

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

6-Week: Writing for Kids 101

Tina Tocco

	Time	
June 17, 2025- July 22, 2025	Tue, 06/17/2025 - 6:00pm - Tue, 07/22/2025 - 8:00pm	Children's and Young Adult Literature Adult

Have you always wanted to write stories for kids, but never knew where to start? This class will let you get your feet wet in this fun genre. Don't be nervous about sparking your creativity! We'll use weekly in-class prompts — everything from starter sentences to images, magical objects to inanimate...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/6-week-writing-kids-101\]](https://loft.org/classes/6-week-writing-kids-101)

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

6-Week: Summer Creative Nonfiction Survey

Andy Dehnart

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 23, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 1:00pm - Wed, 07/23/2025 - 3:00pm	Creative Nonfiction Adult

Creative nonfiction is crafted from true stories, turning real-life human experience into vibrant literature. But just how do we transform real life into layered, engaging narratives? What techniques can help us unlock the strengths of this genre?

In this interactive, generative, online workshop...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/6-week-summer-creative-nonfiction-survey\]](https://loft.org/classes/6-week-summer-creative-nonfiction-survey)

8-Week: Finding Your Essay's Compass--Advanced Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Kelly Sundberg

	Time	
June 18, 2025- August 6, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/06/2025 - 8:00pm	Creative Nonfiction Adult

Lyric essays can seem impenetrable at first, but when done well, they have a beating heart inside of them. For aspiring writers, gaining a better understanding of what makes writing lyric (or language based) can make all prose writing stronger.

This advanced creative nonfiction workshop is designed...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/8-week-finding-your-essays-compass-advanced-creative-nonfiction-workshop\]](https://loft.org/classes/8-week-finding-your-essays-compass-advanced-creative-nonfiction-workshop)

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

Mitchell LeGrand

	Time	
June 24, 2025- June 27, 2025	Tue, 06/24/2025 - 1:00pm - Fri, 06/27/2025 - 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-social-change-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-social-change-ages-15-18)

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

	Time	
July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025	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

Time
July 19, 2025 | 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/flash-memoir-life-stories-under-500-words-31\]](https://loft.org/classes/flash-memoir-life-stories-under-500-words-31)

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

Alexis M. Wright

Time
July 23, 2025- August 13, 2025 | 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/discovering-lyric-essay-writing-against-norm-4-weeks1\]](https://loft.org/classes/discovering-lyric-essay-writing-against-norm-4-weeks1)

Flash Nonfiction Generator

Lizzie Lawson

Time
July 26, 2025 | 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/flash-nonfiction-generator1\]](https://loft.org/classes/flash-nonfiction-generator1)

Nonfiction Book Proposal Writing Intensive

Rachel Werner

Time
July 31, 2025 | 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 \[https://loft.org/classes/nonfiction-book-proposal-writing-intensive1\]](https://loft.org/classes/nonfiction-book-proposal-writing-intensive1)

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 \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-birds1\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-birds1)

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 \[https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-social-change-ages-15-18-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/writing-what-possible-writing-social-change-ages-15-18-01)

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 \[https://loft.org/classes/experimentation-hybrid-memoir-11\]](https://loft.org/classes/experimentation-hybrid-memoir-11)

(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 \[https://loft.org/classes/august-writing-my-story-personal-essay-scholarship-and-college-applications-ages-15-181\]](https://loft.org/classes/august-writing-my-story-personal-essay-scholarship-and-college-applications-ages-15-181)

CREATIVE PROCESS

The Fab Five in 6 Weeks: Writing With the Senses

Kimberly Lee

	Time	
June 17, 2025- July 22, 2025	Tue, 06/17/2025 - 10:00am - Tue, 07/22/2025 - 12:00pm	Creative Process Adult

Powerful writing stimulates the senses, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the scene the writer has created. Infusing our pages with imagery evoking scent, touch, taste, hearing, and sight leads to a multi-dimensional experience that stays with the reader.

