

The  
**LOFT**

# YOUNG WRITERS' PROGRAM 2019

Ages 6-17



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The illustrations throughout this publication are from  
**Alex Pears** (alexpears.com).

## SUMMER CLASS FORMAT

Due to popular demand, the Loft has moved to a new format for our summer youth offerings. With the exception of an all-day, week-long camp, all summer youth offerings will be week-long, half-day offerings, with either a 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. start time.

Many can be taken back-to-back to allow for a full-day schedule from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. If you want to take advantage of the full-day schedule, please also see our lunch time supervision offering.

More details about the program and the lunch time supervision can be found on page 29.

Find additional bios and more offering details at [loft.org](http://loft.org). You can also find policy, scholarship, teaching, and advertising info at:

Refund and class policies: [loft.org/policy](http://loft.org/policy)

Scholarship offerings: [loft.org/scholarship](http://loft.org/scholarship)

Teaching at the Loft: [loft.org/teach](http://loft.org/teach)

Advertising opportunities: [loft.org/advertise](http://loft.org/advertise)

*join & support*

# A THRIVING LOFT COMMUNITY INCLUDES THE NEXT GENERATION OF READERS AND WRITERS.



## Help kids discover the power of imagination, creativity, and storytelling.

Become a Loft member with a contribution of any amount.

*The Loft is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Member contributions are 100% tax-deductible.*

**LOFT.ORG/SUPPORT**





# Classes for Teens

(Ages 15–17) | [LOFT.ORG/YOUTH](https://loft.org/youth)

SPECIAL CLASS

## JUST DO YOU: THE AUTHENTICITY FACTOR IN SPOKEN WORD POETRY

AGES  
14–19

with Michelle Myers

June 14, 1–3 p.m. | Reg \$15.00 Mem \$13.50 Low \$0.00

What exactly is the Authenticity Factor in spoken word poetry? What makes one poet's truth more "true" than another's? And can poetry, as an expressive construct, ever really be "authentic"? In this class, participants will consider these questions as well as explore the Authenticity Factor in both writing and performing spoken word poetry. No experience necessary—just a willingness to write, explore, and share.



**Michelle Myers** is an award-winning poet, community activist, and educator. Michelle has featured at hundreds of college campuses as well as at many distinguished venues around the country, including the Kennedy Center, the Bowery Poetry Club, the Asian American Writers Workshop, the Sierra Arts Foundation, and the Japanese American National Museum.

WEEK OF JULY 8

## MAKING THE ACADEMIC PERSONAL (OR HOW TO WRITE A KILLER COLLEGE- PREP ESSAY) with Savannah Brooks

July 8–12, 1–4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Almost all college-prep entities require an essay. And that essay is important: it's the primary way you can show who you are and the compelling details of your life. In this class, we're going to focus on the content of that essay. You'll leave with an essay ready for a final polish.



**Savannah Brooks** is an MFA candidate at Hamline University. She works as an editor for Red Bird Chapbooks, an agent for the Jennifer De Chiara Literary Agency, and a resident reader for multiple literary magazines. Her work has been published in *Hobart*, *Lime Hawk*, *Inscape*, and *Every Writer's Resource*, among others.

WEEK OF JULY 15

## ELEMENTS OF FICTION: PUT THE STORY IN YOUR STORY with Robert Voedisch

**July 15-19, 1-4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Let's face it: Writing can be a frustrating—and frustratingly mysterious—process. In this class, we'll examine several different kinds of stories—everything from fairy tales to modern literary fiction—in an attempt to answer the question: Just what is a story, anyway? (Note: This class is designed for serious writers who are already working on a short story or novel. Students will have 20 pages of their own work critiqued by the teaching artist during a one-on-one conference.)



**Robert Voedisch** is a recipient of the Loft Mentor Series Award. His fiction has appeared in *The Greensboro Review*, *North American Review*, *One Teen Story*, *Five Chapters*, *Paper Darts*, and in the anthology *Fiction on a Stick: Stories by Writers from Minnesota*.

WEEK OF JULY 22

## WRITING FOR JUSTICE with Elizabeth Yost

**July 22-26, 9 a.m.-noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Are you wondering how you can make a difference in the world before you're old enough to vote? This class is for you! We will explore how writers have advocated for justice and write our own work on issues we're passionate about. By the end of the week, each student will feel prepared to use their writing to create a more just world.



**Elizabeth Yost** is studying English and sociology at the University of Minnesota with a focus on the intersection of education, the arts, and social justice. She has presented both her visual artwork and academic research on women's rights to the University of Minnesota community.

WEEK OF JULY 22

## WRITING ABOUT GAMES, MUSIC, BOOKS, AND MOVIES with Liz Lanier

**July 22-26, 1-4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

This class covers writing about video games, film/TV, music, and books. We will cover idea generation, how to pitch to publications, AP style guidelines, and how to adjust your writing for various audiences. Students will also learn skills they can use in school, as they learn how to write clear and concise copy. Writing about what you love is the best way to learn how to write more effectively, whether you want to get better grades or write a college application essay that will make you stand out.



**Liz Lanier** is an MFA Fiction candidate at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she also teaches undergraduate composition. A freelance games journalist, Liz's writing can be regularly seen at *Variety* and *GameDaily*. Her work has also been published in *Game Informer Magazine*, *The Mary Sue*, and *Verily Mag*. She is obsessed with narrative and the craft of writing in all forms.

WEEK OF JULY 29

## START AND FINISH YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY with Maggie Shea

**July 29-Aug 2, 1-4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

In this class, you will learn the characteristics of a stand-out college essay and then write a rough draft. You'll then get targeted feedback from the teaching artist and your peers as you work to revise and edit. Oh...and we won't forget to have a bit of fun each day—it is summer, after all!



