

## 2026 Teen Writing Project (Fall Edition–Minneapolis)

**Robert Voedisch**

	Time	
September 17, 2026- December 9, 2026	Thu, 09/17/2026 - 4:30pm - Wed, 12/09/2026 - 6:00pm	Youth

This semester-long advanced class is for students who are serious about writing and are ready to take their fiction to the next level. Most of our time in class will be spent discussing your work, helping you make your fiction the best it can be.

The teaching artist will point out areas in your...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/2026-teen-writing-project-fall-edition-minneapolis\]](https://loft.org/classes/2026-teen-writing-project-fall-edition-minneapolis)

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## BASICS

### First Steps into Writing

**Patricia Hoolihan**

	Time		
March 3, 2026- April 7, 2026	Tue, 03/03/2026 - 10:00am - Tue, 04/07/2026 - 12:00pm	Basics	Adult

Are you ready for the adventure of claiming or reclaiming who you are as a writer? Find out what you have to say! Explore the world around you and within you in new ways through language. Writing exercises will encourage you to open doors and cross thresholds to find words and stories that have been...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/first-steps-writing-4\]](https://loft.org/classes/first-steps-writing-4)

## CREATIVE NONFICTION

### Fiction in Your Fact: Experimenting and Playing with Nonfiction

**Andy Dehnart**

	Time		
March 3, 2026- April 7, 2026	Tue, 03/03/2026 - 10:00am - Tue, 04/07/2026 - 12:00pm	Creative Nonfiction	Adult

Nonfiction's name almost scolds us—no fiction allowed here!—but creative nonfiction is a world in which we can play, explore, and yes, even write fictional sentences, scenes, and characters. Wait, what? How? Why? In this generative class, you'll find out.

We'll visit the building blocks of literary...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fiction-your-fact-experimenting-and-playing-nonfiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/fiction-your-fact-experimenting-and-playing-nonfiction)

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### Nostalgia, Memory, and Confession—Writing Your Memoir

**Holly Day**

	Time		
March 4, 2026- March 25, 2026	Wed, 03/04/2026 - 10:00am - Wed, 03/25/2026 - 12:00pm	Creative Nonfiction	Adult

Everybody has a story—what's yours? In this class, we'll go over some of the different ways you can tell your story, through creative journaling, travel writing, coming-of-age and childhood recollections and reflections, poetry, and narrative essays, and explore these forms through generative in...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/nostalgia-memory-and-confession-writing-your-memoir\]](https://loft.org/classes/nostalgia-memory-and-confession-writing-your-memoir)

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## Flash Memoir: Life Stories in Under 500 Words

**Brenda Hudson**

Time  
March 7, 2026 | Sat, 03/07/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/07/2026 - 1:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

In this class, you will practice writing a super-short-form memoir—your stories in under 500 words. You'll choose which of your life stories to examine, brainstorm ways to tell your stories, and begin writing. At the end of class, you'll have a beginning draft and the know-how to continue with your...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/flash-memoir-life-stories-under-500-words-61\]](https://loft.org/classes/flash-memoir-life-stories-under-500-words-61)

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## Discovering Your Memoir's Lead Character

**John Moe**

Time  
March 7, 2026 | Sat, 03/07/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 03/07/2026 - 4:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

Wouldn't it be cool if you could write something terrific and also make a lot more sense of your life at the same time?

In this class, which isn't therapy, just a writing class, you'll learn how to identify significant events, moments, stories, and choices from stages of your life and then find...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/discovering-your-memoirs-lead-character-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/discovering-your-memoirs-lead-character-11)

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## Class of Delights: Writing the Daily Ode with Inspiration from Ross Gay

**Anna Molenaar**

Time  
March 10, 2026- April 14, 2026 | Tue, 03/10/2026 - 6:00pm - Tue, 04/14/2026 - 8:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

In this six-week class, we'll learn about the Ode, a form of nonfiction. We'll do this by reading and analyzing Ross Gay's renowned *The Book of Delights*. As we explore Gay's observations in *The Book of Delights*, students will identify elements of craft and sources of inspiration that can be applied...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/class-delights-writing-daily-ode-inspiration-ross-gay1\]](https://loft.org/classes/class-delights-writing-daily-ode-inspiration-ross-gay1)

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## Writing Book Reviews

**Savannah Brooks**

Time  
March 21, 2026 | Sat, 03/21/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 4:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

There are two primary forms of book review, and in this session, we'll study and practice writing both! Short-term book reviews focus on distilling down the reading, making it bite-sized; long-form book reviews focus on expanding the reading out into other topics: current events, another book...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-book-reviews-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-book-reviews-01)

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## Mapping Your Personal Universe: Entryways into Creative Nonfiction

**Courtney Ann LaFaive**

Time  
April 4, 2026 | Sat, 04/04/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 04/04/2026 - 3:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

Many writers who want to write creative nonfiction (whether that's an essay, memoir, or other form of personal writing) maybe feel daunted by the idea of how to begin to write about their own lives. Likewise, many established writers may find themselves in a moment of drought or doubt.