In this six-week workshop, we'll...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fab-five-6-weeks-writing-senses1\]](https://loft.org/classes/fab-five-6-weeks-writing-senses1)

8-Week: "Break the Block": How to Actually Overcome Writer's Block and Start Writing Again

Sruthi Narayanan

June 17, 2025- August 5, 2025 | Time
Tue, 06/17/2025 - 6:00pm - Tue, 08/05/2025 - 8:00pm | Creative Process | Adult

This class is for writers who, for any number of reasons, are struggling to actually write. Maybe you're feeling uninspired or burned out; maybe it's been a long time since you've written; maybe you're trying to explore subject matter that is sensitive or traumatic, and are (understandably) having...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/8-week-break-block-how-actually-overcome-writers-block-and-start-writing-again\]](https://loft.org/classes/8-week-break-block-how-actually-overcome-writers-block-and-start-writing-again)

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)

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

Novel Revision: Beyond the First Draft in 6 Weeks

Jackie Cangro

	Time	
June 17, 2025- July 22, 2025	Tue, 06/17/2025 - 6:00pm - Tue, 07/22/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

Novel Revision: Beyond the First Draft is a step-by-step course through the novel revision process. From character development to plot problems to backstory issues, we'll make sure your story is the best it can be to keep readers hooked until the very last page. You'll learn how to analyze your...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/novel-revision-beyond-first-draft-6-weeks\]](https://loft.org/classes/novel-revision-beyond-first-draft-6-weeks)

6-Week: Finessing Historical Fiction

Rachel Werner

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 30, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 12:00pm - Wed, 07/30/2025 - 2:00pm	Fiction Adult

Research may be the backbone of nonfiction, but it also adds depth, detail and accuracy to fiction. Author Rachel Werner will share the tools and strategies writers need to research with confidence.

Whether you're writing for traditional publishing, the educational market, or literary magazines...

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

8-Week: Novel Writing

Jeneé Skinner

	Time	
June 18, 2025- August 6, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/06/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

We love to sit with characters long enough to know them, navigate adversity with them, and ultimately to be transported by their story. While it's easy to come up with interesting concepts, honing in on those concepts enough to fill a novel is where the work begins. The world, relationships...

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

8-Week: Short Story Nitty Gritty

Troy Wilderson

	Time	
June 18, 2025- August 13, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/13/2025 - 9:00pm	Fiction Adult

In this 8-week class, we'll explore all the basic elements needed to craft a short story. Each week we'll dive into the essential aspects of the short story form such as character, plot, point of view, theme, and setting.

Students will pre-read a short story by Viet Thanh Nguyen. At the first...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/8-week-short-story-nitty-gritty-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/8-week-short-story-nitty-gritty-01)

8-Week: Heat, Escalation, Danger, Delusion: Re-thinking the Short Story

Josh Cook

	Time	
June 18, 2025- August 13, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 08/13/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

This class seeks to expand our sense of what a story can do and how it might achieve its effects. Beyond Freytag's pyramid and conventional modes of plot, we'll look at stories through the lens of what we can see rather than what formulas have been handed down from old texts.

We'll look at mystery...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/8-week-heat-escalation-danger-delusion-re-thinking-short-story-01\]](https://loft.org/classes/8-week-heat-escalation-danger-delusion-re-thinking-short-story-01)

4-Week: Skip the Boring Parts–Structuring Your Fiction

Matt Sharkey-Smith

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 16, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/16/2025 - 8:00pm	Fiction Adult

These words were famously Elmore Leonard's advice to aspiring fiction writers—but the problem is determining what the boring parts are in one's writing. In this advanced, multi-week course, we will study and practice revision techniques from writers including George Saunders, Sandra Scofield, and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-skip-boring-parts-structuring-your-fiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-skip-boring-parts-structuring-your-fiction)

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

Kelsey Daly Kat Shepherd

	Time	
June 24, 2025- June 27, 2025	Tue, 06/24/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 06/27/2025 - 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:

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

DESIGN A FANTASY OR SCI-FI PROTAGONIST, VILLAIN, AND SIDEKICK

(for ages 12 to 14, with Kelsey Daly)

Come create your very own fantasy character...

