

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Crafting Authentic Dialogue in Children's and Young Adult Lit

Jake Maia Arlow

	Time	
July 15, 2025	Tue, 07/15/2025 - 1:00pm - Tue, 07/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Children's and Young Adult Literature Adult

How a person communicates (or doesn't) can tell us everything we need to know about them: are they confident or are they shy? Are they an over-sharer or are they hiding something?

Dialogue is an invaluable asset we have as authors of prose in our toolbelt to showcase characters and move the plot...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/crafting-authentic-dialogue-childrens-and-young-adult-lit\]](https://loft.org/classes/crafting-authentic-dialogue-childrens-and-young-adult-lit)

4-Week: Writing Novels for Middle Grade

Kat Shepherd

	Time	
July 24, 2025- August 14, 2025	Thu, 07/24/2025 - 6:00pm - Thu, 08/14/2025 - 8:00pm	Children's and Young Adult Literature Adult

The world of middle grade is one of optimistic uncertainty. Middle graders, loosely defined as readers between the ages of 8 and 12, embrace their interests with unbridled intensity, even as those interests shift and change with a quickly evolving sense of self.

Writers of Middle Grade fiction must...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-writing-novels-middle-grade\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-writing-novels-middle-grade)

A Class for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers: Writing Immersive Worlds and Authentic Cultural Representation in Children's Literature

Payal Doshi

	Time	
August 9, 2025	Sat, 08/09/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 08/09/2025 - 2:00pm	Children's and Young Adult Literature Adult

Every writer needs to build the world their novel for children is set in, but how does one create a setting in which the reader can escape into and become fully immersed? One of the best methods is to weave details from lived experiences, including language, environment, and cultural background...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers-writing-immersive-worlds-and-authentic-cultural\]](https://loft.org/classes/class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers-writing-immersive-worlds-and-authentic-cultural)

CREATIVE NONFICTION

8-Week: Writing Flash Nonfiction

Anna Molenaar

	Time	
June 25, 2025- August 13, 2025	Wed, 06/25/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/13/2025 - 8:00pm	Creative Nonfiction Adult

In this class, students will examine the genre of flash creative nonfiction. Each class period will be centered around a craft element that serves flash nonfiction, with examples by prominent writers in the genre explored and analyzed for how effective short-form writing is produced. Then, students...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/8-week-writing-flash-nonfiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/8-week-writing-flash-nonfiction)

Shimmering Images: A Journey of Moments

Roxanne Sadovsky

Time
July 2, 2025 | Wed, 07/02/2025 - 10:00am - Wed, 07/02/2025 - 2:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

Take a break from talking, working, doing, and gather round for an invigorating retreat of writing and lingering, writing and sharing, and going deeper. We'll warm up with our "shimmering images"—recurring snapshot/flash images that appear to us repeatedly on and off the page in waking, dreaming...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/shimmering-images-journey-moments\]](https://loft.org/classes/shimmering-images-journey-moments)

Introduction to Food Writing

Rachel Werner

Time
July 10, 2025 | Thu, 07/10/2025 - 10:00am - Thu, 07/10/2025 - 1:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

Are you an avid foodie who loves to write? Or are you looking to master senses-based, descriptive prose to better compliment your amazing food photography skills? This "101" course is for writers interested in becoming food critics and those already working in the niche market of "epicurean" content...

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

Writing & Publishing Your Op-Ed

Julie Knopp

Time
July 12, 2025 | Sat, 07/12/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 2:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

Op-eds are a powerful way to share your voice, influence public discourse, and advocate for the issues you care about. In this interactive class, you'll develop the skills you need to craft a compelling op-ed and get it published in mainstream news.

This class will cover:
--Why op-eds are effective...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-publishing-your-op-ed\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-publishing-your-op-ed)

Discovering Your Memoir's Lead Character

John Moe

Time
July 12, 2025 | Sat, 07/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/discovering-your-memoirs-lead-character\]](https://loft.org/classes/discovering-your-memoirs-lead-character)

Write About Yourself: Identity and Creative Nonfiction (for ages 15 to 18)

Amelia Colwell

July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025 | Time
Tue, 07/15/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 12:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Youth

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

Ever wonder why you're drawn to writing about your real-life experiences? Do you have something to say about who you are, but you're not sure where to start?

In this class, we'll write as a tool...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/write-about-yourself-identity-and-creative-nonfiction-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/write-about-yourself-identity-and-creative-nonfiction-ages-15-18)

Flash Memoir: Life Stories in Under 500 Words

Brenda Hudson

July 19, 2025 | Time
Sat, 07/19/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/flash-memoir-life-stories-under-500-words-3\]](https://loft.org/classes/flash-memoir-life-stories-under-500-words-3)

Discovering the Lyric Essay: Writing Against the Norm in 4 Weeks

Alexis M. Wright

July 23, 2025- August 13, 2025 | Time
Wed, 07/23/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/13/2025 - 8:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

The essay, at its core, is an art form that resists strict definition—it is a space "to try," to explore, and to discover. The lyric essay takes this further, embracing a form that is often elusive, undefinable, and difficult to claim. But what if this elusiveness is a feature, not a flaw?

