exploring their interior lives through Konstantin Stanislavski's groundbreaking approach to acting. We will walk away with a toolkit for building characters that feel real and dynamic.



Kelsey Daly is a young adult writer and photographer living in Minneapolis.



John Schaidler is a writer, editor, and educator with over 25 years of experience helping young writers.

WEEK 1: AGES 12-14 (Cont.)

FROM MEMOIR TO MYTH

with Amelia Colwell & Amy Sailer

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | NONFICTION & FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Write About Yourself with Amelia Colwell: Do you have something to say about who you are, but you're not sure where to start? In this class, we will write as a tool to figure things out and explore who we are as people.

Session 2 Alternate Histories with Amy Sailer: In this class, we will collaborate on a group novella that takes place in an alternate history. We will discuss examples of alternate histories in excerpts of novels and TV shows. The course offers a chance to experiment with worldbuilding techniques in a historical context.



Amelia Colwell (she/her) is a writer working on her memoir, which includes prose, poetry, and fairy tales.



Amy Sailer has taught at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, the University of Utah, and W. Michigan University.

WEEK 1: AGES 15-18

PERSONAL NARRATIVE FOR COLLEGE APPS

with Mitchell LeGrand

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We all have stories that we want to share with others! In this class, we will be exploring the personal narrative, how to tell our own stories in a compelling way. These lessons will prepare you for upcoming college applications and scholarship essays, as well as enhance your storytelling skills.



Mitchell LeGrand attended Century College and the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in global studies and political economics.

SCREENWRITING FOR TEENS

with Michael Gorrie

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | SCREENWRITING | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Are you a teenager and want to write your movie? Then this class is for you! Over the course of this class we will cover the fundamentals of screenwriting structure, formatting, and character development. Students will have the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers and teaching artist in class.



Michael Gorrie is an award winning screenwriter and filmmaker from the Twin Cities. His films have run at numerous film festivals across the US. In five of six years Michael has been a two-time McKnight finalist for directing and a three-time Knight Screenwriting Residency finalist.

WRITING ABOUT OUR ANIMALS

with Anna Molenaar

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

In this class, We will explore pet memoirs and poetry and how we talk about the animals we love. We will write love letters to our cats and biographies of family dogs, keeping in mind craft elements that will elevate our writing.



Anna Molenaar is a writer of poetry and prose concerned with nature, humanity, and the messes that occur when the two mix. She works as a preschool teacher and teaches writing courses at the Loft Literary Center.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

with Robert Voedisch

JUN 17-20 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We'll look at the big questions that drive every story—Who are these characters? What do they want?—but we'll also look at the smaller, more technical aspects of fiction, like point-of-view, voice, and time. (Students will receive critique on up to 20 pages of their work)



Robert Voedisch's fiction has appeared in *Third Coast*, *The Greensboro Review*, *North American Review*, *Five Chapters*, *One Teen Story*, *BULL*, *Paper Darts*, and in the anthology *Fiction on a Stick: Stories by Writers from Minnesota*. Visit robertvoedisch.com.

WEEK 2 June 24-27

THEME
**SCI-FI, FANTASY, &
HORROR**

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

WEEK 2: AGES 9-11

CREATING FANTASTICAL WORLDS

with Ellen Fee & Will Hart

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | POETRY & FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Poems for Peace with Ellen Fee: In this class, we will use poetry to express our dreams for a different world. We will learn about poets and artists who use their voices for peace and justice and write our own poetry to share with our communities.

Session 2 Intro to Zine Making with Will Hart: Do you love comics? Want to make your own? Together we'll dig deep into all the inner mechanics of how comics work in the first place, and then we'll draw and experiment with making our own.



Ellen Fee teaches creative writing at an after-school program. Her poems have published widely.



Will Hart is a longtime comic artist and lover. He endeavors to make comics accessible to everyone.