**Maggie Shea** loves working with teens. As director of a high school writing center for the past ten years, she has taught many college essay workshops and coached hundreds of students on college and academic essays. Her own essays have been published in the *Star Tribune* and *Mothering Magazine*.





# Classes for Teens

(Ages 13-17) | [LOFT.ORG/YOUTH](http://LOFT.ORG/YOUTH)

WEEK OF JULY 8

## MAPPING THE GRISHAVERSE: THE WORLD OF LEIGH BARDUGO

with Carrie Mesrobian

July 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

This class is for fans of Leigh Bardugo who want to explore in depth the beautiful and dark world of the Grisha. Each class will feature writing exercises, discussion in small and large groups, line analysis, and world-building in Bardugo's work in an effort to learn more about how to improve our own writing and storytelling.



**Carrie Mesrobian** is the author of three young-adult novels *Sex & Violence*, *Perfectly Good White Boy*, and *Cut Both Ways*. Her work has been awarded a Minnesota Book Award for Young People's Literature, a finalist for the William C. Morris YA Debut Award, and a nominee for YALSA's 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults. See [carriemesrobian.com](http://carriemesrobian.com).

WEEK OF JULY 8

## AWKWARD, INFINITE, & IN LOVE: WRITING YOUNG ADULT FICTION

with Natalie Martell

July 8-12, 1-4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

In this class, we'll explore different styles of young adult (YA) literature, from fantasy to realistic fiction, and discuss how to craft meaningful and engaging YA stories. We'll learn to create complex characters, voices, and themes that reflect important aspects of coming-of-age narratives: first loves, trauma, the excitement and awkwardness of high school, and discovering and accepting one's identity.



**Natalie Martell** is a fiction writer who also holds a passion for music and young adult literature. She is an MFA candidate and Composition instructor at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is the Art Editor for *Blue Earth Review* and works at MNSU's Writing Center. Her work has been published in *3288 Review* and *Dark River Review*. She is currently revising a YA novel.

## WRITING THE DARK

with Jeanne Bain

July 8–12, 1–4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

As a reader, you are drawn to books with strong characters, disturbing situations and difficult themes. As a writer, you want to explore the dark side in your own characters. In this class, we will write with peers who love all things dark. Create or strengthen your own fiction, share ideas and explore how contemporary authors push the edge of darkness and give us the courage to dig deep in our own work. Our final day will be spent writing and reading in the Amber Room at The Guthrie Theater.



**Jeanne Bain** has an affinity for fanfic, all things dark, producing community radio, and singing Broadway showtunes out of key while doing dishes. Her teaching and writing focus on creative process, rather than product, which allows the moments of our ordinary, everyday lives to inspire the extraordinary.

## IS THIS THE REAL LIFE? USING APPS, SCRAPS, AND OTHER REAL-LIFE STUFF TO BUILD MADE-UP STORIES

with Molia Dumbleton

July 15–August 23 (Online) | Reg \$234.00 Mem \$210.60

In this online class, we'll use the real things around us—from Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Waze, Lyft, Yelp, and Youtube to textbooks, poems, visual art, newspapers, mixtapes, and to-do lists—to create unexpected fictions. Come ready to think outside of the traditional short-story box!



**Molia Dumbleton's** fiction has appeared in multiple publications. She has been awarded the Sean O'Faolain Story Prize, Columbia Journal's Winter Fiction Award, and the Dromineer Flash Fiction Award. Her short story collection, *God Nor Beast*, was a Finalist for the 2018 Iowa Short Fiction Award. [www.moliadumbleton.com](http://www.moliadumbleton.com)

## DISCOVERING THE WRITING WORLD FOR TEENS

with Heather Goodman

July 15–August 9 (Online) | Reg \$80.00 Mem \$72.00

In this class, we will discover paths to create our own poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. We will read powerful examples and discuss helpful advice from established writers. Writing prompts will inspire us to begin new work and help us focus our voice in a safe and open setting. Optional writing exercises will be given each week. Through writing, reading, and discussion, we will investigate ways to develop our inner writer!



**Heather E. Goodman** has taught writing at high schools, universities, and the Loft. She provides students with touchstones to enter their writing and encourages them to continue listening to their voice. Her work has appeared in *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Shenandoah*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Minnesota Monthly*.

## SCREENWRITING FOR TEENS

with Cristina Pippa

July 15–August 9 (Online) | Reg \$156.00 Mem \$140.40

In this class, we will test out movie concepts and help you develop a script for a short film. Using screenwriting format and structure as a guide, you will map out the plot of your movie, pitch ideas, and write scenes in exciting locations with powerful characters. The class features movie clips, examples from produced screenplays, and writing exercises designed to help you develop your ideas and write a screenplay.



**Cristina Pippa** is a playwright, screenwriter, and novelist. She holds a BA from Columbia University, and an MFA from the University of Iowa Playwrights Workshop, where she received the Iowa Fellowship for the Arts, and the Norman Felton Fellowship. She won the WSU National Playwriting Award, and was a finalist for the Leah Ryan Prize for Emerging Women Writers.

WEEK OF JULY 15

**WRITING SONG LYRICS**

with Ben Connelly

**July 15-19, 9 a.m.-noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

We'll take an interactive and improvisational approach to writing song lyrics and investigate the art and craft of song lyric writing. Whether you play an instrument or not you'll learn how songs work and how to awaken and harness your creative energy. We'll write in groups and individually, study how form and poetic technique affect the way a song feels, and learn methods for opening up and completing a creative process. Students should expect to write at least one complete song.



**Ben Connelly** is a singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, producer and educator with 15 years teaching experience and 7 CDs of his own songs. His songs have been internationally released and been featured on commercial, public, and college radio nationwide as well as in films and on television.