In this...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/discovering-lyric-essay-writing-against-norm-4-weeks\]](https://loft.org/classes/discovering-lyric-essay-writing-against-norm-4-weeks)

Flash Nonfiction Generator

Lizzie Lawson

July 26, 2025 | Time
Sat, 07/26/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 07/26/2025 - 4:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

Read and write tiny personal essays in this three-hour flash creative nonfiction generator. Writing in the short form (1,000 words or less) can be a great way to energize and focus your words. Learn to create lasting depth and impact in a small space with the help of craft techniques, flash...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/flash-nonfiction-generator\]](https://loft.org/classes/flash-nonfiction-generator)

Nonfiction Book Proposal Writing Intensive

Rachel Werner

July 31, 2025 | Time
Thu, 07/31/2025 - 10:00am - Thu, 07/31/2025 - 3:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Adult

A nonfiction book proposal details how your book idea has market appeal. It acts as a business case or business plan for your book that persuades a publisher to make an investment in you and your project. If a publisher is convinced by your argument, it will then contract you and pay you to write...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/nonfiction-book-proposal-writing-intensive\]](https://loft.org/classes/nonfiction-book-proposal-writing-intensive)

Writing Birds

Greta Gaard

	Time	
August 2, 2025	Sat, 08/02/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 08/02/2025 - 1:00pm	Creative Nonfiction Adult

If you are wild about birds or just want to refine your skills of observation, "Writing Birds" will help you! In this three-hour workshop, we will use writing prompts to articulate our curiosities, emotions, and observations of birds, then read and respond in small peer groups.

And your writing...

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

Writing What is Possible: Writing For Social Change (for ages 15 to 18)

Mitchell LeGrand

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 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!

Younger generations 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 at the...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-social-change-ages-15-18-0\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-social-change-ages-15-18-0)

Experimentation with Hybrid Memoir

Marianne Manzler

	Time	
August 9, 2025	Sat, 08/09/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 08/09/2025 - 4:00pm	Creative Nonfiction Adult

In this generative and interactive course, you'll consider a fresh perspective on your stories. We will examine, and examples of innovative and hybrid memoirs by Jen Soriano, Lia Purpura and Roxane Gay, engage in exercises that explore characterization, voice, and the flash essay. These experiments...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/experimentation-hybrid-memoir-1\]](https://loft.org/classes/experimentation-hybrid-memoir-1)

(August) Writing "My Story:" The Personal Essay for Scholarship and College Applications (for ages 15 to 18)

Mitchell LeGrand

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 12:00pm	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 we want to share with others! In this class, we'll explore the personal narrative, and how to tell our own stories in a compelling way. This will prepare you for upcoming...

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

Creative Incubator: The College Application Personal Statement Essay For Ages 15 to 18

Katie Miller

October 16, 2025- October 18, 2025 | Time
Thu, 10/16/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 12:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Youth

When it comes to college application essays, the most polished ideas aren't always the most successful. You've probably heard enough advice to fill a book on what you should and should not write about when it comes to your personal statement. But often, your unformed, unexpected ideas can make for...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/creative-incubator-college-application-personal-statement-essay-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/creative-incubator-college-application-personal-statement-essay-ages-15-18)

Loft After School Online: Cracking the College Essay

Savannah Brooks

November 6, 2025- December 4, 2025 | Time
Thu, 11/06/2025 - 4:00pm - Thu, 12/04/2025 - 6:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Youth

In this class, we'll not only take on the dreaded college entrance essay, we'll also find ways to actually enjoy it. It can be easy to lean into accomplishments as subject matter, but there are so many different topics to write about and so many ways to write them! Over four weeks, we'll generate a...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-cracking-college-essay\]](https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-cracking-college-essay)

Writing for Social Justice for Ages 12 to 14

Marianne Manzler

February 14, 2026 | Time
Sat, 02/14/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 02/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Creative Nonfiction | Youth

In this workshop, we'll use our words as tools for change. We'll examine the ways writers and writing can impact communities, and the role that writers and literature play in effecting social change and justice. By the end of the session, we'll have several new pieces of writing that reflect the...

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

CREATIVE PROCESS

Developing a Daily Creative Writing Practice

Heidi Newbauer

July 12, 2025 | Time
Sat, 07/12/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 12:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

Have you wanted to start a daily creative writing practice? Are you a seasoned writer ready to refresh your daily creative toolbox? Are you a bit in between? If so, this class is for you!

We will "flesh out" what a daily practice means and how that is different than going through the stages of a...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/developing-daily-creative-writing-practice\]](https://loft.org/classes/developing-daily-creative-writing-practice)

Improv for Writers: Exploring Interactive Methods to Draft and Revise Class

Alison Bergblom Johnson

July 15, 2025- August 19, 2025 | Time
Tue, 07/15/2025 - 6:00pm - Tue, 08/19/2025 - 8:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

We'll explore how improv and other performance techniques and practices can improve our written work. We'll also sample the breadth of current oral traditions including The Moth stories (Javier Morillo) to performance artist Spalding Gray, to intimate podcasts from journalist Tonya Mosley (Truth Be...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/improv-writers-exploring-interactive-methods-draft-and-revise-class\]](https://loft.org/classes/improv-writers-exploring-interactive-methods-draft-and-revise-class)