In this...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/mapping-your-personal-universe-entryways-creative-nonfiction1\]](https://loft.org/classes/mapping-your-personal-universe-entryways-creative-nonfiction1)

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## Writing the Illness Memoir: A Diversifying Writers Class

Marianne Manzler

	Time	
June 15, 2026- August 3, 2026	Mon, 06/15/2026 - 7:00pm - Mon, 08/03/2026 - 9:00pm	Creative Nonfiction   Adult

In this 8-session class, we will explore different methods of writing about our experiences with illness.

From science writing to historical fiction and diaries to essays, there are a multitude of approaches to writing about illness. Weekly readings will provide examples of these approaches...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-illness-memoir-diversifying-writers-class\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-illness-memoir-diversifying-writers-class)

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## Healing Through Writing

Shama Shams

	Time	
June 16, 2026- July 7, 2026	Tue, 06/16/2026 - 4:00pm - Tue, 07/07/2026 - 6:00pm	Creative Nonfiction   Adult

This class is designed for writers, survivors, and truth-seekers who are ready to explore the stories that shaped them—especially the unspoken, hidden, or silenced parts of their family history. Through guided exercises, discussion, reflection, and trauma-informed writing practices, participants...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/healing-through-writing\]](https://loft.org/classes/healing-through-writing)

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## Writing “My Story:” The Personal Essay for Scholarship and College Applications (for Ages 15 to 18)

Mitchell LeGrand

	Time	
August 4, 2026- August 7, 2026	Tue, 08/04/2026 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/07/2026 - 4:00pm	Creative Nonfiction   Youth

Welcome to the Loft's Summer Youth program at Open Book! Join us for 4 days of writing and creativity!

We all have stories that we want to share with others!

In this class, we will be exploring the personal narrative, and how to tell our own stories in a compelling way. These lessons will prepare...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-my-story-personal-essay-scholarship-and-college-applications-ages-15-18-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-my-story-personal-essay-scholarship-and-college-applications-ages-15-18-01)

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## CREATIVE PROCESS

### It's All About Choices: A Class for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers

Lejuane Bowens

	Time	
March 28, 2026	Sat, 03/28/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/28/2026 - 1:00pm	Creative Process   Adult

It's All About Choices is a creative writing workshop designed for both new and experienced writers who want a supportive space to explore and strengthen their voice. This class centers the idea that writers create their best work when they have freedom—so each session offers a variety of themed...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/its-all-about-choices-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/its-all-about-choices-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers)

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## A Writer's Notebook: Creating Space for Poems, Stories and Big Ideas (for Ages 12 to 14)

**Amy Madson**

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 12:00pm | Creative Process | Youth

This workshop welcomes aspiring and experienced writers looking to set aside an intentional space for their ideas and writing projects. We will activate our creative, wondering minds to fill our writer's notebooks with acrostic and pantoum poems and generate story ideas with free writing exercises...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writers-notebook-creating-space-poems-stories-and-big-ideas-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/writers-notebook-creating-space-poems-stories-and-big-ideas-ages-12-14)

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## Finding Your Writing Process

**Michael Robinson**

Time  
April 18, 2026 | Sat, 04/18/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 04/18/2026 - 1:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

A successful writer needs a process to stay productive and focused on their writing project. A writer has an almost endless range of choices about how to begin, sustain, review, revise, and finish their writing. This class assumes there's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all approach. Each writer...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/finding-your-writing-process\]](https://loft.org/classes/finding-your-writing-process)

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## Unlocking Creative Flow

**Anna Farro Henderson**

Time  
April 18, 2026 | Sat, 04/18/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/18/2026 - 1:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

The creative process is a physical act of the body as well as an act of the mind. Using meditation and writing exercises, students will come away with new approaches to writing craft. Meditation helps ground us in our bodies so we are able to focus on the ideas we have or find the ideas we are...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/unlocking-creative-flow\]](https://loft.org/classes/unlocking-creative-flow)

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## Writing Through Trauma for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers

**Carolyn Holbrook**

Time  
April 18, 2026 | Sat, 04/18/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/18/2026 - 12:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

When we experience trauma, we feel alone and unprotected. Whether the trauma is physical or psychological, we often feel shame, believing that what happened is our fault.

This class will help us learn tools and techniques for using the journal to tap into our innate abilities to help ourselves...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-through-trauma-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-through-trauma-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers)

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## Craft Seminar: Get Unstuck

**Ramona Ausubel**

Time  
April 28, 2026 | Tue, 04/28/2026 - 10:00am - Tue, 04/28/2026 - 12:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

Being a writer means coming up against self-doubt. But what if it doesn't have to be so scary? What if the blank page felt more like an invitation than a cliff?

Does it sometimes seem like your novel is trying to kill you? Have you considered divorcing a story? Me too.