WEEK OF JULY 15

**FROM PAGE TO STAGE: AN INTRO TO SLAM POETRY FROM START TO FINISH**

with Natalie Kaplan

**July 15-19, 1-4 p.m.** | Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

The heart of slam is storytelling and connection, and everyone has a story to tell. Come tell yours in this hands-on class, which will guide you through the process of creating a slam poem, from writing the first draft to editing to performance practice. All levels of experience are welcome!



**Natalie Kaplan** is a queer polyamorous poet from Chadds Ford, PA. She spent three years as a director of the Macalester Poetry Slam, during which she ran hundreds of workshops and organized over 30 poetry events. She has competed on four national poetry teams and been published in numerous poetry collections.

WEEK OF JULY 22

**FICTION BASICS**

with Brian Malloy

**July 22-26, 9 a.m.-noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Each day we'll tackle a craft element of fiction writing: plot and structure, point of view, characterization, setting, and descriptive language. There will be craft lectures, close reading of master works, and exercises and prompts to get the pen moving as you generate new material and outlines for your novel or short story. Perfect for those working on short stories, novels, or anything in between—and for those who just want to learn how!



**Brian Malloy** novels are *The Year of Ice* (St. Martin's Press), *Brendan Wolf* (St. Martin's Press), and the young-adult novel *Twelve Long Months* (Scholastic). His books have been a Book Sense pick, a New York Times "New and Notable" title, and a Booklist editors' choice. Brian teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Minnesota, Hamline University, and the Loft.

WEEK OF JULY 22

**CREATING COMPLEX VILLAINS: GETTING THE BAD GUY RIGHT**

with Natalie Martell &amp; Ashley Richardson

**July 22-26, 1-4 p.m.** | Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Every story needs a dark side. In this class, students will focus on creating villains with unique back stories and desires. We will build character profiles, practice world building, write confessional letters, and more. This class is best for writers in the early stages of a novel or short story.



**Natalie Martell** is a fiction writer who also holds a passion for music and young adult literature. She is currently an MFA candidate and English 101 teacher at Minnesota State University.



**Ashley Richardson** is at heart, a novelist, who enjoys performing spoken word poetry in her spare time. She is currently an MFA candidate in fiction at Minnesota State University.



WEEK OF JULY 22

## DRAWING INTO WRITING with Carolyn Williams-Noren

July 22-26, 1-4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Don't skip this one, even if you "can't draw"! The teaching artist is a poet who "can't draw" either but uses drawing and coloring as a way to enter the state that leads to creative writing. In this class, you'll get to try out several ways to approach writing through drawing. By the end of the class, you'll have many pages of sketches and stories, at least one polished story ready to share, and some new ways to get into the creative work you want to do.



**Carolyn Williams-Noren's** poetry chapbook, *Small Like a Tooth*, was published in 2015 by Dancing Girl Press. Carolyn founded and tends the Little Poetry Library outside Blue Moon Café at 39th and Lake in Minneapolis, and she was a 2014 winner of a McKnight Artist Fellowship in poetry.

WEEK OF JULY 29

## NOT JUST THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE: WRITING SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY with Lyda Morehouse

July 29-August 2, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

If writing stories with zombies, robots, vampires, fairies, (or even unicorns!) is your thing, then this is the class for you. We'll learn how to build believable worlds and play story games and have idea prompts with a science fiction/fantasy edge.



**Lyda Morehouse** leads a double life. By day, she's a mild-mannered science fiction author of the Shamus and Philip K. Dick award-winning AngelINK series. By night, she's the bestselling paranormal romance and urban fantasy writer, Tate Hallaway. She's written and published over a dozen novels (five as Lyda and nine as Tate), and together her two identities have over a decade of professional publishing experience.

WEEK OF JULY 29

## WRITING IN PLACE: EXPLORING THE CITY THROUGH WRITING with Jeanne Bain

Jul 29-Aug 2, 9 a.m.-noon | Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

The creative process can be fed in so many ways and where you write can change your story. In this class, we will explore how physical setting affects our writing by moving around the city and finding great spots to write. We will be meeting at the Loft every day, but will then quickly venture to various locations including: The Guthrie, The Stone Arch Bridge, The Central Library, Izzy's Ice Cream, and Gold Medal Park. Smart shoes, rain gear, and pocket money are essential for all students.



**Jeanne Bain** has an affinity for fanfic, all things dark, producing community radio, and singing Broadway showtunes out of key while doing dishes. Her teaching and writing focus on creative process, rather than product, which allows the moments of our ordinary, everyday lives to inspire the extraordinary.

WEEK OF JULY 29

## PERFORMING & EDITING SPOKEN WORD POETRY with Blythe Baird

July 29-August 2, 1-4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

In this class, we will explore strategies to create an impactful spoken word poem, collaboratively edit to prepare to take on the stage, and practice performance exercises to strengthen our delivery. We will also discuss how to promote/market our writing on a professional level. At the end of the week, we will participate in a "mock" poetry slam to showcase our new skills.



**Blythe Baird** is an author, viral spoken word poet, and teaching artist. Her work has been featured by *The Huffington Post*, *VICE*, *Write Bloody*, *Button Poetry*, *Mic*, and *EverydayFeminism*. Her short film "When the Fat Girl Gets Skinny" won the 2017 ADCAN film award for the National Eating Disorder Association.



## WORLD BUILDING: FROM THE SHIRE TO PANEM with Alex Juffer

July 29–August 2, 1–4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Even an offhand reference to District 13 or Hogwarts plunges us into its fictional world. How can setting serve as such a profound imaginative trigger?

This class will investigate dystopias, parallel universes, and wholesale fictional worlds as starting points, before we begin the process of constructing our own.