Get into Character: Acting 101 for Writers Ages 12 to 14

John Schaidler

October 18, 2025 | Time
Sat, 10/18/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 12:00pm | Creative Process | Youth

Drawing on fundamental techniques of Method Acting, students learn to build great characters piece by piece. Each session focuses on one of Stanislavski's key principles, guiding students to create authentic heroes from "the inside out." Step into your protagonist's shoes; walk away with a proven...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/get-character-acting-101-writers-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/get-character-acting-101-writers-ages-12-14)

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

6-Week: Audio Storytelling

Clare Boyle

July 9, 2025- August 13, 2025 | Time
Wed, 07/09/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/13/2025 - 8:00pm | Digital Storytelling | Adult

This 6-week class will guide students through the audio story production process, from pitching and finding stories to final sound mixing. This course is open to students of all experience levels — beginners will learn the fundamentals of podcast creation, and more experienced students will hone...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/6-week-audio-storytelling\]](https://loft.org/classes/6-week-audio-storytelling)

FICTION

From Novice to Novelist in 6 Weeks

John DeDakis

June 25, 2025- July 30, 2025 | Time
Wed, 06/25/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/30/2025 - 8:00pm | Fiction | Adult

This class is designed to deconstruct and demystify the novel-writing process for struggling and/or aspiring writers. We'll discuss how to tap into your subconscious and life experiences to transform them into a book-length project, populated with engaging characters, a twisty-turny plot, snappy...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/novice-novelist-6-weeks\]](https://loft.org/classes/novice-novelist-6-weeks)

4-Week: Short Speculative Fiction

Lyndsey Ellis

July 8, 2025- July 29, 2025 | Time
Tue, 07/08/2025 - 5:00pm - Tue, 07/29/2025 - 7:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Speculative fiction is a subgenre that deeply explores the nonexistent, the eerie and the downright terrifying. From supernatural horror swarming with haints to dystopian worlds comprised of faes and gargoyles, this is writing that centers the extraordinary. In this class, you'll learn the ins and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-short-speculative-fiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-short-speculative-fiction)

Plot: Creating Urgency in a Story

Karen Bender

July 9, 2025 | Time
Wed, 07/09/2025 - 10:00am - Wed, 07/09/2025 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Join National Book Award Finalist Karen Bender for a two-hour class in which she talks about plot, and how to create urgency in a story. We will examine stories by Raymond Carver, Octavia Butler and Yoko Ogawa, looking at the way they create questions in a narrative. We'll discuss the idea of The...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/plot-creating-urgency-story\]](https://loft.org/classes/plot-creating-urgency-story)

6-Week: Genre-Queer: Narrative Structures for the Other

Milo Todd

	Time	
July 9, 2025- August 20, 2025	Wed, 07/09/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/20/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

Throughout our history of marginalization and oppression, queer voices have created our own ways of speaking and expressing ourselves. But with us so Othered in queer tongues, how do we tell our stories to the mainstream authentically?

In this queer-focused course, we'll look at several literary...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/6-week-genre-queer-narrative-structures-other\]](https://loft.org/classes/6-week-genre-queer-narrative-structures-other)

4-Week: The Art of Dialogue

Piper Lane

	Time	
July 10, 2025- July 31, 2025	Thu, 07/10/2025 - 6:00pm - Thu, 07/31/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

Charles Baxter claimed that the greatest fallacy of modern storytelling is that everyone is always listening. In truth, we're distracted, caught up in our own lives, and quite terrible at listening and responding, especially to those we care about. But what lies beneath the surface of our dialogue...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-art-dialogue\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-art-dialogue)

Writing from Experience: Identity and Fiction

Rafael Frumkin

	Time	
July 12, 2025	Sat, 07/12/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 3:00pm	Fiction Adult

In the past decade, the literary world has sought to publish more authors from historically underrepresented populations, resulting in a much-needed diversification of the American canon and many remarkable books about the interplay of identity and culture. In our current sociopolitical climate...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-experience-identity-and-fiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-experience-identity-and-fiction)

Little Writers, Big Worlds (for ages 6 to 8)

Jack Harris Blythe Baird

	Time	
July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025	Tue, 07/15/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 4:00pm	Fiction Youth

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

SESSION 1:
MYTHICAL CREATURES
(for Ages 6 to 8, 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...

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

Jumpstart Your Writing (for ages 12 to 14)

Rachel Guvenc Alice Paige

	Time	
July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025	Tue, 07/15/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 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:

EXPRESS YOURSELF! WORD!

(for ages 12 to 14, with Rachel Guvenc)

Are you passionate about expressing yourself? Are you curious about writing poetry? In this class you will...

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

Storytelling (for ages 6 to 8)

Taiwana Shambley Holly Day

	Time	
July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025	Tue, 07/15/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 4:00pm	Fiction Youth

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

SESSION 1:

WORDS CAN CREATE MAGIC

(with Taiwana Shambley)

Writers are like gardeners. They plant seeds to create magic with words and grow stories from their imaginations. You will begin your...