WEEK 2: AGES 12-14

STRANGE WORLDS

with Holly Day & Alice Paige

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 The Science of Magic with Holly Day: In this class, we'll explore how magical ideas have historically been used as science. We'll then use these concepts to inspire fantastic and horrific stories in our in-class writing.

Session 2 Fantasy with Teeth with Alice Paige: Let's get fantastical. We will spend the week exploring a series of fantasy short stories and poems provided in class and will discuss the common tropes and archetypes found within these stories.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.



Alice Paige is a trans woman, essayist, and storyteller living in Saint Paul.

HEROES, VILLAINS, AND WORLDS

with Kelsey Daly & Kat Shepherd

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Character Development with Kelsey Daly: Come create your very own fantasy character alongside fellow fantasy and sci-fi writing peers! You'll do writing exercise that make your character pop off the page and into your reader's heart.

Session 2 Short Story Writing with Kat Shepherd: Whether it's funny, frightening, or heartbreaking, a good short story is a compelling peek into a deeper world. In this class, we'll read short works to unlock the secrets of short story structure. Then we'll use a variety of games and activities to help writers brainstorm, outline, and write our own.



Kelsey Daly is a young adult writer and photographer living in Minneapolis.



Kat Shepherd is a writer and educator. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers.

WEEK 2: AGES 12-14 (cont.)

WORLDS OF POSSIBILITY

with Kat Shepherd & Amy Sailer

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Writing Pick-a-Path Stories with Kat Shepherd: We will plan and create pick-a-path stories of your own in a variety of genres, and you'll walk away with your own pick-a-path book to share with family and friends.

Session 2 Utopian and Dystopian Worldbuilding with Amy Sailer: In this class, we will write a collaborative novella that takes place in a utopian/dystopian society. Along the way, we will experiment with worldbuilding techniques, including social relationships, setting, and figurative language, and discuss the relationship between utopian and dystopian literature.



Kat Shepherd is a writer and educator. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers.



Amy Sailer has taught at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, the University of Utah, and W. Michigan University.

WEEK 2: AGES 15-18

BUILDING A NOVEL

with Debra Blake

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Writing a novel can seem daunting, but "Building a Novel" breaks it down into manageable steps. From the opening class, you'll be writing your novel—from story arc to complex characters, we'll build and plan until we get to writing specific scenes and deepen them with dialogue, description, tension and conflict.



Debra Blake is a Twin Cities' writer, editor, and educator, who mentors teens and adults in writing and edits manuscripts of all types. She has taught numerous literary and writing courses at the University of Minnesota and the Loft Literary Center.

FANTASY WORLD IMMERSION

with Aurora Whittet Best

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

In this class, you will explore the emotional depth necessary to create a compelling character, the ability to smell, taste and see your fantasy world as a sensory experience, the foundation of an outline, authentic dialogue, and more.



Aurora Whittet Best started out as a wild red-haired child in Minnesota dreaming up stories for her friends to read. Today, she has completed her first Young Adult series; the Bloodmark Saga and written and illustrated two children's picture books.

WRITING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

with Mitchell LeGrand

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We will explore personal essays, op-eds, writing like a reporter, and how we can use our voice to persuade others to join our cause, invite our readers in, and rally our supporters. During this class, students will work through creating one strong piece of work on an issue they care deeply about.



Mitchell LeGrand attended Century College and the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in global studies and political economics.

EXPLORING PLACE

with Marianne Manzler & Michelle Zamanian

JUN 24-27 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

The creative process is shaped by environment, and Minneapolis will serve as our muse. We'll write on-site at iconic locations like the Stone Arch Bridge, Mill City Museum and Ruins, the Guthrie Theater, the Minneapolis Central Library, and City Hall. Each setting offers unique inspiration, from riverfront serenity to urban energy.



Marianne Manzler is a writer, educator, and editor and has more than ten years running literary classes for youth.



Michelle Zamanian is an Iranian American fiction writer, screenwriter, and poet.