**Alex Juffer** received his BA in English at Macalester College and MFA in creative writing at Southern Illinois University. As a graduate student, he taught composition classes every semester, as well as intro to creative writing. He also taught creative writing at the Summer Writers' Workshop and writing lessons to teens at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center in Chicago.

## WRITING A GREAT ACT ESSAY with Rhea Davison

ONLINE  
CLASS

August 5–30 (Online) | Reg \$156.00 Mem \$140.40

Are you planning to take the ACT essay? Then, this class was created for you! We'll take an in-depth look at the ACT, starting with breaking down what the prompt is asking you to do. Next, we'll brainstorm strengths and weaknesses of each perspective and create a strong thesis. This class is ideal for those taking the ACT in the fall and is also excellent practice for students taking essay tests in AP or CIS courses.



**Rhea Davison** has taught teen writing classes at the Loft since 2010, specializing in the ACT Essay and the college application essay. She has experience teaching creative writing, literature, and English composition at the college-level and has an MFA in fiction.



**Classes for Youth**  
(Ages 12–14) | [LOFT.ORG/YOUTH](https://loft.org/youth)

**BUILDING A NOVEL**

with Debra Blake

**July 8–12, 9 a.m.–noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Writing a novel can seem daunting, but this class breaks it down into manageable steps from summary paragraphs to pages of scenes that comprise a chapter. In addition to planning and writing, you will share your writings, receive feedback, and engage in free-writing exercises that jump-start and deepen your thinking.



**Debra Blake** is a Twin Cities' writer, editor, and educator, who has published a book of literary criticism and many articles as a former journalist. She earned a PhD in English at the University of Iowa and has taught numerous literary and writing courses, most recently at the University of Minnesota. She also mentors teens and adults in writing and publishing and edits manuscripts of all types.

**CONSTRUCTING FICTIONAL WORLDS**

with Mike Alberti

**July 8–12, 1–4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Have you ever wondered how your favorite writers can transport you into a completely a different world? In this class, we'll learn to build imaginary worlds from the ground up through games, writing exercises, and readings from YA books such as Harry Potter, The Hunger Games, and Percy Jackson. This class will focus on writing science fiction and fantasy, but anyone interested in practicing their fiction writing is welcome!



Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, **Mike Alberti** is currently an MFA candidate in fiction at the University of Minnesota, where he also teaching undergraduate fiction writing. He earned his BA in English from Vassar College, and has since worked as a journalist in New York and Massachusetts. Mike was the recipient of the annual Sweet Corn Prize for Fiction from Flyway Magazine in 2014.

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! SCHOOL WRITING SKILLS (12-14 YRS)**

with Kat Shepherd

**July 15–19, 9 a.m.–noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Does writing in school can feel like a joyless, impossible chore? Fear not, friends! This class offers practical, concrete steps to help you painlessly write anything from a basic paragraph to a multi-page essay. Using tips and tricks from the experts, we'll learn to crack the code of writing prompts and build a toolbox of strategies that can manage even the most intimidating writing assignments.



**Kat Shepherd** is a writer and educator who just moved to Minnesota. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers because reading should be a joyful experience for everyone. A former classroom teacher, Kat has worked with middle grade students for two decades. Her spooky middle grade book series, *Babysitting Nightmares*, debuts June 5, 2018. Her second book series, *Gemini Mysteries*, debuts spring 2019.

**JOURNALING: GETTING TO KNOW YOURSELF** with Brenda Hudson**July 15–19, 1–4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

If you are interested in writing about your life, this class is for you! You will learn new creative ways to record your deepest thoughts and tell the stories of your life. You will be introduced to a dozen easy journaling techniques that will take you beyond the blank page to crazy fun and thoughtful insights in short order. By the end of class, you will have a journal toolkit full of useful prompts and exercises that you can use again and again to mine the depths of your life.



**Brenda Hudson** is recipient of the Loft's 2016 Excellence in Teaching Fellowship. She is a teacher, editor, writer, and a credentialed journaling instructor through the Center for Journal Therapy. She holds an MS in journalism from Boston University, and a PhD in rhetoric from the University of Minnesota's Department of Writing Studies. Helping others express themselves through writing is her passion.

WEEK OF JULY 22

## KNOCK! KNOCK!: COMEDY, CONNECTION & CULTURE with Levi Weinhausen

July 22-26, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

This class will focus on the art of joke and sketch comedy writing. Students will learn several different writing techniques to observe and pull humor from their everyday lives. This series will introduce students to comedy writing through numerous dynamic examples and critical discussion. We'll discuss what other kinds of writing and performance comedy draws from and share ways that interested students can learn more and try it out for themselves.



**Levi Weinhausen** is a writer, producer, performer, podcaster and educator. He co-founded the all-ages theater company Comedy Suitcase and has created numerous original shows. In 2012 Levi was named an Artist of the Year by City Pages. Levi presents comedy workshops and interactive experiences with his Knight Arts Challenge award winning project the Mobile Comedy Suitcase. He is also a teaching artist on the COMPAS roster.

WEEK OF JULY 22

## EXPERIMENTAL POETRY: PLAYING WITH WORDS, VIDEO, AND MUSIC

with Becca Barnaskis & Nick Jaffe

July 22-26, 1-4 p.m. | Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Poets understand how efficient image and sound can be. Using the widest range of poetic language and sources available to us (including online access and teaching artist-supplied magazines and texts) we'll create original poems, and then make those poems come alive using videos and music that we create ourselves. Tech provided for this class.



**Becca Barnaskis** is a published poet, performer, and has taught poetry for years to a wide range of students in varied contexts including elementary and middle schools.



**Nick Jaffe** is a professional musician, audio engineer, and for over 15 years has taught music, digital recording, video, and the physics of sound to students of all ages in schools and many other contexts.