In this 2-hour class, we'll...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/craft-seminar-get-unstuck\]](https://loft.org/classes/craft-seminar-get-unstuck)

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## Echoes of Service: A Class for Veteran Servicemember Writers

Lejuane Bowens

November 11, 2026 | Time  
Wed, 11/11/2026 - 1:00pm - Wed, 11/11/2026 - 4:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

Echoes of Service is a community-based creative writing workshop that brings veterans and non-veterans together to share, reflect, and connect through storytelling. Centered on themes of military life, identity, culture, and the lasting impact of service, this workshop invites participants to...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/echoes-service-class-veteran-servicemember-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/echoes-service-class-veteran-servicemember-writers)

## DIGITAL STORYTELLING

### Podcasting for Writers

Deborah Copperud

April 18, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 04/18/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/18/2026 - 2:00pm | Digital Storytelling | Adult

Do you dream about launching your own podcast or building your platform through podcasts? In this single session workshop, you'll learn how to engage with the literary community through podcasting. Find out what it takes to start your own DIY podcast. You'll also learn how to promote your work and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/podcasting-writers-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/podcasting-writers-01)

## FICTION

### Evil and Empathy: How to Create Complexity in Villains and Other Characters

Allison Wyss

March 3, 2026- April 14, 2026 | Time  
Tue, 03/03/2026 - 1:00pm - Tue, 04/14/2026 - 3:00pm | Fiction | Adult

What is the nature of evil and how do we address it in fiction? We'll look at archetypal villains (think: fairy tales) as well as more complex monsters, such as the hero turned bad or the devil with whom we can't help but empathize. Do we want to empathize with the villains in stories? What is...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/evil-and-empathy-how-create-complexity-villains-and-other-characters-21\]](https://loft.org/classes/evil-and-empathy-how-create-complexity-villains-and-other-characters-21)

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### The Wow of Your World: Building Setting for Sci-Fi and Fantasy (for Ages 12 to 14)

Matthew Taber-Hanson

March 14, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 03/14/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 03/14/2026 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Youth

What is the "wow" factor of your story's setting? Do people have pet dragons? Did aliens just build a portal to Earth? What makes the reader say, "That's cool! I wished I lived there!"

This class explores how to build your fantasy or sci-fi setting, starting with one big, "what if." From there we...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/wow-your-world-building-setting-sci-fi-and-fantasy-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/wow-your-world-building-setting-sci-fi-and-fantasy-ages-12-14)

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## Writing Short Stories (for ages 12 to 14)

**Kat Shepherd**

Time  
March 21, 2026 | Sat, 03/21/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Youth

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! This class will explore what magic is, the things you have to think through and explore when you create a fictional world, and how...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-short-stories-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-short-stories-ages-12-14)

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## Fiction Basics: Characters & Characterization

**Brian Malloy**

Time  
March 21, 2026 | Sat, 03/21/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Adult

For this intentionally kind session for beginners or those in need of a refresher, come prepared to create characters based on people you know (and combinations thereof), as well as characters based on your passion, your interest, your curiosity, and your imagination. We'll practice direct and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fiction-basics-characters-characterization-4\]](https://loft.org/classes/fiction-basics-characters-characterization-4)

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## Make a Picture Book (for Ages 6 to 8)

**Matthew Taber-Hanson**

Time  
March 21, 2026 | Sat, 03/21/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

A fun-filled morning of reading and writing picture books. We start by reading picture books and discussing how the author created the characters and plot. Then we'll write and illustrate our own picture books. By the end of class, everybody should have a book ready to take home!

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/make-picture-book-ages-6-8\]](https://loft.org/classes/make-picture-book-ages-6-8)

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## Goal, Motivation, Conflict, and Stakes for Fiction Writers

**Eliot West**

Time  
March 24, 2026-April 14, 2026 | Tue, 03/24/2026 - 7:00pm - Tue, 04/14/2026 - 9:00pm | Fiction | Adult

With a strong grasp of GMC&S—goal, motivation, conflict, and stakes—you can sharpen your story and energize your process at any stage, from initial idea generation to revision. Join us for four weeks (one for each concept) to explore and experiment with this cornerstone tool for fiction writers...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/goal-motivation-conflict-and-stakes-fiction-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/goal-motivation-conflict-and-stakes-fiction-writers)

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## Writing Queer Resistance Through Flash Fiction

**Adrianna Jereb**

Time  
March 28, 2026 | Sat, 03/28/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/28/2026 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Adult

In this fiction writing class focused on queer resistance, students will craft stories of their own and deepen their understanding of flash fiction. We'll read multiple flash fiction stories by queer and trans writers, such as Venita Blackburn, Maddox Emory Arnold, and Tina S. Zhu. We'll discuss the...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-queer-resistance-through-flash-fiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-queer-resistance-through-flash-fiction)

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## Worldbuilding: The Keys to Writing Immersive Setting

Jackie Cangro

Time  
April 4, 2026 | Sat, 04/04/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 04/04/2026 - 5:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Building an immersive setting allows the reader to feel they are stepping out of their world and into the world of your story. That is true whether you're writing fantasy, romance, historical fiction or anything in between.