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

Fantasy World Immersion for Ages 15 to 18

Aurora Whittet Best

	Time	
June 24, 2025- June 27, 2025	Tue, 06/24/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 06/27/2025 - 12:00pm	Fiction Youth

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

Ever wondered what it takes to create the page-turning heroes and heroines of your favorite fantasy novel? In this class, you'll explore the emotional depth necessary to create a...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fantasy-world-immersion-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/fantasy-world-immersion-ages-15-18)

Building a Novel–From Paragraphs to Pages (for ages 15 to 18)

Debra Blake

	Time	
June 24, 2025- June 27, 2025	Tue, 06/24/2025 - 9:00am - Fri, 06/27/2025 - 12:00pm	Fiction Youth

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

Writing a novel can seem daunting, but this class breaks it down into manageable steps. From the opening class, you'll be writing your novel, first by generating a plot summary and then a...

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

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)

The Power of Retelling in Fiction

Kate Heartfield

June 28, 2025 | Time
Sat, 06/28/2025 - 10:00am - Sat, 06/28/2025 - 2:00pm | Fiction | Adult

Retellings of myths, legends, fairy tales and other old stories are as popular as they've ever been. Old stories give us tools for understanding the world and our place in it: they tell us how to recognize true love, or defeat a monster, or fulfill our duty. Old plots and characters are memes we use...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/power-retelling-fiction\]](https://loft.org/classes/power-retelling-fiction)

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

July 9, 2025- August 20, 2025 | Time
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)

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)

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)

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

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

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 \[https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-18\]](https://loft.org/classes/creating-magical-worlds-ages-15-18)

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)

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

Holly Day

	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!

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)

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)

Imagining a Better World Through Speculative Fiction (September)

Cristeta Boarini

	Time	
September 20, 2025	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)

MULTIGENRE

6-Week: The Mother Writer

Kaia Preus

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 30, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/30/2025 - 8:00pm	Multigenre Adult

This multi-genre course is for anyone who identifies as a mother and a writer, and anyone who sometimes feels the tension between those roles. It's designed to give mother writers a place to write and to engage in a community of artistic support.

The bulk of each class will be time to write—...

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

Fiction Toolkit: Postcolonial Fantasy and Horror Writing

Anaïs Duplan

	Time	
June 19, 2025- July 3, 2025	Thu, 06/19/2025 - 1:00pm - Thu, 07/03/2025 - 3:00pm	Multigenre Adult

It's one thing to feel scared when we watch scary movies, and it's another to feel that same fear as we read. Writers throughout history have found ways of communicating dread, terror, paranoia, and anguish through the written word. The French Continental philosopher Maurice Blanchot writes:...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/fiction-toolkit-postcolonial-fantasy-and-horror-writing\]](https://loft.org/classes/fiction-toolkit-postcolonial-fantasy-and-horror-writing)

4-Week: Crafting Intimate Narratives: A Workshop for Queer & Trans Writers

Jesaka Long

	Time	
June 24, 2025- July 22, 2025	Tue, 06/24/2025 - 6:00pm - Tue, 07/22/2025 - 8:00pm	Multigenre Adult

Desire—including the pursuit of tangible material items, love, and longing--drives any story worth telling. This includes writing sex, which can be notoriously intimidating. Factor in the rise of regulations against trans/queer bodies and the frequent erasure of LGBTQIA2S+ people in the media and...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/4-week-crafting-intimate-narratives-workshop-queer-trans-writers\]](https://loft.org/classes/4-week-crafting-intimate-narratives-workshop-queer-trans-writers)

4-Week Workshop: Speculative Memoir and Autofiction

Anaïs Duplan

	Time	
July 10, 2025- August 7, 2025	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

July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025 | Time
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

July 22, 2025- July 25, 2025 | Time
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)

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)

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)

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)

PLAY- AND SCREENWRITING

6-Week: Idea to Screenplay

Lillie Gardner

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 30, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/30/2025 - 8:00pm	Play- and Screenwriting Adult

Do you have an amazing idea for a screenplay? Are you curious about how the screenwriting process works? Take your project from idea to screenplay in six classes!