WEEK OF JULY 29

## WRITING THE FANTASY WORLD with Holly Day

July 29-August 2, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

In this class, we'll learn how important geography is to our stories by building workable fantasy worlds for our characters to live in, with special attention given to geographical features such as waterways, mountains, and even nearby planetary bodies that can be incorporated into our stories. We'll look at many examples of place-based fiction, including many classic fairy tales.



**Holly Day** has worked as a freelance writer, indexer, and editor for more than 25 years, with over 7,000 published articles, poems, and short stories and over a dozen published books. Her writing has been nominated for a National Magazine Award, a 49th Parallel Prize, an Isaac Asimov Award, six Pushcart awards, and three Dzanc Book's Best of the Web awards, and she is the recipient of numerous grants and awards.

WEEK OF JULY 29

## HELP! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE! with Holly Day

July 29-August 2, 1-4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

This class will discuss many of the "tricks" professional writers use to get their creative mojo started. Everything from random character and plot generation to creating vivid scenes out of the blue for your fantastic characters to live will be covered, as well as how to move your characters from the beginning of a story to a satisfying conclusion. We'll discuss plot arc, character development, and the how to create realistic, identifiable conflict in our stories.



**Holly Day** has worked as a freelance writer, indexer, and editor for more than 25 years, with over 7,000 published articles, poems, and short stories and over a dozen published books. Her writing has been nominated for a National Magazine Award, a 49th Parallel Prize, an Isaac Asimov Award, six Pushcart awards, and three Dzanc Book's Best of the Web awards, and she is the recipient of numerous grants and awards.





# Classes for Youth

(Ages 9–11) | [LOFT.ORG/YOUTH](http://LOFT.ORG/YOUTH)

## Rosemount Arts

Can't get into Minneapolis for a youth class this summer? The Loft has a new partner site: the Rosemount Arts Center. Look for the star in the listings below for classes taking place there.

Rose-  
mount



WEEK OF JUNE 25

### WORDS CAN CREATE MAGIC

with Peter Blau

June 25–28 (Tues–Fri), 9 a.m.–noon

Reg \$210.00 Mem \$189.00 Low \$147.00

You like to read about magic, but how can you make your own? Writers create magic with words and spin stories from their imaginations. You'll get writing prompts and exercises to set your imagination free as your ideas expand into real-life adventures or magical creative tales. Bring your best ideas, turn them loose on the page, and let your writing surprise you as you discover the writer in you! (class takes place at the Rosemount Arts Center)

Rose-  
mount



**Peter Blau** teaches adults and children in a variety of venues, and is a recipient of an award from *Mpls/St Paul Magazine* for his work at a women's correctional facility. His primary goal is to make writing approachable to all his students. Peter provides a supportive environment for students as they move through their own personal writing journey. [www.WriteCreateCommunicate.com](http://www.WriteCreateCommunicate.com).

## BUILDING IMAGINARY WORLDS

with Mike Alberti

July 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Have you ever wondered how your favorite writers can transport you into a completely different world? In this class, we'll learn how to build fictional worlds from the ground up. We'll study techniques that other writers have used, and concentrate on building our own fictional worlds, too. We'll try writing exercises, share our writing with one another, read excerpts from books, look at comic books and graphic novels, and practice supporting each other's writing goals.



Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, **Mike Alberti** is currently an MFA candidate in fiction at the University of Minnesota, where he also teaching undergraduate fiction writing. He earned his BA in English from Vassar College, and has since worked as a journalist in New York and Massachusetts. Mike was the recipient of the annual Sweet Corn Prize for Fiction from Flyway Magazine in 2014.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT ME! A LOFT/MCBA COMBO CLASS

w/ Brenda Hudson & MCBA Staff

July 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$277.50 Mem \$249.75 Low \$194.25

Who says being selfish is a bad thing? We'll use fun writing exercises to help you tell your own story of who you are and what you think, feel, and dream. We'll show you how to use your writing and other materials to create a beautiful book, with you as the main character! This is a hands-on class that provides quirky writing prompts to get you thinking about yourself in a new way. At the end of this class, you will take home a wonderful book version of yourself.



**Brenda Hudson** is recipient of the Loft's 2016 Excellence in Teaching Fellowship. She is a teacher, editor, writer, and a credentialed journaling instructor through the Center for Journal Therapy. She holds an MS in journalism from Boston University, and a PhD in rhetoric from the University of Minnesota's Department of Writing Studies. Helping others express themselves through writing is her passion.

## WRITING YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY

with Nneka Onwuzurike

July 8-12, 1-4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Autobiographies tell the story of who you are and the people and events that have shaped you. In this class, students will tap into their most vivid memories and write the story of their lives! We'll explore the meaning of our names, the family that raised us, our childhood homes and neighborhoods, and our favorite objects. At the end of class, you'll have a 1-2 page essay celebrating the best of who you are!



**Nneka Onwuzurike** is a creative nonfiction writer living in Minneapolis, MN. She is currently working on a memoir that explores her experience as a child of two Nigerian immigrants. She has received fellowships from the Loft Literary Center, Intermedia Arts Beyond the Pure, and the Givens Foundation for African-American Literature, and she is a VONA/Voices workshop alum.

## DO YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER?

with Peter Blau

July 15-19, 9 a.m.-noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Is there a writer hiding inside your head? In this class, you will be given the tools to shake your creativity loose and let that writer out to play. You will write, read, share, and write some more, as you learn how to make writing exciting and fun. The teaching artist will help by giving you prompts and exercises to stretch your creativity and unlock your imaginations. If you write, you are a writer. If you want to be a better writer, you should write more, and that's exactly what this class will be about.