WEEK 3 July 15-18

THEME DRAFT LAB

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

STORYTELLING FOR AGES 6-8

with Taiwana Shambley & Holly Day

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 6-8

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Words Can Create Magic with Taiwana Shambley: Writers create magic with words and spin stories from their imaginations. Beginning in your journal, you will find your writing voice and watch your words bloom into stories and poems. Bring your best ideas, turn them loose on the page, and discover the writer in you!

Session 2 Fantasy Towns with Holly Day: Have you ever sat down to write a story and realized you have no idea how or where to start? We'll go over dozens of ways writers get their creative engines revved up and moving. By the time this class is over, you'll know how to make yourself get started writing, and keep writing.



Taiwana Shambley is a full-time writer and award-winning teaching artist from St. Paul's North End.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.

WEEK 3: AGES 6-8

LITTLE WRITERS, BIG WORLDS

with Jack Harris & Blythe Baird

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 6-8

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Mythical Creatures with Jack Harris: If you like to write stories about magical, mythical beings, this session is for you! We'll invent our own creature tales and create fun, interesting stories around our newly invented mythology!

Session 2 Fantasy Town with Blythe Baird: We'll learn how important geography is to our stories by building workable fantasy worlds for our characters to live in. We'll start with drawing out maps of the place we'd like our characters to inhabit then we'll fill them in and even break the rules.



Jack Harris is a fiction writer, editor, and graphic designer from the Driftless Area region of Wisconsin.



Blythe Baird (she/her) is a Minneapolis-based LGBTQ+ author, spoken word poet, and educator.

WEEK 3: AGES 12-14

JUMPSTART YOUR WRITING

with Rachel Guvenc & Alice Paige

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Express Yourself with Rachel Guvenc: In this class you will encounter poetry, Spoken Word, music, visual art and more to inspire your writing. You will write poetry about your memories, dreams, observations, and opinions.

Session 2 A Guide to Ghosts with Alice Paige: In this class we'll be discussing these topics and learning how to write ghost stories that will stay with readers long after we've shuffled off this mortal coil. Class will be split between short lecture, discussion questions, and writing prompts.



Rachel Guvenc has 13 years experience teaching English Language Learners and is an MFA candidate at Hamline.



Alice Paige is a trans woman, essayist, and storyteller living in Saint Paul.

WEEK 3: AGES 12-14

WRITING IMMERSION

with Holly Day & Rachel Guvenc

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Finding the Poet Within with Holly Day: In this class, we'll discuss the many techniques poets use to find the strongest way to express their ideas through language and structure.

Session 2 Get Started on Your Writing Project with Rachel Guvenc: You have an idea for a novel, short story, or work of fiction, but you're having trouble getting started. Come ready to brainstorm, with an experienced teaching artist who is also a writer, ideas on crafting that ever-important first sentence, paragraph, and draft of creative work.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.



Rachel Guvenc has 13 years experience teaching English Language Learners and is an MFA candidate at Hamline.

WEEK 3: AGES 15-18

IDENTITY AND CREATIVE NONFICTION

with Amelia Colwell

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

In this class, we will write as a tool to figure things out and explore who we are as people. We'll read work on identity and writing from Jane Wong, Shannon Gibney, Nic Stone, Glennon Doyle, and Anne Lamott.



Amelia Colwell (she/her) is a writer working on her memoir, which includes prose, poetry, and fairy tales, weaved together to make sense of trauma. Amelia has published her writing in *The Iowa Review*, the Iowa Writes Project, and a forthcoming piece in *Scarlet*.

WRITING PICK-A-PATH STORIES

with Kat Shepherd

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Interactive book series keep readers turning the pages because the story changes every time. Every decision the reader makes takes the plot through unexpected twists and turns that lead to a host of exciting new endings. And writing them is even more fun than reading them!



Kat Shepherd is a writer and educator who just moved to Minnesota with her husband and three dogs. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers because reading should be a joyful experience for everyone.