In this class, you'll learn about what goes into a great screenplay and start generating your own pages. Each week will be devoted to...

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

Screenplays: Writing for Indies

Michael Curran-Dorsano

	Time	
July 12, 2025	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

	Time	
July 15, 2025- July 18, 2025	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)

POETRY

Ecopoetics 4-Week Craft Seminar

Gauri Awasthi

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 16, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/16/2025 - 8:00pm	Poetry Adult

Initial understanding of ecopoetry was often intertwined with nature poetry. For centuries, poets have written about their environment to draw attention to its beauty. At a time when we have begun to feel the effects of climate change, contemporary poets have brought to the forefront the adverse...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/ecopoetics-4-week-craft-seminar\]](https://loft.org/classes/ecopoetics-4-week-craft-seminar)

6-Week: Poetry of Place

Halee Kirkwood

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 23, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/23/2025 - 8:00pm	Poetry Adult

Every poem is written somewhere. But how do we invite place to fully enter our writing? In this course, we'll invite place to be an active collaborator in our creative process. Through writing exercises, readings, and class discussions, we'll try out new craft techniques, building stronger sensory...

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

Beyond the First Draft: Revising Poetry in 6 Weeks - Summer Edition

Rebecca Jamieson

	Time	
June 18, 2025- July 30, 2025	Wed, 06/18/2025 - 6:00pm - Wed, 07/30/2025 - 8:00pm	Poetry Adult

You've written the wobbly first draft of a poem. Bravo! Perhaps you've made some edits and even gotten feedback from friends, but you can tell something is missing. Maybe you like it even less than before. What now? In this class, we'll unpack the biggest and most mysterious phase of the writing...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/beyond-first-draft-revising-poetry-6-weeks-summer-edition\]](https://loft.org/classes/beyond-first-draft-revising-poetry-6-weeks-summer-edition)

Variations on a Theme: An 8-Week Generative Poetry Workshop

Amy Sailer

	Time	
June 19, 2025- August 7, 2025	Thu, 06/19/2025 - 6:00pm - Thu, 08/07/2025 - 8:00pm	Poetry Adult

The Impressionist painter Claude Monet painted the waterlilies at his home at Giverny for thirty years, and while I'm sure they taught him about waterlilies, they must have also taught him something about his own artistic style. By keeping the subject matter the same, he had to focus on his...

[View Online \[https://loft.org/classes/variations-theme-8-week-generative-poetry-workshop\]](https://loft.org/classes/variations-theme-8-week-generative-poetry-workshop)

poeTRYhealing

Cassie Premo Steele

	Time	
June 28, 2025	Sat, 06/28/2025 - 9:00am - Sat, 06/28/2025 - 12:00pm	Poetry Adult

poeTRYhealing is a three-hour class led by an award-winning poet and scholar of trauma that will introduce students to a diverse group of poets who use poetry as a way to heal from individual and collective trauma. During the class meeting, we will read selections from Gloria Anzaldúa, Ellen Bass...

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

Organic Poetry

Michael Curran-Dorsano

	Time	
June 28, 2025	Sat, 06/28/2025 - 1:00pm - Sat, 06/28/2025 - 4:00pm	Poetry Adult

Poetry, at its most authentic, is a transmutation of our lived experience, channeled and crafted into new forms. At the bedrock of all poetry lies a marriage of sound, rhythm, meaning and form. From the rich music of being, beautiful poems can spring up and guide us into a deeper reality. A reality...

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

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)

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

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

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

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

August 5, 2025- August 8, 2025 | Time
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

August 9, 2025 | Time
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

August 16, 2025 | Time
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

July 2, 2025- August 20, 2025 | Time
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)