**Peter Blau** teaches adults and children in a variety of venues, and is a recipient of an award from *Mpls/St Paul Magazine* for his work at a women's correctional facility. His primary goal is to make writing approachable to all his students. Peter provides a supportive environment for students as they move through their own personal writing journey. [www.WriteCreateCommunicate.com](http://www.WriteCreateCommunicate.com).



**WRITE YOUR STORIES UP!**

with Kate St. Vincent Vogl

**July 15-19, 9 a.m.-noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Do you have so many ideas in your head you can't decide which one to write next? Discover how skilled writers pick out what's needed to pull stories together and make a story stronger, so they can write toward the best ending. We'll explore a bunch of writing prompts, and talk about how to get past the parts where you're getting stuck. In this class, you get to do the kind of writing you *want* to do, not the kind you *have* to do. Discover what comes next while writing UP!



**Kate St. Vincent Vogl** is the author of *Lost & Found: A Memoir of Mothers*. National ABC news has featured her story, and *The Akron Beacon Journal* named it among the best of the year. Her essays appear in best-selling anthologies such as *Listen to Your Mother* and *Why We Ride*. Vogl graduated from Cornell University and from the University of Michigan Law School. Visit [www.katevogl.com](http://www.katevogl.com).

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK! SCHOOL WRITING SKILLS** with Kat Shepherd**July 15-19, 1-4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

This class offers practical, concrete steps to help you painlessly write anything from a basic paragraph to a multi-page essay. Using tips and tricks from the experts, we'll learn to crack the code of writing prompts and build a toolbox of strategies that can manage even the most intimidating writing assignments. The goal is to practice expository writing in a fun and engaging way that gets students ready to head back to school as confident writers with a host of new strategies at their fingertips.



**Kat Shepherd** is a writer and educator who just moved to Minnesota. She loves to create engaging stories for reluctant readers because reading should be a joyful experience for everyone. A former classroom teacher, Kat has worked with middle grade students for two decades. Her spooky middle grade book series, *Babysitting Nightmares*, debuts June 5, 2018. Her second book series, *Gemini Mysteries*, debuts spring 2019.

**ALL DAY SUMMER WRITING CAMP ADVENTURE: GET A CLUE! WRITING MYSTERIES AND CLIFFHANGERS! PUNCHLINES! CATCHPHRASES! WRITING AND ILLUSTRATING YOUR OWN COMIC**

with Stephen Shaskan &amp; Trisha Speed Shaskan

**July 22-26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Reg \$575.00 Mem \$517.50 Low \$402.50

Young writers, grab your best mystery solving gear, your favorite super hero comic, your notebooks and pens, and let's write at the Loft! We'll begin our day by setting up a crime scene and discovering the clues to how the best, most suspenseful mystery stories are written! We'll use props, games, and read stories to inspire our own writing. We'll learn the vocabulary of mysteries while exploring writing craft, from character to plot.

After a short lunch and play break in Gold Medal Park (weather permitting), we'll delve into the world of comics while writing and drawing our own comic books! By the end of the week, students will have their own mystery—from scary to fantastical to funny—and their own comic to take home and enjoy for the rest of the summer!



**Stephen Shaskan** is an author and illustrator, an early childhood educator, and a Loft teaching artist. His debut picture book *A Dog is a Dog* (Chronicle Books) is on New York Public Library's Top 100 Books to Read and Share for 2011, and was a 2011 CBCC Choice. *The Three Triceratops Tuff* (Beach Lane Books) was released in Spring of 2013.



**Trisha Speed Shaskan** has written over forty books for children. Currently, Trisha works as a literacy coordinator at an elementary school. For over fifteen years, Trisha has taught creative writing to children at various places, including Minneapolis public schools and Saint Paul Academy. Trisha won the 2009 McKnight Artist Fellowship for Writers and received her MFA in creative writing from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



## WRITE A ONE-ACT PLAY

with Connie Kingrey Anderson

July 22–26, 9 a.m.–noon

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

You will learn playwriting basics by reading and watching parts of *Monsters, Inc.*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Then you'll use what you've learned to write your own one-act play. Discover how to craft memorable scenes and bring characters to life through revealing dialogue. Our class time will be spent writing, reading aloud, giving and receiving feedback, and revising. By the end of the week you will be able to take home a one-act play that you can perform with your friends.



**Connie Kingrey Anderson** is the author of the Creepers Mysteries series, including *Haunted Cattle Drive* and *Toadies*. Kids can enjoy reading the book (in the front). Then they can star in their own Movie for the Ear using the script (in the back). She also produced the audio movie for *Haunted Cattle Drive*, which won the Audie Award for Best Original Program from the Audio Publishers Association.

## FAIRY TALES, MYTHS, MAGIC, AND BOOKMAKING: A LOFT/MCBA COMBO CLASS

with Marie Olofsdotter & MCBA Staff

July 29–August 2, 9 a.m.–noon

Reg \$277.50 Mem \$249.75 Low \$194.25

Explore the timeless territory of magic as you write your own myth-inspired fairy tale! Students will record the hair-raising adventures of a main character, who sets out on a magical journey to save a troubled world, and along the way, encounters menacing villains and mystical beings. Students will then bring the story to life in a pop-up book at MCBA.



**Marie Olofsdotter** is an interdisciplinary artist and writer. Marie has written and illustrated several children's books and is the recipient of a Mid-America Publishers Award and a Midwest Book Achievement Award. Visit [www.marieolofsdotter.com](http://www.marieolofsdotter.com) for more information.

## GRAPHIC NOVELS: DOWN TO THE BONE

with Shannon Gibney

July 29–August 2, 1–4 p.m.