VISUAL EXPERIMENTS IN WRITING

with Courtney Ludwick

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

As writers, we rely on image all the time: in metaphor, in description, in our characters, in the worlds we create on the page. But how might we use image beyond text? What happens to our writing when we embrace experimentation and lean into hybrid forms—into forms that use both text and image?



Court Ludwick is the author of *THESE STRANGE BODIES* (ELJ Editions, 2024) and the founding editor-in-chief of *Broken Antler Magazine*. Her writing has been nominated for Best of the Net, the Pushcart Prize, and Best Microfiction.

GET INTO CHARACTER: ACTING 101

with John Schaidler

JUL 15-18 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | PLAY & SCREENWRITING | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Drawing on fundamental techniques of Method Acting, students learn to build great characters piece by piece. Students will learn to create realistic and compelling characters by exploring their interior lives through Konstantin Stanislavski's groundbreaking approach to acting.



John Schaidler is a writer, editor, and educator with over 25 years of experience helping young writers bring authentic stories to life. With a background in theatre and video production, creative writing, and children's book publishing, his approachable, hands-on style inspires students to think critically and create boldly.

WEEK 4 July 22-25

THEME INTENSIVE

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

WEEK 4: AGES 10-13

LOFT YOUTH INTENSIVES

What is it?

Loft youth intensives are application-based. Apply online through our online listing.

The Loft's Summer Youth Writing Intensive for Ages 10-13 is led by acclaimed and published writers, who are experts in their field. Each workshop aims to inspire creativity, self-expression, and a passion for writing.

During the week, young writers will engage with several published teaching artists across various genres and gain new insights into the craft of writing.

By the end of the intensive, participants will have completed at least one piece of new writing and leave with new friends and inspiration for new projects to come. Additionally, campers will have the option to share their work in a public reading at the week's end, and there is an opportunity to publish their work in the youth anthology.

LOFT WRITING INTENSIVE FOR AGES 10-13

with Dralandra Larkins, Kelsey Daly, Robert Voedisch, & Michael Gorrie

JUL 22-25 (Tu-Fr) | 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 10-13

Reg \$550.00 | Mem \$495.00 | The Loft at Open Book

Scrapbook Poetry for Ages 10-13 with Dralandra Larkins: Students dive into words and imagery by sharing their imagination and creativity using their voices in the form of spoken word. Students explore visual art exercises to enhance their understanding of poetic expression and visual art integration. Students will create poems, clay sculpture, painted plant pot, bookmark, and tote bag.

Character Development: Design a Fantasy or Sci-Fi Protagonist, Villain, and Sidekick for Ages 10-13 with Kelsey Daly: Come create your very own fantasy character and villain! Explore writing exercise that help your characters pop off the page and into your reader's heart. What are their motivations, backstories, dreams, worries, and noteworthy fashion choices? Through a combination of writing exercises and games, your character will spring to life.

Elements of Fiction: Put the STORY in Your Story for Ages 10-13 with Robert Voedisch: In this class, we'll look at the big questions that drive every story—Who are these characters? What do they want?—but we'll also look at the smaller, more technical aspects of fiction, like point-of-view, voice, and time. (Note: Students will have 20 pages of work critiqued by the instructor.)

Screenwriting for Ages 10-13 with Michael Gorrie: Are you a tween and want to write your movie? Then this class is for you! We will cover the fundamentals of screenwriting structure, formatting and character development. Students will have the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers and teaching artist in class.



Dralandra Larkins is an award-winning spoken word poet, teaching artist, storyteller.



Kelsey Daly is a young adult writer and photographer living in Minneapolis.



Robert Voedisch's fiction has appeared in numerous publications. Visit robertvoedisch.com to learn more.



Michael Gorrie is an award-winning screenwriter and filmmaker from the Twin Cities.

WEEK 5 Jul 29-Aug 1

THEME INTENSIVE

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

WEEK 5: AGES 14-18

LOFT YOUTH INTENSIVES

What is it?