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

6-Week: Introduction to Fiction

Holly Day

	Time	
July 16, 2025- August 20, 2025	Wed, 07/16/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/20/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

Learn to write fiction in a non-intimidating environment with fellow beginners. We'll cover important aspects of craft, including plot, structure, and characterization, while reading work that epitomizes well crafted story. Writers such as Octavia Butler, Min Jin Lee, Jamaica Kincaid, Orhan Pamuk...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/6-week-introduction-fiction-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/6-week-introduction-fiction-01)

6-Week: Beneath the Surface-Exploring Subtext

Allison Wyss

	Time	
July 17, 2025- August 21, 2025	Thu, 07/17/2025 - 6:00pm - Thu, 08/21/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

Charles Baxter's The Art of Subtext: Beyond Plot examines those elements that propel readers beyond the plot of a novel or short story into the realm of what haunts the imagination: the implied, the half-visible, and the unspoken." It's an illuminating work on a tough subject. We'll pair each of...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/6-week-beneath-surface-exploring-subtext\]](https://loft.org/classes/6-week-beneath-surface-exploring-subtext)

Imagining a Better World Through Speculative Fiction (July)

Cristeta Boarini

Time
July 19, 2025 | Sat, 07/19/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Speculative fiction pushes the students to imagine what could be. As the author Simon Sinek has said, "Before we build the world we want to live in, we have to imagine it."

This session will ask writers to push the boundaries of what they know to be possible by changing one small thing in our...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/imagining-better-world-through-speculative-fiction-july\]](https://loft.org/classes/imagining-better-world-through-speculative-fiction-july)

Blueprint for a Revision

Erin Halden

Time
July 19, 2025 | Sat, 07/19/2025 - 2:00pm - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 6:00pm | Fiction | Adult

You did it! You finished a draft of your novel! Congrats! That's HUGE! All you need is a quick revision pass to polish it up and then – publication! Right!? Wrong. There's another step, one that many writers skip. It's called a manuscript audit, and it's a high-level assessment of the story that...

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

4-Week: Start Writing Right Now

Tina Tocco

Time
July 29, 2025- August 19, 2025 | Tue, 07/29/2025 - 6:00pm - Tue, 08/19/2025 - 8:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Have you always wanted to try your hand at fiction writing, but never took the leap? Maybe you've put down your pen for a while and need a jumpstart. Come experiment in this low-stress, generative class! If you're thinking, "But I don't have any ideas," don't worry! We'll use fun prompts — music...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-start-writing-right-now1\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-start-writing-right-now1)

Revolution, Revelation, and Joy: A Class for Queer and Trans Writers

W.L. Bolm

Time
August 2, 2025 | Sat, 08/02/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 08/02/2025 - 2:00pm | Fiction | Adult

This class explores creative non-fiction written by trans writers and containing themes that are underrepresented in traditional publishing and often written in unconventional forms. Students will discuss how to bring aspects of radical joy and vulnerability to their own writing.

The Loft's Queer...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/revolution-revelation-and-joy-class-queer-and-trans-writers1\]](https://loft.org/classes/revolution-revelation-and-joy-class-queer-and-trans-writers1)

Creating Magical Worlds for Ages 15 to 18

Craig Noles

Time
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025 | Tue, 08/05/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at Open Book! Join us for a week of writing and all day creativity!

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!

Aspiring writers, grab your...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-181\]](https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-181)

Short Story: A to Z—Creative Short Story Writing for Ages 15 to 18

Troy Wilderson

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 12:00pm	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 \[https://loft.org/classes/short-story-z-creative-short-story-writing-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/short-story-z-creative-short-story-writing-ages-15-18)

Elements of Fiction (for ages 15 to 18)

Alysandra Dutton

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 4:00pm	Fiction Youth

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

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!

Learn the ins and outs of writing fiction by...

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

Nature Writing (for ages 15 to 18)

James Ellis

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Fiction Youth

This multi-genre class will investigate the centuries-long connection between the word and the natural world. How do you interpret nature? How do you connect to it? Is there a connection between human nature and the natural world?

In an age that further isolates us from the natural world, we will...

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

(August) Elements of Fiction: Put the STORY in Your Story (for ages 15 to 18)

Robert Voedisch

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Fiction Youth

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

Let's face it: Writing can be a frustrating—and frustratingly mysterious—process. What makes one story soar and another flop? Why do some characters leap off the page and into our hearts, while...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/august-elements-fiction-put-story-your-story-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/august-elements-fiction-put-story-your-story-ages-15-18)

Let's Write a Ghost Story (for ages 15 to 18)

Holly Day

August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025 | Time
Tue, 08/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

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

Do you like to tell scary stories? In this class, we'll discuss examples of ghost stories and talk about "real" haunted houses. Then we'll write our own stories based on our own haunted houses...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/lets-write-ghost-story-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/lets-write-ghost-story-ages-15-18)

Imagining a Better World Through Speculative Fiction (September)

Cristeta Boarini

September 20, 2025 | Time
Sat, 09/20/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 09/20/2025 - 1:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Speculative fiction pushes the students to imagine what could be. As the author Simon Sinek has said, "Before we build the world we want to live in, we have to imagine it."