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Using Jeff Smith's celebrated graphic novel series, *Bone*, as a guide, we will investigate how to write, critique, revise, and share ("publish") our very own graphic novels for and by kids. We will look at how to tell stories using both texts and images, plotting, character development, and other essential elements of this vibrant genre.



**Shannon Gibney** is a writer, educator, activist, and the author of *See No Color* (Carolrhoda Lab, 2015), a young adult novel. Her writing has appeared in *Al Jazeera America*, *The Crisis*, *Gawker*, and other venues. A Bush Artist and McKnight Writing Fellow, she lives with her husband, children, and sister-in-law in Minneapolis.

## Lunch Care

The Loft is able to provide care and supervision for children attending multiple classes throughout the day during the lunch time hour. Loft summer program staff will work and play with your children in a Loft classroom, helping with their writing projects, playing games, and providing morning and afternoon snacks. We do not provide lunch. We'll then guide them to their classroom in time for their next class or to be picked up.

Reg \$10 Mem \$9 Low \$7

**Learn more: [loft.org/care](http://loft.org/care)**

(Ages 6–8) | [LOFT.ORG/YOUTH](https://loft.org/youth)

WEEK OF JUNE 25

with Nancy Carlson

## Rose-mount

**June 25-28 (Tues-Fri), 9 a.m.-noon**

Reg \$210.00 Mem \$189.00 Low \$147.00

Create characters, get to know them and put them in original stories. This is a class for kids who love to draw, write, use their imaginations, and be inspired by a beloved author and illustrator who has published over 65 books and really knows her characters (and imagination!). (Class takes place at the Rosemount Arts Center)



**Nancy Carlson** has been writing and illustrating for children for over 30 years and has 65 published books. She wrote one of her newest books along with a young man, Armond Isaak, who took her class *Use Your Imagination!* at the Loft. The book is called *Armond Goes To A Party*. This is Nancy's seventh year teaching at the Loft and she loves it.

WEEK OF JULY 8

with Lorna Pecard & Ty Newcomb

**July 8-12, 9 a.m.-noon** | Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

If you like superheroes, writing, and drawing, then you'll love this class! You'll create your very own superhero and bring them to life through artwork, stories, poems, and a play. We'll sharpen our skills through games, writing prompts, and costume-making. Just bring your imagination! By the time you complete your Super Writer Training Program, you'll have your very own superhero shield, wrist armor, belt, and folder full of imaginative writing.



**Lorna Pecard** is a Creative Writing MFA candidate at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she teaches English. She is a poetry editor for the *Blue Earth Review*, co-host for KMSU's Weekly Reader, and runs writing workshops for Aktion Club Theatre.



**Ty Newcomb** is currently a poetry MFA candidate at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Ty's poems have appeared in *Stonecoast Review*, *Sagebrush Review*, and *Sucarnochee Review*, among others.

## THIS BOOK IS A MONSTER: A LOFT/ MBCA WRITING AND BOOK-MAKING CLASS with Ellen Fee

**July 15–19, 9 a.m.–noon**

Reg \$277.50 Mem \$249.75 Low \$194.25

What if a book is more than a book? What if a book is really...a monster? Kids will craft monsters of their own making while learning the basics of creative writing. We'll bring our monsters to life as we shape them into real books filled with poems, stories, and illustrations. (Don't worry—our monsters won't be too scary for your 6–8 year olds.)



**Ellen Fee** has spent the past year teaching creative writing at an after-school program in St. Paul. Before that, she graduated from the University of Minnesota, where she wrote an undergrad thesis on children's poetry and literacy development. Her poems have appeared in a variety of publications.

## IF ANIMALS WROTE BOOKS...A LOFT/ MCBA COMBO CLASS with Carolyn Williams-Noren

**July 15–19, 1–4 p.m.**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$249.75 Low \$194.25

This week, you're an animal! Maybe you're a horse, or a tiger, or a spider. How does your body feel? What do you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel? What happens to you? Spend lots of time writing a story about your animal self, and then come downstairs to MCBA and create a book about your animal. You will get your hands dirty in our wet studio, crank a real printing press, and bind and embellish your own unique book.



**Carolyn Williams-Noren's** poetry chapbook, *Small Like a Tooth*, was published in 2015 by Dancing Girl Press. Carolyn founded and tends the Little Poetry Library outside Blue Moon Café at 39th and Lake in Minneapolis, and she was a 2014 winner of a McKnight Artist Fellowship in poetry.

## USE YOUR IMAGINATION with Nancy Carlson

**July 22–26, 9 a.m.–noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Create characters, get to know them and put them in original stories. This is a class for kids who love to draw, write, use their imaginations, and be inspired by a beloved author and illustrator who has published over 65 books and really knows her characters (and imagination!)



**Nancy Carlson** has been writing and illustrating for children for over 30 years and has 65 published books. She wrote one of her newest books along with a young man, Armond Isaak, who took her class Use Your Imagination! at the Loft. The book is called *Armond Goes To A Party*. This is Nancy's seventh year teaching at the Loft and she loves it.

## ACTION! THRILLS! LAUGHTER!—LET'S CREATE A FRIENDSHIP ADVENTURE with Rachel Gabriel

**July 29–August 2, 9 a.m.–noon**

Reg \$262.50 Mem \$236.25 Low \$183.75

Whether you enjoy Captain Underpants or Charlotte's Web, friendship is the main theme in many stories. It can be for you too. Join us for a week of writing and reading stories that focus on a pair of characters. We will read and act out portions of dialogue, as well as practice writing setting, conflict, and resolution. By the end of the week, students will have written the beginning of a beautiful friendship.



**Rachel Gabriel** is a writer and teaching artist who encourages creative expression through the power of storytelling and the complex beauty of the human voice. She was a Creative Nonfiction fellow in the Loft's Mentor Series and a graduate of Hamline University's MFA program. She leads Moon Palace Books' "Children's Story Time" (as "Mama Ray") to encourage the joy of reading and singing together.