Loft youth intensives are application-based. Apply online through our online listing.

The Loft's Summer Youth Writing Intensive for Ages 14-18 is led by acclaimed and published writers, who are experts in their field. Each workshop aims to inspire creativity, self-expression, and a passion for writing.

During the week, young writers will engage with several published teaching artists across various genres and gain new insights into the craft of writing.

By the end of the intensive, participants will have completed at least one piece of new writing and leave with new friends and inspiration for new projects to come. Additionally, campers will have the option to share their work in a public reading at the week's end, and there is an opportunity to publish their work in the youth anthology.

LOFT WRITING INTENSIVE FOR AGES 14-18

with Holly Day, Dralandra Larkins, Shannon Gibney, & Michael Gorrie

JUL 22-25 (Tu-Fr) | 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 14-18

Reg \$550.00 | Mem \$495.00 | The Loft at Open Book

Fiction: Let's Write a Story—From Blank Page to the Last Page for Ages 14-18 with Holly Day: In this class, we'll go over many of the ways writers get their creative engines moving, from basic character formation to creating vivid scenes and scenarios. By the time this class is over, you'll know how to make yourself start writing, and keep writing until your piece is done.

Scrapbook Poetry for Ages 14-18 with Dralandra Larkins: Students dive into words and imagery by sharing their imagination and creativity using their voices in the form of spoken word. Students explore visual art exercises to enhance their understanding of poetic expression and visual at integration. Students will create poems, clay sculpture, painted plant pot, bookmark, and tote bag.

Speculative Memoir: A Primer for Ages 14-18 with Shannon Gibney: If you told the story of your life, what would you say? If you told the story of your half-life, of the unknown pieces of your life—and your family's lives—what would you imagine? And how would this fit into the "known" parts of your personal and family stories? In this class, we'll examine and craft our own memoirs of truth and speculation, using the known as a place to jump off into the possible.

Screenwriting for Ages 14-18 with Michael Gorrie: Are you a teenager and want to write your movie? Then this class is for you! Over the course of this class we will cover the fundamentals of screenwriting structure, formatting and character development. Students will have the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers and teaching artist in class.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.



Dralandra Larkins is an award-winning spoken word poet, teaching artist, storyteller.



Shannon Gibney is a writer, educator, activist, and the author of *See No Color* and *Dream Country*.



Michael Gorrie is an award-winning screenwriter and filmmaker from the Twin Cities.

WEEK 6
Aug 5-8

THEME
SPECTACULAR
WORLDS

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

WRITE YOUR WORLD

with Holly Day & Courtney Ludwick

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Finding the Poet Within with Holly Day: In this class, we'll discuss the many techniques poets use to find the strongest way to express their ideas through language and structure. We'll especially discuss how to develop stronger imagery in our writing and how the structure of a poem affects how it's read.

Session 2 Beyond Text: Visual Experiments with Courtney Ludwick: What happens to our writing when we embrace experimentation and lean into hybrid forms—into forms that use both text and image? Centering innovative “play,” we'll break some rules and innovate together.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.



Court Ludwick is the award-winning author of THESE STRANGE BODIES and the founding editor-in-chief of Broken Antler Magazine.

WEEK 6: AGES 9-11

MAGICAL WORLDS OF WONDER

with Marie Olofsdotter & Ellen Fee

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION & POETRY | AGES 9-11

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Fairy Tales, Magic, and Bookmaking with Marie Olofsdotter: Explore the timeless territory of magic as you write your own myth-inspired fairy tale! This class is perfect for anyone who loves to write, loves magic, and likes bookmaking.

Session 2 Poems for Peace with Ellen Fee: Poetry can help us imagine a better future. In this class, we will use poetry to express our dreams for a different world. We will learn about poets and artists who use their voices for peace and justice and write our own poetry to share with our communities.



Marie Olofsdotter is an award-winning Swedish artist who lives in Minneapolis.