This session will ask writers to push the boundaries of what they know to be possible by changing one small thing in our...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/imagining-better-world-through-speculative-fiction-september\]](https://loft.org/classes/imagining-better-world-through-speculative-fiction-september)

Loft After School Online: Introduction to Creative Writing for Teens

Savannah Brooks

October 1, 2025- November 19, 2025 | Time
Wed, 10/01/2025 - 4:00pm - Wed, 11/19/2025 - 6:00pm | Fiction | Youth

In this eight-week course, we'll break down four main areas of creative writing: articles, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. We'll dedicate two classes to each one, spending the first class studying, reading, and discussing, and spending the second class generating, writing, and getting feedback. By...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-introduction-creative-writing-teens\]](https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-introduction-creative-writing-teens)

Loft After School Online: Writing Hauntings & Horrors

Jesaka Long

October 8, 2025- October 29, 2025 | Time
Wed, 10/08/2025 - 4:00pm - Wed, 10/29/2025 - 5:30pm | Fiction | Youth

In this class, we'll use what haunts and horrifies us as the raw material to build our own ghosts, monsters, and unspeakable creatures on the page. We'll explore the differences between horror subgenres; how people around the globe develop and pass down their cultures' specific scary stories; and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-writing-hauntings-horrors\]](https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-writing-hauntings-horrors)

Loft After School Online: Write Because You Love It for Ages 15-18

Tina Tocco

October 9, 2025- October 30, 2025 | Time
Thu, 10/09/2025 - 4:00pm - Thu, 10/30/2025 - 5:30pm | 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 four-week workshop, you'll use prompts—objects, words, starter...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-write-because-you-love-it-ages-15-18-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-write-because-you-love-it-ages-15-18-01)

Loft After School Online: Writing the Perfect Haunted House Story for Ages 12-14 (Online)

Laura Walker

October 11, 2025- November 1, 2025 | Time
Sat, 10/11/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 11/01/2025 - 3:00pm | Fiction | Youth

It takes a lot of architectural know-how to build a house that people can actually live in--construction, plumbing, electricity, all sorts of expertise. In a similar way, it takes particular literary skill to build a haunted house where ghosts dwell and readers can lose themselves through creaky...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-writing-perfect-haunted-house-story-ages-12-14-online\]](https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-writing-perfect-haunted-house-story-ages-12-14-online)

Creating Magical Worlds for Ages 15 to 18

Craig Noles

October 18, 2025 | Time
Sat, 10/18/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-18-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-18-11)

The Magic of a Fairy Tale: Write Your Own Story for Ages 9 to 11

Marie Olofsdotter

October 18, 2025 | Time
Sat, 10/18/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Youth

Students will record the hair-raising adventures of a main character, who sets out on a journey to save a troubled world, and along the way, encounters menacing villains and mystical beings. This class is perfect for anyone who loves to write and loves magic. Students discover the adventures as they...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/magic-fairy-tale-write-your-own-story-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/magic-fairy-tale-write-your-own-story-ages-9-11)

(Fall) Solarpunk: Building Renewable Worlds through Science Fiction for Ages 9 to 11

Amy Sailer

October 18, 2025 | Time
Sat, 10/18/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

In this workshop, students will learn about Solarpunk, a utopian genre that imagines the ecological, aesthetic, and social possibilities of a world transformed by renewable energy. We will discuss examples of Solarpunk stories from diverse writers and artists, including Becky Chambers and Hayao...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fall-solarpunk-building-renewable-worlds-through-science-fiction-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/fall-solarpunk-building-renewable-worlds-through-science-fiction-ages-9-11)

Help! I Don't Know What to Write! for Ages 9 to 11

Holly Day

October 18, 2025 | Time
Sat, 10/18/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

Have you ever sat down to write a story and realized you have no idea how or where to start? In this class, 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...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/help-i-dont-know-what-write-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/help-i-dont-know-what-write-ages-9-11)

Goblins, Ghosts & Ghouls: A Spooky Story Workshop for Ages 9 to 11

Kat Shepherd

Time
October 25, 2025 | Sat, 10/25/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 10/25/2025 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Youth

What makes a spooky story give us those spine-tingling thrills and chills? In this workshop we'll use games and activities to explore the building blocks of horror: atmospheric settings, compelling monsters and villains, high stakes, and flawed protagonists that drive the story forward. Writers will...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/goblins-ghosts-ghouls-spooky-story-workshop-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/goblins-ghosts-ghouls-spooky-story-workshop-ages-9-11)

Pick-a-Path Story Workshop for Ages 9 to 11

Kat Shepherd

Time
October 25, 2025 | Sat, 10/25/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 10/25/2025 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

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! This workshop offers the...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/pick-path-story-workshop-ages-9-11-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/pick-path-story-workshop-ages-9-11-01)

Creating Magical Worlds for Ages 15 to 18

Craig Noles

Time
February 14, 2026 | Sat, 02/14/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 02/14/2026 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-18-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-18-01)

(Winter) Solarpunk: Building Renewable Worlds through Science Fiction for Ages 9 to 11

Amy Sailer

Time
February 14, 2026 | Sat, 02/14/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 02/14/2026 - 12:00pm | Fiction | Youth

In this workshop, students will learn about Solarpunk, a utopian genre that imagines the ecological, aesthetic, and social possibilities of a world transformed by renewable energy. We will discuss examples of Solarpunk stories from diverse writers and artists, including Becky Chambers and Hayao...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/winter-solarpunk-building-renewable-worlds-through-science-fiction-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/winter-solarpunk-building-renewable-worlds-through-science-fiction-ages-9-11)