*You too!*

The Loft has a full lineup of spring and summer adult classes too—both in-person and online.



Isn't it time you took a little time for yourself too?

**loft.org/classes**

*bring the Loft to you*

## *The* **LOFT** **RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

Schools, libraries, homeschools, hospitals, human service organizations learning creative writing from the Loft's award-winning writers.

We're already working with dozens of organizations and schools. Start planning now to bring Loft programming to your classroom or school during the school year. Learn more at:

**LOFT.ORG/RESIDENCY**

*scholarships*

*The* **LOFT**

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Loft offers scholarships to youth offerings with a 95% discount. Applicants must demonstrate some level of public assistance. Learn more at:

**LOFT.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP**

*get the scoop*

*The* **LOFT** **ENEWS**



**BIT.LY/LOFTENEWS**

## GENERAL PROGRAM INFO

**Registration** | Registration is open as long as there is space available in a class. You can register your child or teen online at [www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org) or by calling 612-379-8999. A detailed confirmation note will be emailed once your registration has processed. Walk-in registrations are also accepted during office hours (T–F, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.). We are here to help.

**Child Care** | The Loft is able to provide lunch time supervision to children and teens of all ages who are enrolled in a morning or afternoon class at the Loft (or both). You may register for lunch time care on the website when you register for a class, or you can call the education office. It is important to note that the Loft does not provide lunches, only supervision in a Loft class room from noon until 1 p.m. Please send a lunch with your child. Loft staff will help your child find the right classroom.

Child care before and after classes is not a part of the programming the Loft is able to offer; children are supervised only during class, and during lunch, if registered. Please do not drop young children off more than five minutes before the start of a class, and make sure to pick up children promptly at class end. Keep in mind that Open Book is a public building in a busy downtown area; generally older teens are fine—and welcome—to hang out on their own in the building if they sign up for multiple classes. Open Book is home to many different businesses, including a lovely book arts gallery and coffee shop on the first floor.

**Loft/MCBA Combo Classes** | Please note that if you register your child for one of our Loft/MCBA combo classes (creative writing and book arts/book making), you will drop your child off in one location (typically, on the first floor of Open Book, in MCBA studio space) and pick them up at the end of class in a different location (typically, on the second or third floor

of Open Book, in a Loft writing classroom). Staff from both the Loft and MCBA will be present to guide you to where your children are when combo classes are in session.

**Age Ranges and Writing Ability** | The age ranges listed for each class are suggested guidelines, but before registering your child for a class outside of her/his age range, please consider that teaching artists propose classes based on age ranges they are comfortable teaching. Suggested age ranges also consider socialization, as well as more mature class discussions; you may have an incredibly gifted child who excels at writing and learning, but please consider whether s/he would be comfortable in a class with children much older/younger, comfortable participating in more mature class discussions pertaining to writing for older audiences, and how it would affect the learning environment of the others. If you have questions please call 612-215-2579.

**Scholarships** | Families or individuals able to prove enrollment in a public assistance program are eligible to receive a 95% scholarship to attend a Loft summer youth class; snacks, meals, and writing materials are provided. For assistance, please contact us at 612-379-8999 or [loft@loft.org](mailto:loft@loft.org).

**Parents With Children or Teens with Special Needs** | Children and teens with special needs or disabilities are always welcome at the Loft! Please call us at 612-215-2579 if you would like to discuss how the Loft can accommodate the needs of your child or teen (hearing or sight impairments, children with PCA's, learning challenges) in order for them to more fully participate in and enjoy Loft classes!

**Student Readings** | Many teaching artists hold student readings on the last day of class; please check in with your child's teaching artist for information on whether or not s/he plans to hold a student reading. Family and friends are always welcome to hear the work created by our talented young writers!

## GENERAL PROGRAM INFO (CONTINUED)

**What to Bring** | Please pack snacks, beverages, lunch (if applicable), and anything else specified in the class description. The Loft will provide a notebook and pencil on the first day of class, but you should feel free to bring along any preferred writing utensils or beloved journals. The Loft does not provide laptops or tablets, unless otherwise indicated in a class description, but students are welcome to bring their own.

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

**About Online Classes for Teens** | Our online classes are asynchronous and run week to week. That means participants can log in any time during the week, from anywhere, but should save time every week to join the discussion and do the class activities. Set 1–2 hours a week aside for the duration of the class to participate. We try to protect your teen's privacy by only sharing first names and no other personal identifying information in the online class environment, but teens are able to divulge more so be sure to discuss safe behaviors with younger teens before they participate. Class communications are only visible to the teaching artist and other teens in the class. Participants will receive instructions on how to access the class and login information a few days before class begins. If you are signing up a teenaged family member or friend, be sure to include their name and email address so they can receive this information directly. We will copy you on the email so you also have this information. For legal reasons we cannot register anyone who will not be at least thirteen years old on the first day of class. It is alright if they turn 18 before the end of class.

## FUNDERS

The Loft's youth programming is made possible through the generous contributions of Loft members, Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, Target, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

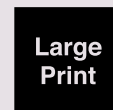


HEARST foundations

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Loft Literary Center strives to be accessible to all, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, veteran status, economic status, sex, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, or disability. As possible, we will remove barriers to participation in our programs to persons with disabilities.

To arrange for accessibility accommodation, please contact the Loft at 612-215-2575 or [loft@loft.org](mailto:loft@loft.org) three weeks in advance. Accessibility services are partly supported by the Rachel Vaughan Memorial Fund. For more information about accessibility see [loft.org/access](https://loft.org/access).







**THE LOFT  
LITERARY CENTER**

Suite 200, Open Book  
1011 Washington Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

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