Ellen Fee teaches creative writing at an after-school program. Her poems have published widely.

DARK HAUNTINGS: BENDING BOUNDARIES

with Kelsey Daly & Amy Sailer

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Create Your Own Sci-Fi and Fantasy Worlds with Kelsey Daly: Build a unique and spectacular fantasy world from the ground up! During our first three sessions, you will design your new world's geography, cultures, laws, magics, technologies, languages, weather, wildlife, and more.

Session 2 Utopian and Dystopian Worldbuilding with Amy Sailer: What happens to our writing when we embrace experimentation and lean into hybrid forms—into forms that use both text and image? Centering innovative “play,” we'll break some rules and innovate together.



Kelsey Daly is a young adult writer and photographer living in Minneapolis.



Amy Sailer has taught at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, the University of Utah, and W. Michigan University.

CREATING MAGICAL WORLDS

with Craig Noles

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Do you want to be a writer? Learn how to create magical, fictional worlds that capture the imagination of your readers and keep them glued to the pages of your stories!



Craig Noles grew up in Florida and British Columbia. He attended the University of Florida, where he received a BA in English and an M.Ed in English Education. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing for Children and Young Adults at Hamline University.

SHORT STORY: A TO Z

with Troy Wilderson

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We will discuss what makes short stories successful by looking at some powerful examples. Then, we'll start working on our own and talking about them together in a shared community.



Troy Wilderson is a New Orleans-born writer, senior prose feedback editor for *Typehouse Literary Magazine*, and a manuscript reader for a local independent publisher. She teaches the art of short story writing online. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous journals. Her teaching approach is hands-on, and she strives for inclusivity.

WRITING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

with Mitchell LeGrand

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We will explore personal essays, op-eds, writing like a reporter, and how we can use our voice to persuade others to join our cause, invite our readers in, and rally our supporters. During this class, students will work through creating one strong piece of work on an issue they care deeply about.



Mitchell LeGrand attended Century College and the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in global studies and political economics.

FINDING THE POET WITHIN

with Holly Day

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | POETRY | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

In this class, we'll discuss the many techniques poets use to find the strongest way to express their ideas through language and structure. We'll discuss how to pull a poem out of a piece of prose, developing stronger imagery in our writing, and how the structure of a poem affects how it looks on paper as well as how it sounds.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

with Alysandra Dutton

AUG 5-8 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

You've got your story or novel idea. What's next? You need to create detailed, interesting characters, and a plot that keeps the action moving forward. Learn the ins and outs of writing fiction by creating memorable settings, developing an exciting plot, and writing believable characters with depth and complexity.



Alysandra Dutton is a Twin Cities-based writer working on stories about art history, femininity, and blood. She is at work on a neo-noir thriller about the founding of Rome, and currently living and researching at the British School at Rome with support from the Sturgis International Fellowship.

WEEK 7
Aug 12-15

THEME
STORYMAKERS

Join us at the end
of each week for a
young writers'
open mic

WRITING A BETTER WORLD

with Amy Sailer & Courtney Ludwick

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION & POETRY | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Alternate Histories with Amy Sailer: We will collaborate on a group novella that takes place in an alternate history. We will discuss examples of alternate histories in novels and TV shows. The course offers a chance to experiment with worldbuilding techniques in a historical context.

Session 2 Beyond Text: Visual Experiments with Courtney Ludwick: What happens to our writing when we embrace experimentation and lean into hybrid forms—into forms that use both text and image? Centering innovative “play,” we’ll break some rules and innovate together.



Amy Sailer has taught at Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, the University of Utah, and W. Michigan University.



Court Ludwick is the award-winning author of THESE STRANGE BODIES and the founding editor-in-chief of Broken Antler Magazine.

WEEK 7: AGES 9-11

STORY EXPLORERS

with Holly Day & Kat Shepherd

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Help! I Don't Know What to Write with Holly Day: In this class, we'll learn how important geography is to our stories by building workable fantasy worlds for our characters to live in. We'll start with drawing out maps of the place we'd like our characters to inhabit then we'll fill them in and even break the rules.