Setting and place are a collection of details—the right details in the...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/worldbuilding-keys-writing-immersive-setting\]](https://loft.org/classes/worldbuilding-keys-writing-immersive-setting)

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## Fiction Basics: Creative Language

Brian Malloy

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Readers love variety, especially at the sentence level. In this fast-paced session for absolute beginners and pros in need of a refresher, we'll explore periodic sentences, fragments, parataxis, parallelism, anaphora, epiphora, assonance, juxtaposition, ambiguity, and more. We'll play with...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fiction-basics-creative-language-41\]](https://loft.org/classes/fiction-basics-creative-language-41)

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## Write Because You Love It (for Ages 15 to 18)

Tina Tocco

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Youth

Do you love writing? Would you like to generate new work this fall, or maybe keep up with those projects you had so much time for over the summer? Are you looking for a community of other word-loving teens like yourself?

In this single session workshop, you'll use prompts—objects, words, starter...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/write-because-you-love-it-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/write-because-you-love-it-ages-15-18)

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## Crafting Powerful Scenes—The Building Blocks of Story

Nigar Alam

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Scenes are the building blocks of any story. In this 3-hour class, we'll focus on crafting scenes. We'll discuss the essential components of a scene and how to make it powerful and memorable.

During class, students will get a chance to write their own scene in response to a prompt of their choice...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/crafting-powerful-scenes-building-blocks-story\]](https://loft.org/classes/crafting-powerful-scenes-building-blocks-story)

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## Crafting and Working on Your Short Story (for Ages 9 to 11)

Jenny Simmonds

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

Do you love the process of starting a short story but struggle to keep at it? If so, you are not alone and this is the perfect class for you! This class is not defined by what you love to read or write about, but about your passion for your own story you've started. Not only will we spend time...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/crafting-and-working-your-short-story-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/crafting-and-working-your-short-story-ages-9-11)

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## Roll for Inspiration (for Ages 12 to 14)

**Matthew Taber-Hanson**

	Time	
April 11, 2026	Sat, 04/11/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 4:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Writing isn't all fun and games... except when it is!

In this class, we'll explore how you can use games to inspire your own writing. We'll create a mystery story, explore a fairy-tale world, and combine things at random (literally) to create our stories.

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/roll-inspiration-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/roll-inspiration-ages-12-14)

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## Building a Novel (for Ages 15 to 18)

**Debra Blake**

	Time	
July 7, 2026- July 10, 2026	Tue, 07/07/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/10/2026 - 12:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at the Loft! We'll spend the week writing, reading, and building community.

Writing a novel can seem daunting, but "Building a Novel" breaks it down into manageable steps!

You writing your novel throughout class, first by generating a plot summary and then a story arc...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/building-novel-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/building-novel-ages-15-18)

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## The Magic of Outlines (for Ages 15 to 18)

**Aurora Whittet Best**

	Time	
July 14, 2026- July 17, 2026	Tue, 07/14/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/17/2026 - 12:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at the Loft! We'll spend the week writing, reading, and building community.

Learn the power of outlining and create a roadmap into your world!

Have you ever wondered how the central idea, the heart of the story or theme, profoundly changes story beats? Structure doesn't...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/magic-outlines-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/magic-outlines-ages-15-18)

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## Heroes, Villains, and Worlds: Fantasy Writing (for ages 12 to 14)

**Elise Toedt Matthew Taber-Hanson**

	Time	
July 14, 2026- July 17, 2026	Tue, 07/14/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/17/2026 - 4:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Welcome to the Loft's Summer Youth program at Open Book! Join us for a week of writing and all-day creativity!

SESSION 1:

Heroes in the Making: Building My Hero and Their World (for Ages 12 to 14) with Elise Toedt

In this class, we will create compelling heroes whose journey brings up topics of...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/heroes-villains-and-worlds-fantasy-writing-ages-12-14-0\]](https://loft.org/classes/heroes-villains-and-worlds-fantasy-writing-ages-12-14-0)

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## **Fiction for BIPOC Writers: A Class for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers**

### **Taiwana Shambley**

	Time	
August 1, 2026- August 8, 2026	Sat, 08/01/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 08/08/2026 - 3:00pm	Fiction   Adult

The goal of this class is to create space for Black, Indigenous, and POC writers to analyze and practice applying BIPOC cultural interpretations of fiction craft elements.

While it is true that more contemporary writers are featuring racially diverse characters in their stories, it's still the...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fiction-bipoc-writers-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/fiction-bipoc-writers-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers)

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## **Fiction by Fury: Building Stories through Moments of Conflict (for Ages 15 to 18)**

### **Alice Paige**

	Time	
August 4, 2026- August 7, 2026	Tue, 08/04/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/07/2026 - 12:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at the Loft! We'll spend the week writing, reading, and building community.