Pick-a-Path Story Workshop for Ages 9 to 11

Kat Shepherd

Time
February 14, 2026 | Sat, 02/14/2026 - 1:00pm - Sat, 02/14/2026 - 4:00pm | Fiction | Youth

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! This workshop offers the...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/pick-path-story-workshop-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/pick-path-story-workshop-ages-9-11)

Writing Short Stories for Ages 12 to 14

Kat Shepherd

March 21, 2026 | Time
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)

MULTIGENRE

4-Week Workshop: Speculative Memoir and Autofiction

Anaïs Duplan

July 10, 2025- August 7, 2025 | Time
Thu, 07/10/2025 - 1:00pm - Thu, 08/07/2025 - 3:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

This course will investigate speculative memoir and autofiction. Students in this course should come prepared with a relevant project in progress, with at least 5-10 pages of writing ready for peer workshoping by the start of this course. Projects should be rooted in life writing (i.e. that which...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-workshop-speculative-memoir-and-autofiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-workshop-speculative-memoir-and-autofiction)

Research Tools for Authentic Historical Nonfiction and Fiction

Holly Day

July 12, 2025 | Time
Sat, 07/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Adult

Are you a writer of historical fiction or nonfiction and you don't know how or where to find information on the time period you're writing about? This class will show you where to find textbooks, old newspapers, photographs, voice recordings, illustrations, photos and descriptions of historical and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/research-tools-authentic-historical-nonfiction-and-fiction-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/research-tools-authentic-historical-nonfiction-and-fiction-01)

Writing Immersion (for ages 12 to 14)

Holly Day Rachel Guvenc

July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025 | Time
Tue, 07/15/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 4:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

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

SESSION 1:

FINDING THE POET WITHIN

(for ages 12 to 14, with Holly Day)

In this class, we'll discuss the many techniques poets use to express their ideas through language and structure. We'll...

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

Beyond Text: Visual Experiments in Writing (for ages 15 to 18)

Court Ludwick

	Time	
July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025	Tue, 07/15/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 4:00pm	Multigenre Youth

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

As writers, we rely on imagery 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...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/beyond-text-visual-experiments-writing-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/beyond-text-visual-experiments-writing-ages-15-18)

2025 Loft Youth Writing Intensive: Ages 10 to 13

Michael Gorrie Dralandra Larkins Kelsey Daly Robert Voedisch

	Time	
July 22, 2025- July 25, 2025	Tue, 07/22/2025 - 9:30am - Fri, 07/25/2025 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/2025-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-10-13\]](https://loft.org/classes/2025-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-10-13)

2025 Loft Youth Writing Intensive: Ages 14 To 18

Holly Day Shannon Gibney Dralandra Larkins Michael Gorrie

	Time	
July 29, 2025- August 1, 2025	Tue, 07/29/2025 - 9:30am - Fri, 08/01/2025 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/2025-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-14-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/2025-loft-youth-writing-intensive-ages-14-18)

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

Kelsey Daly Amy Sailer

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 4:00pm	Multigenre Youth

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

SESSION 1:
CREATE YOUR OWN FANTASY OR SCI-FI WORLD USING CRAFTS
(for ages 12 to 14, with Kelsey Daly)

Build a unique and spectacular fantasy world from the ground up!

During our first 3...

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

Write Your World (for ages 12 to 14)

Holly Day Court Ludwick

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 4:00pm	Multigenre Youth

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

SESSION 1:

FINDING THE POET WITHIN

(for ages 12 to 14, with Holly Day)

In this class, we'll discuss the many techniques poets use to find the strongest way to express their ideas through...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/write-your-world-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/write-your-world-ages-12-14)

Story Explorers for Ages 9 to 11

Holly Day Kat Shepherd

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Multigenre Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at Open Book! Join us for a week of writing and all day creativity!

-Session 1: Help! I Don't Know What to Write! for Ages 9 to 11 with Holly Day

Have you ever sat down to write a story and realized you have no idea how or where to start? In this class, we'll go over...

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

Writing a Better World for Ages 12 to 14

Amy Sailer Court Ludwick

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Multigenre Youth

Welcome back to Summer Youth at Open Book! Join us for a week of writing and all day creativity!

-Session 1: Alternate Histories for Ages 12 to 14 with Amy Sailer

In this workshop, the students will collaborate on a group novella that takes place in an alternate history. We will discuss examples of...

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

2025 Teen Writing Project (September Start–Minneapolis)

Robert Voedisch

	Time	
September 18, 2025- December 11, 2025	Thu, 09/18/2025 - 4:30pm - Thu, 12/11/2025 - 6:00pm	Multigenre Youth

This semester-long 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 manuscript...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/2025-teen-writing-project-september-start-minneapolis\]](https://loft.org/classes/2025-teen-writing-project-september-start-minneapolis)

Loft After School Online: Genre Games–Sci-fi Sonnets, Fantasy Flash Fiction, and Horror Haikus

Stephanie Surles

October 2, 2025- October 23, 2025 | Time
Thu, 10/02/2025 - 4:00pm - Thu, 10/23/2025 - 5:30pm | Multigenre | Youth