Session 2 Pick-a-Path Stories with Kat Shepherd: We will plan and create pick-a-path stories, and you'll walk away with your own pick-a-path book to share with family and friends. You'll learn the secrets behind creating a thrilling interactive multi-plot story that will keep readers coming back for more!



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.



Kat Shepherd is a writer and educator. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers.

PAGE AND THE STAGE

with Rachel Guvenc & John Schaidler

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | POETRY AND PLAY | AGES 12-14

Reg \$546.00 | Mem \$491.40 | The Loft at Open Book

Session 1 Express Yourself with Rachel Guvenc: In this class you will encounter poetry, Spoken Word, music, visual art and more to inspire your writing. You will write poetry about your memories, dreams, observations, and opinions.

Session 2 Get Into Character with John Schaidler: We will learn to create realistic and compelling characters by exploring their interior lives through Konstantin Stanislavski's groundbreaking approach to acting. We will walk away with a toolkit for building characters that feel real and dynamic.



Rachel Guvenc has 13 years experience teaching English Language Learners and is an MFA candidate at Hamline.



John Schaidler is a writer, editor, and educator with over 25 years of experience helping young writers.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE FOR COLLEGE APPS

with Mitchell LeGrand

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 9 a.m.-noon | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We all have stories that we want to share with others! In this class, we will be exploring the personal narrative, how to tell our own stories in a compelling way. These lessons will prepare you for upcoming college applications and scholarship essays, as well as enhance your storytelling skills.



Mitchell LeGrand attended Century College and the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in global studies and political economics.

SCREENWRITING FOR TEENS

with Michael Gorrie

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | SCREENWRITING | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Are you a teenager and want to write your movie? Then this class is for you! Over the course of this class we will cover the fundamentals of screenwriting structure, formatting, and character development. Students will have the opportunity to receive feedback from their peers and teaching artist in class.



Michael Gorrie is an award winning screenwriter and filmmaker from the Twin Cities. His films have run at numerous film festivals across the US. In five of six years Michael has been a two-time McKnight finalist for directing and a three-time Knight Screenwriting Residency finalist.

ELEMENTS OF FICTION

with Robert Voedisch

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | NONFICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We'll look at the big questions that drive every story—Who are these characters? What do they want?—but we'll also look at the smaller, more technical aspects of fiction, like point-of-view, voice, and time. (Students will receive critique on up to 20 pages of their work)



Robert Voedisch's fiction has appeared in *Third Coast*, *The Greensboro Review*, *North American Review*, *Five Chapters*, *One Teen Story*, *BULL*, *Paper Darts*, and in the anthology *Fiction on a Stick: Stories by Writers from Minnesota*. Visit robertvoedisch.com.

LET'S WRITE A GHOST STORY

with Holly Day

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

Do you like to tell scary stories? Join us to explore examples of ghost stories and talk about "real" haunted houses. We'll then write our own stories based on our own haunted houses, landscapes, objects, and even time periods, featuring our own spooky characters.



Holly Day's fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared widely. She has published dozens of books.

NATURE WRITING

with James Ellis

AUG 12-15 (Tu-Fr) | 1-4 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 15-18

Reg \$234.00 | Mem \$210.60 | The Loft at Open Book

We will investigate the centuries-long connection between the word and the natural world. In an age that further isolates us from the natural world, we will explore the importance of valuing and protecting our environment, getting outside, and writing to our natural world..



James Ellis is an MFA Candidate at the School of Letters low-residency program in Sewanee, TN. He is focusing on hybrid forms, blending poetry and creative nonfiction. He is working on his first book, a memoir in poems.

bring the Loft to you

We love working with community partners to create custom writing classes just for your audience. We work with libraries, K-12 classrooms, after-school programs, nonprofits, museums, community festivals, and even workplaces.

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