Fiction unfolds moment by moment through emotional and physical conflict. The secret told, the duel lost, the prophecy foretold. Those moments define our stories and can make or break our...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fiction-fury-building-stories-through-moments-conflict-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/fiction-fury-building-stories-through-moments-conflict-ages-15-18)

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## **Nature Writing (for Ages 15 to 18)**

### **James Ellis**

	Time	
August 4, 2026- August 7, 2026	Tue, 08/04/2026 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/07/2026 - 4:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at the Loft! We'll spend the week writing, reading, and building community.

Explore the centuries-long connection between the human and the natural world in "Nature Writing."

For ages, nature has been an access point for the writer. Never has there been a more...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/nature-writing-ages-15-18-1\]](https://loft.org/classes/nature-writing-ages-15-18-1)

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## **Short Story: A to Z—Creative Short Story Writing (for Ages 15 to 18)**

### **Troy Wilderson**

	Time	
August 11, 2026- August 14, 2026	Tue, 08/11/2026 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/14/2026 - 4:00pm	Fiction   Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at Open Book! We'll spend the week writing, reading, and building community.

At the start of the first class, there will be a discussion based on the pre-reading where we discuss what makes the story successful. Following will be a lecture about the essential components...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/short-story-z-creative-short-story-writing-ages-15-18-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/short-story-z-creative-short-story-writing-ages-15-18-01)

## **MULTIGENRE**

## Cold & Crystal Clear: Writing About Winter

Kathryn Ganfield

February 28, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 02/28/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 02/28/2026 - 12:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

Winter arises in many memorable works and lines in literature. Shakespeare's "now is the winter of our discontent." Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." The "blueblack cold" of Robert Hayden's "Those Winter Sundays." Clearly, the starkest of seasons is fertile ground for metaphor and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/cold-crystal-clear-writing-about-winter\]](https://loft.org/classes/cold-crystal-clear-writing-about-winter)

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## Writing Our Queer and Trans Bodies: a Two-Day Intensive for Diversifying Writers

Jesaka Long

February 28, 2026- March 7, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 02/28/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/07/2026 - 12:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

LGBTQIA2S+ know writing their stories, writing their joys on the page is resistance. However, as anti-trans laws continue making headlines and books with a trace of queer content continue being banned, even the most resilient writer can experience hesitation. Or even doubt. Hearing our existence...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-our-queer-and-trans-bodies-two-day-intensive-diversifying-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-our-queer-and-trans-bodies-two-day-intensive-diversifying-writers)

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## Craft Seminar: Writing Nature in Literary Fiction

Tara Menon

March 21, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 03/21/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 12:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

In this class, we will discuss how to transform research about the details of plant and animal life into descriptive prose, with a special focus on marine life and the plants and animals of tropical rainforests. After looking at a range of examples from literary fiction and narrative nonfiction, we...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/craft-seminar-writing-nature-literary-fiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/craft-seminar-writing-nature-literary-fiction)

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## How to End Things

Leila Nadir

April 1, 2026- May 6, 2026 | Time  
Wed, 04/01/2026 - 6:00pm - Wed, 05/06/2026 - 8:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

Homecomings. Gamechangers. Portals. Disasters. New Beginnings. Rebirths. Doors. These are just a few of the wildly divergent words used to describe conclusions. Endings should be believably unbelievable and also unbelievably believable. Totally predictable yet surprising. David Leavitt famously...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/how-end-things\]](https://loft.org/classes/how-end-things)

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## Mini But Mighty: Writing Micro

Kathryn Ganfield

April 4, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 04/04/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/04/2026 - 2:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

How much punch can you pack into a ≤ 250-word piece? In this short workshop about the short-short genre, you'll see.

Micro prose is among the flashiest of forms. You'll find it's both fulfilling and fun to write. Publishers might cap it at 500, 250 or 100 words (sometimes \*exactly\* 100). Others...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/mini-mighty-writing-micro-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/mini-mighty-writing-micro-01)

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## Stand by Your Plan: Practices for Sticking with Manuscripts

Kelly Foster Lundquist

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 12:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

One of the easiest things to do as a writer is to convince yourself you should give up on a long project that seems to be going nowhere—no new ideas, no new insights into why the middle is so dull or the dialogue falls flat or the arrangement of the pieces feels disjointed. It's easy to believe that...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/stand-your-plan-practices-sticking-manuscripts\]](https://loft.org/classes/stand-your-plan-practices-sticking-manuscripts)

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## The Writing Process, Identity & Technique: How to Unlock Your Creative Potential (A Diversifying Writers Class)

David Mura

Time  
May 16, 2026 | Sat, 05/16/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 05/16/2026 - 3:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

"Why can't I finish this book? How can I maximize my own creativity? How do I sustain my writing over the long haul? There is one answer to these questions: we are not taught the principles and practices of creativity in school or even in writing classes.