Do you have a yearning to write but aren't sure where to start or how to proceed? Are you filled with so many story ideas that you have trouble capturing them all? Do you want to expand your shorter stories into longer, more elaborate one? This class is perfect for the imaginative student who wants...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-genre-games-sci-fi-sonnets-fantasy-flash-fiction-and-horror-haikus\]](https://loft.org/classes/loft-after-school-online-genre-games-sci-fi-sonnets-fantasy-flash-fiction-and-horror-haikus)

Scene Writing For Ages 12 to 14

Kat Shepherd

February 14, 2026 | Time
Sat, 02/14/2026 - 9:00am - Sat, 02/14/2026 - 12:00pm | Multigenre | Youth

A perfect choice for aspiring writer/actors, this collaborative workshop uses a combination of improv games and screenwriting techniques to create dynamic scenes for both scripts and novels. Participants will explore scene-based storytelling and learn how to rely solely on action and dialogue to...

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

PLAY- AND SCREENWRITING

Screenplays: Writing for Indies

Michael Curran-Dorsano

July 12, 2025 | Time
Sat, 07/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 4:00pm | Play- and Screenwriting | Adult

It's never been easier to make a film these days. But it's still tough. Even the best scripts can easily be derailed when it comes to call action. Often, it's the practicalities that prove the hardest challenges to overcome. Writing with your limitations in mind can prove to not only be a great way...

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

Get Into Character: Acting 101 (for ages 15 to 18)

John Schaidler

July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025 | Time
Tue, 07/15/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 07/18/2025 - 4:00pm | Play- and Screenwriting | Youth

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

Drawing on fundamental techniques of Method Acting, students learn to build great characters piece by piece. Each session focuses on one of Stanislavski's key principles, guiding students to...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/get-character-acting-101-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/get-character-acting-101-ages-15-18)

Page and the Stage (for ages 12 to 14)

Rachel Guvenc John Schaidler

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Play- and Screenwriting Youth

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

SESSION 1:

EXPRESS YOURSELF! WORD!

(for ages 12 to 14, with Rachel Guvenc)

Are you passionate about expressing yourself? Are you curious about writing poetry? In this class you will explore...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/page-and-stage-ages-12-14\]](https://loft.org/classes/page-and-stage-ages-12-14)

(August) Screenwriting for Teens (for ages 15 to 18)

Michael Gorrie

	Time	
August 12, 2025- August 15, 2025	Tue, 08/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/15/2025 - 4:00pm	Play- and Screenwriting Youth

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

Are you a teenager who wants to write your own movie, but you don't know how? This is the class for you!

Aimed at beginners, this class starts off with the fundamentals of screenwriting — how...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/august-screenwriting-teens-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/august-screenwriting-teens-ages-15-18)

Screenwriting for Teens

Michael Gorrie

	Time	
October 16, 2025- October 18, 2025	Thu, 10/16/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 12:00pm	Play- and Screenwriting Youth

Welcome to the Loft's Summer program at Open Book! Join us for 3 days of writing and creativity!

Are you a teenager who wants to write your own movie, but you don't know how? This is the class for you!

Aimed at beginners, this class starts off with the fundamentals of screenwriting — how...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/screenwriting-teens\]](https://loft.org/classes/screenwriting-teens)

Let's Write a Play! for Ages 6-8

Marianne Manzler

	Time	
October 18, 2025	Sat, 10/18/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 10/18/2025 - 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.

Email edu@loft.org at least two to three weeks in advance if you have any accessibility requests for...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/lets-write-play-ages-6-8\]](https://loft.org/classes/lets-write-play-ages-6-8)

POETRY

The Poetics of Hope: Writing and Reading Poetry

Marlin M. Jenkins

	Time	
July 12, 2025	Sat, 07/12/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 4:00pm	Poetry Adult

We'll examine poetry's power to confront and evoke feeling, to help us perceive, notice, and orient ourselves—with the specific lens of hopefulness. When hope feels unattainable, how can poems help us reach toward it? In desperate moments, what might poems offer to help keep us afloat?

We'll begin...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/poetics-hope-writing-and-reading-poetry-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/poetics-hope-writing-and-reading-poetry-01)

Catch the Beat: Reading and Writing in Meter

Elijah Mendoza

	Time	
July 19, 2025	Sat, 07/19/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 1:00pm	Poetry Adult

Music and poetry are some of the oldest human art forms, even predating written language. This relationship still exists, and our class will focus on rhythm. Meter is an expression of music in poetry that tracks the rhythm of lines and stanzas. We will review and practice the rules to best read (and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/catch-beat-reading-and-writing-meter1\]](https://loft.org/classes/catch-beat-reading-and-writing-meter1)

Poetic Forms Toolkit: A Class for Writers of Color and Indigenous Writers

Michael Kleber-Diggs

	Time	
July 19, 2025	Sat, 07/19/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 2:00pm	Poetry Adult

The blank page can seem daunting when writing a poem. To remedy the enormity of endless possibilities, certain poetic formal constraints or parameters can be employed to the poet's advantage to spark creative inspiration or provide the poem additional layers of meaning. Former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/poetic-forms-toolkit-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers1\]](https://loft.org/classes/poetic-forms-toolkit-class-writers-color-and-indigenous-writers1)