Using these principles and practices, this...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-process-identity-technique-how-unlock-your-creative-potential-diversifying-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-process-identity-technique-how-unlock-your-creative-potential-diversifying-writers)

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## From Memoir to Myth (for Ages 12 to 14)

Kelsey Daly Amy Sailer

Time  
July 7, 2026- July 10, 2026 | Tue, 07/07/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/10/2026 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

This full-day summer writing experience invites young writers to spend four creative days building skills, confidence, and imagination at the Loft. Mornings focus on practical writing tools students can use in school, afternoons open up space for creativity and collaboration, and a midday lunch...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/memoir-myth-ages-12-14-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/memoir-myth-ages-12-14-01)

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## Jumpstart Your Writing (for Ages 12 to 14)

Kelsey Daly Kat Shepherd

Time  
July 7, 2026- July 10, 2026 | Tue, 07/07/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/10/2026 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

This full-day summer writing experience invites young writers to spend four creative days building skills, confidence, and imagination at the Loft. Mornings focus on practical writing tools students can use in school, afternoons open up space for creativity and collaboration, and a midday lunch...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/jumpstart-your-writing-ages-12-14-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/jumpstart-your-writing-ages-12-14-01)

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## Imagination to Page (for Ages 9 to 11)

Marie Olofsdotter Holly Day

Time  
July 14, 2026- July 17, 2026 | Tue, 07/14/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/17/2026 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

This full-day summer writing experience invites young storytellers to spend four imaginative days creating magical worlds, memorable characters, and stories all their own. Mornings focus on fairy tales and bookmaking, guiding students through classic story structures while they write and build a...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/imagination-page-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/imagination-page-ages-9-11)

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## 2026 Loft Youth Writing Intensive: Ages 10 to 13

### Kelsey Daly Dralandra Larkins Michael Gorrie Holly Day

	Time	
July 21, 2026- July 24, 2026	Tue, 07/21/2026 - 9:30am - Fri, 07/24/2026 - 3:30pm	Multigenre   Youth

The Loft's Summer Youth Writing Intensive for Ages 10-13 is led by acclaimed and published writers. These teaching artists are experts in their field! Over the course of four days, students will gain new insights into the craft of writing. (Application link is below.)

This class consists of...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/2026-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-10-13\]](https://loft.org/classes/2026-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-10-13)

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## 2026 Loft Youth Writing Intensive: Ages 14 To 18

### Robert Voedisch Michael Gorrie Dralandra Larkins Shannon Gibney

	Time	
July 28, 2026- July 31, 2026	Tue, 07/28/2026 - 9:30am - Fri, 07/31/2026 - 3:30pm	Multigenre   Youth

The Loft's Summer Youth Writing Intensive for Ages 14-18 is led by acclaimed and published writers. These teaching artists are experts in their field! Over the course of four days, students will gain new insights into the craft of writing. (Application link is below.)

This class consists of...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/2026-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-14-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/2026-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-14-18)

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## Writing Immersion (for Ages 12 to 14)

### Rachel Guvenc Craig Noles

	Time	
August 4, 2026- August 7, 2026	Tue, 08/04/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/07/2026 - 4:00pm	Multigenre   Youth

This full-day summer writing experience is designed especially for young writers to explore storytelling through animals, imagination, and play. In the morning, students will read and write stories about beloved pets—both real and imaginary—building confidence with basic story structure and sharing...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-immersion-ages-12-14-0\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-immersion-ages-12-14-0)

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## Writing What is Possible: Writing For a Better World (for Ages 15-18)

### Mitchell LeGrand

	Time	
August 4, 2026- August 7, 2026	Tue, 08/04/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/07/2026 - 12:00pm	Multigenre   Youth

Welcome to the Loft's Summer Youth program at Open Book! Join us for 4 days of writing and creativity!

Young people are ready and eager to start changing the world, especially right now in the United States. Issues around climate, criminal injustice, global conflicts, etc. are all at the forefront...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-better-world-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-better-world-ages-15-18)

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## Creating Fantastical Worlds (for Ages 9 to 11)

### Ellen Fee Holly Day

	Time	
August 11, 2026- August 14, 2026	Tue, 08/11/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/14/2026 - 4:00pm	Multigenre   Youth

This full-day summer writing experience invites young writers to explore language, imagination, and storytelling from around the world. Mornings focus on poetry as a creative passport—introducing students to poetic forms from different cultures through writing, art, and play—while afternoons expand...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/creating-fantastical-worlds-ages-9-11-0\]](https://loft.org/classes/creating-fantastical-worlds-ages-9-11-0)

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## Dark Hauntings: Bending Boundaries in Writing (for ages 12 to 14)

Kat Shepherd

August 11, 2026- August 14, 2026 | Time  
Tue, 08/11/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

This full-day summer writing experience invites young writers to spend four days reading, writing, and sharpening their storytelling skills in a supportive community. Mornings focus on the craft of short fiction, with time to read great stories, experiment with structure, and draft and revise...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/dark-hauntings-bending-boundaries-writing-ages-12-14-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/dark-hauntings-bending-boundaries-writing-ages-12-14-01)

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## Little Writers, Big Worlds (for Ages 6 to 8)

Holly Day Blythe Baird

August 11, 2026- August 14, 2026 | Time  
Tue, 08/11/2026 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

This full-day summer writing experience is designed especially for young writers to explore storytelling through animals, imagination, and play. In the morning, students will read and write stories about beloved pets—both real and imaginary—building confidence with basic story structure and sharing...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/little-writers-big-worlds-ages-6-8-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/little-writers-big-worlds-ages-6-8-01)

## PLAY- AND SCREENWRITING

### Let's Write a Play! (for Ages 6 to 8)

Troy Wilderson

March 14, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 03/14/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 03/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Play- and Screenwriting | Youth

Join us for an afternoon of theater fun! We'll write our own plays, then create original scenery and costumes. At the end of class, we'll perform our plays in front of a small, invited audience.

Option for [financial assistance](#).

Accessibility: If you have any accessibility requests for this class...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/lets-write-play-ages-6-81\]](https://loft.org/classes/lets-write-play-ages-6-81)

## POETRY

### Poetics of Place: Writing at the Intersection of Nature & Queerness

KD Hack

February 28, 2026 | Time  
Sat, 02/28/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 02/28/2026 - 5:00pm | Poetry | Adult

Both Queerness & the natural world urge us to see ourselves as unique parts of a complex and interdependent system, rooted in both weirdness & wonder. As Queer poets, we are uniquely attuned to our more-than-human connections, and both the politics & poetics of place.

In this class, students will...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/poetics-place-writing-intersection-nature-queerness\]](https://loft.org/classes/poetics-place-writing-intersection-nature-queerness)

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## Museum as Muse: Transforming Art into Poetry with Ekphrasis

Lindsey Schaffer

Time  
March 14, 2026 | Sat, 03/14/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/14/2026 - 1:00pm | Poetry | Adult

This generative poetry class uses the museum as our muse by inviting students to enter into conversation with visual art. Merriam Webster defines ekphrasis as "a literary description or commentary on a visual work of art."

We'll begin with group discussion of two contemporary ekphrastic poems:...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/museum-muse-transforming-art-poetry-ekphrasis\]](https://loft.org/classes/museum-muse-transforming-art-poetry-ekphrasis)

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## The Matriarchs: Poets of the Feminist Canon & Writing in Their Wake

Dylah Ray

Time  
March 14, 2026 | Sat, 03/14/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 03/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Poetry | Adult

We will study some of the greatest feminist poets throughout history, learning from their example, while we also craft our own poems. Drawing from poets of the feminist canon such as Audre Lorde, June Jordan, and Adrienne Rich, we will harness the power of poetry for social change.

Students can...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/matriarchs-poets-feminist-canon-writing-their-wake\]](https://loft.org/classes/matriarchs-poets-feminist-canon-writing-their-wake)

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## You Don't Have to Tell the Truth: Omission, and Speculation in Poetry

Asa Drake

Time  
March 14, 2026 | Sat, 03/14/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 03/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Poetry | Adult

There are many reasons why a poem may resist the explicit truth—a name, a place, an action. During this three-hour generative workshop, we'll examine poems that spurn the reader, that ask for whom do we write and what do we preserve by writing? With inspiration from Franny Choi, Taylor Johnson...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/you-dont-have-tell-truth-omission-and-speculation-poetry-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/you-dont-have-tell-truth-omission-and-speculation-poetry-01)

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## Juicing the List Poem: Everything You Need to Get Writing

Roxanne Sadovsky

Time  
March 25, 2026- April 15, 2026 | Wed, 03/25/2026 - 1:00pm - Wed, 04/15/2026 - 3:00pm | Poetry | Adult

If you still haven't fallen head over heels in love with writing, this is the class for you! Did you know that writing a poem is as simple as writing out your "to do" list? Not only that, but the unsung List Poem is your guide and compass, a generous gateway to your creativity, and pathway to your...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/juicing-list-poem-everything-you-need-get-writing1\]](https://loft.org/classes/juicing-list-poem-everything-you-need-get-writing1)

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## Stop Making Sense

Kathryn Kysar

Time  
April 11, 2026 | Sat, 04/11/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 3:00pm | Poetry | Adult

This workshop for poets of all levels will renew, refresh, energize, and invigorate your poetry by discovering meanings through chance. We will read a few master poems, then generate new work through cut up, substitution, forms such as the burning haibun, and other activities that set aside...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/stop-making-sense1\]](https://loft.org/classes/stop-making-sense1)

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## Divinatory Poetics: Using Tarot and Images to Generate Poems Intuitively—A Class for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers

□ □ □ Sun Yung Shin

Time

June 13, 2026 | Sat, 06/13/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 06/13/2026 - 11:30am | Poetry | Adult