Not a Love Poem, but Something Close

Asa Drake

	Time	
July 19, 2025	Sat, 07/19/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 1:00pm	Poetry Adult

How might we go about broadening the scope of the love poem to include the "not love" poem? What odes might we write to friends, pets, neighbors and gardens? What poems might include our lovers without being about romantic love? And what about all the negative feelings that come with misdirected...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/not-love-poem-something-close1\]](https://loft.org/classes/not-love-poem-something-close1)

Magical Worlds of Wonder (for ages 9 to 11)

Marie Olofsdotter Ellen Fee

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 4:00pm	Poetry Youth

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

SESSION 1:

FAIRY TALES, MAGIC, AND BOOKMAKING: WRITE YOUR OWN STORY
(for ages 9 to 11, with Marie Olofsdotter)

Explore the timeless territory of magic as you write your own myth-inspired fairy...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/magical-worlds-wonder-ages-9-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/magical-worlds-wonder-ages-9-11)

Finding the Poet Within (for ages 15 to 18)

Holly Day

	Time	
August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025	Tue, 08/05/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 08/08/2025 - 4:00pm	Poetry Youth

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

In this Poet Within class, we'll explore the many techniques poets use to express themselves. We'll discuss the ways they express their ideas through language and structure.

In this class...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/finding-poet-within-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/finding-poet-within-ages-15-18)

Playing with Prose and Poetry

Lara Mimosa Montes

	Time	
August 9, 2025	Sat, 08/09/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 08/09/2025 - 4:00pm	Poetry Adult

In this generative and process-focused writing workshop, we'll read poems, prose, and poetic texts (e.g., dream-logs, lists, cut-ups) that invite the fledglings in us to take a seat at the table. We'll also collectively embark on writing activities that court naïveté and spontaneity in an attempt to...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/playing-prose-and-poetry\]](https://loft.org/classes/playing-prose-and-poetry)

Poetry Forms: Writing Sestinas

Melanie Figg

	Time	
August 16, 2025	Sat, 08/16/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 08/16/2025 - 12:00pm	Poetry Adult

Take a crack at a sestina or learn how to write a better one. This poetic form can build your literary muscles with repetition, diction, description, and more. Sestinas often fail because writers don't pair the form with the right-sized story/idea, so we'll brainstorm ideas, go over the "rules" and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/poetry-forms-writing-sestinas\]](https://loft.org/classes/poetry-forms-writing-sestinas)

PUBLISHING AND CAREER

8-Week: From Page to Publication

Kelly Van Sant

	Time		
July 2, 2025- August 20, 2025	Wed, 07/02/2025 - 12:00pm - Wed, 08/20/2025 - 2:00pm	Publishing and Career	Adult

Your manuscript is finished! Now what? Are you wondering how to get your story off of your computer screen and onto bookshelves everywhere? This class is for you!

Step-by-step we'll do a deep dive on all the stages of getting your book published. We'll discuss the different ways to publish—self...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/8-week-page-publication\]](https://loft.org/classes/8-week-page-publication)

Behind the Scenes with Traditional Publishing

Sara Megibow

	Time		
July 12, 2025	Sat, 07/12/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 07/12/2025 - 1:00pm	Publishing and Career	Adult

Spend time with literary agent Sara Megibow learning how traditional publishing works from behind the scenes. We'll start with a very high-level overview of profit strategy for authors and then spend a bit of time working through how to find a literary agent, how to query a literary agent and what...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/behind-scenes-traditional-publishing\]](https://loft.org/classes/behind-scenes-traditional-publishing)

Double Session: Publishing Pathways

Jaye Viner

	Time		
July 12, 2025- July 19, 2025	Sat, 07/12/2025 - 12:00pm - Sat, 07/19/2025 - 2:00pm	Publishing and Career	Adult

There is an overwhelming amount of information about publishing online. How do you know what's true? Where do you start? This class walks through a decision tree of options to help new and early career writers match their writing and career goals to industry pathways and equips them with enough...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/double-session-publishing-pathways\]](https://loft.org/classes/double-session-publishing-pathways)

From Page to Publication: Submitting Your Work to Publications and Journals

Lyndsey Ellis

	Time		
August 2, 2025	Sat, 08/02/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 08/02/2025 - 12:00pm	Publishing and Career	Adult

Writing takes time, care and concentration. Still, completing something you've worked hard on is only half the battle. After workshops, peer reviews and/or self-edits, it's time to send that blog/review/story/essay/article out into the world! Get the scoop on how, where, and when to submit your work...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/page-publication-submitting-your-work-publications-and-journals\]](https://loft.org/classes/page-publication-submitting-your-work-publications-and-journals)

You Finished Your Book—Now What?

Savannah Brooks

	Time		
August 16, 2025	Sat, 08/16/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 08/16/2025 - 4:00pm	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 \[https://loft.org/classes/you-finished-your-book-now-what-1\]](https://loft.org/classes/you-finished-your-book-now-what-1)

So You Want to Get Published for Ages 15 to 18

Kathleen Danielson

	Time	
October 16, 2025	Thu, 10/16/2025 - 12:00pm - Thu, 10/16/2025 - 4:00pm	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 \[https://loft.org/classes/so-you-want-get-published-ages-15-18-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/so-you-want-get-published-ages-15-18-01)

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)