Poetry is a divinatory practice; words using the alphabet are abstract and symbolic—language acts as a medium between the material and the ethereal, at a crossroads of an ever-traveling present. In this workshop, we will experiment and play with various simple and secular divinatory practices using...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/divinatory-poetics-using-tarot-and-images-generate-poems-intuitively-class-writers-color-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/divinatory-poetics-using-tarot-and-images-generate-poems-intuitively-class-writers-color-01)

## PUBLISHING AND CAREER

### To Market, To Market: How Professionals Look at Your Manuscript

Jennie Goloboy Catherine Lundoff

Time

February 28, 2026 | Sat, 02/28/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 02/28/2026 - 12:00pm | Publishing and Career | Adult

In this 3-hour class, a literary agent and a small-press publisher will discuss how they evaluate manuscripts. What do publishing professionals mean by “marketability”? As a writer, how can you improve your odds, in every stage of the process? What is and isn’t necessary for a book to reach...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/market-market-how-professionals-look-your-manuscript-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/market-market-how-professionals-look-your-manuscript-01)

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### Take the Leap Submit Your Writing to Magazines and Journals

Tina Tocco

Time

February 28, 2026 | Sat, 02/28/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 02/28/2026 - 1:00pm | Publishing and Career | Adult

You’ve got a few pieces you’re proud of, but how do you get started in the world of submissions? What are the mistakes you want to avoid? In this class, you’ll learn where to find publications that are looking for work, proper manuscript format, and submission etiquette.

You’ll also draft a cover...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/take-leap-submit-your-writing-magazines-and-journals-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/take-leap-submit-your-writing-magazines-and-journals-01)

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### Finding Community in Literary Magazines: A Class for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers

Halee Kirkwood

Time

February 28, 2026 | Sat, 02/28/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 02/28/2026 - 5:00pm | Publishing and Career | Adult

Many writers get their start publishing in literary magazines, but with so many wonderful publications out in the world to read and submit to, it can feel overwhelming to begin the work of submitting. It can be easy to fall into the habit of submitting to any and every literary magazine you can find...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/finding-community-literary-magazines-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/finding-community-literary-magazines-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers-11)

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## So You Want to Get Published (for ages 15 to 18)

**Kathleen Danielson**

	Time	
March 21, 2026	Sat, 03/21/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 12:00pm	Publishing and Career   Youth

What do Christopher Paolini, S.E. Hinton, Mary Shelley, and Helen Oyeyemi have in common? They all had a published story under their belt before they turned 20. If you've ever dreamed of seeing your book on the shelves of your favorite bookstore or your name in the byline of a literary magazine...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/so-you-want-get-published-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/so-you-want-get-published-ages-15-18)

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## Land a Byline with a Book Review

**Deborah Copperud**

	Time	
March 21, 2026	Sat, 03/21/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 03/21/2026 - 2:00pm	Publishing and Career   Adult

Turn your reading hobby into a byline and break into literary magazines with book reviews! This 4-hour workshop will show you how to:

- Read fiction, nonfiction, or poetry like a critic
- Learn how to structure a book review
- Learn what elements to include in a book review
- Request ARCs (Advanced...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/land-byline-book-review-0\]](https://loft.org/classes/land-byline-book-review-0)

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## Powerful First Pages: Pro Tips, Pitfalls, and Practical Advice

**Tamara Hogan**

	Time	
March 28, 2026	Sat, 03/28/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 03/28/2026 - 1:00pm	Publishing and Career   Adult

Writers are often told that our novels' opening paragraphs should "hook the reader," but how do we do that? What does that even mean?

Using examples from published genre-fiction novels, award-winning author Tamara Hogan offers a practical, craft-oriented take on this advice: Which details must we...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/powerful-first-pages-pro-tips-pitfalls-and-practical-advice\]](https://loft.org/classes/powerful-first-pages-pro-tips-pitfalls-and-practical-advice)

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## You've Finished Your Book—Now What?

**Savannah Brooks**

	Time	
March 28, 2026	Sat, 03/28/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 03/28/2026 - 3:00pm	Publishing and Career   Adult

The publishing process can be confusing and intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Each published writer goes through the same process; somewhere along the way, they just asked for help. That's what this class aims to do: help you take the next step with your manuscript with confidence.

The day...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/youve-finished-your-book-now-what-1\]](https://loft.org/classes/youve-finished-your-book-now-what-1)

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# How to Pitch Anything

Laura Goode

	Time	
April 9, 2026- April 11, 2026	Thu, 04/09/2026 - 10:00am - Sat, 04/11/2026 - 1:00pm	Publishing and Career   Adult

How do you convince an editor, agent, or gatekeeper that your idea is compelling, relevant, and deliverable?

Learn from Laura Goode, author of the new book PITCH CRAFT: The Writer's Guide to Getting Agented, Published, and Paid. She'll take a holistic approach to self-presentation that includes...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/how-pitch-anything\]](https://loft.org/classes/how-pitch-anything)