

The **LOFT**



**YOUNG WRITERS'
PROGRAM 2021**

JUNE - AUGUST 2021

WELCOME TO THE LOFT'S 2021 YOUNG WRITERS' PROGRAM!

We're excited to be releasing our Young Writers' Program 2021. All of our classes will be taking place online this summer.

To our returning students and families: you might notice that our writing camps look a little different this year. We'll be offering a mix of 8-week, 4-week, and week-long intensive classes running from June to August. This new schedule should offer our students and families classes that are better suited to an online learning environment.

We are deeply grateful to our teaching artists, community members, and students for their creativity, flexibility, and understanding as we navigate new challenges and continue to deliver new and exciting creative writing classes to our young writers.

We have a number of new classes to explore and a lot of returning favorites. Explore the ghost story, tackle the college essay, or take one of our "Reading and Writing" classes: hybrid book club/writing workshops where our students will get to write and workshop their own writing while getting inspiration from the books they read together in the class.

At the Loft we take young writers seriously. Whether you've spent years scribbling away in your notebook and nursing dreams of publishing your own book one day, or you're still trying to find your voice, we welcome you. Our classes are generally broken down into suggested age ranges of 13-17, 15-17, 12-14, 9-11, and 6-8 years.

"Combo" classes happen in partnership with the Minnesota Center for Book Arts; "Combo" classes will require material pick-up or delivery. If you're brand new to the Loft, or to writing in general, and have questions on where to jump in, please feel free to call Loft program associates at 612-379-8999; we have something for everyone.

Brianna Low
Young Writers' Program Coordinator

Jennifer Dodgson
Program Director, Education

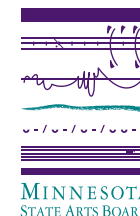
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Find full teaching artist bios, class descriptions, and more program details at loft.org:

Refund and class policies: loft.org/policy
Scholarship offerings: loft.org/scholarship
Teaching at the Loft: loft.org/teach
Advertising opportunities: loft.org/advertise

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

The Loft's youth programming is made possible through the generous contributions of Loft members, 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.



GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Registration

Registration is open as long as there is space available in a class. You can register your child or teen online at www.loft.org or by calling 612-379-8999. A detailed confirmation letter will be emailed once your registration has processed. We are here to help.

Age Ranges and Writing Ability

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

Scholarships

The Loft is committed to addressing financial barriers for youth students and families. In 2021 the Loft will be entering into partnership with community organizations to provide financial assistance for youth students. More information and application instructions will be forthcoming soon on our website at loft.org/youth-programs. For assistance, please contact a Loft Program Associate at 612-379-8999 or edu@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 612-379-8999 if you would like to discuss how the Loft can accommodate the needs of your child or teen (hearing or sight impairments, children with PCA's, learning challenges, closed caption needs) in order for them to more fully participate in and enjoy Loft classes!

Online Safety and Security

The Loft takes online security seriously. Loft staff adheres to the following policies to ensure the safety and security of our Loft students and teaching artists: Zoom IDs and passwords are shared only with registered students; Loft staff and teaching artists will not publicly or privately share Zoom IDs with students not listed on class rosters. No recordings will be made of youth classes under any circumstances.

Teaching artists have full administrative control over online classroom spaces and will remove any person present in the classroom not on the class roster. All Loft youth teaching artists undergo background checks. If you have concerns about online classroom security, please contact the Loft's Youth Program Manager Brianna Low immediately at below@loft.org.

Material and Tech Needs

To participate in our online classes, students must have access to a reliable internet connection and a computer. The Loft does not provide assistance or access to either the internet or computers. Students should have a baseline proficiency in computer use and Zoom. The Loft has training manuals for both Zoom and Google Classroom available on our website and by request.

Should you have questions or concerns about tech accessibility or Zoom please contact our education line at **612-379-8999** or email us at **edu@loft.org**. Students should also come prepared to class with paper, pens, or other writing utensils. If your class requires either a book or other materials, this information will be shared with you prior to registration, both in the class description, and again in your registration email under "class notes".

Please note that Loft/MCBA Combo classes require an in-person material pick-up from the Minnesota Center of Book Arts' physical location. If you are located outside of the Twin Cities or are unable to physically pick up your materials, you can opt to have them shipped to you for a small fee.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

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

Become a Member and Support the Loft Community

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



Accessibility at the Loft

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

To arrange for accessibility accommodation, please contact the Loft at 612-215-2575 or 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.



Classes for Teens

Ages 15-17

CLASSES STARTING IN JULY

FROM SPARK TO STORY: WRITING FICTION FROM LIFE with Olivia Fantini

4 FRIDAYS | JULY 2-23 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 15-17

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

In this class we will use fact as a jumping off point for fiction. Students will be invited to use their magpie minds to select from the treasure trove of personal history, current events, and historical moments to fashion fiction which builds off these existing foundations.



Olivia Fantini earned a Masters in Education and spent six years teaching in Rhode Island and Colorado. She is currently a fiction candidate at the University of Minnesota's MFA program where she teaches Introduction to Creative Writing and is at work on her first novel. Her fiction has appeared in *TriQuarterly* and her slam poem "On Standardized Testing" has appeared on Button Poetry.

WRITING "MY STORY:" THE PERSONAL ESSAY FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND COLLEGE APPLICATIONS with Mitchell LeGrand

4 WEDNESDAYS | JULY 7-28 | 1-3 p.m. | CREATIVE PROCESS |

AGES 15-17 | Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

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



Mitchell LeGrand attended Century College and the University of Minnesota where he received a degree in Global Studies and Political Economics. He is enthusiastic about teaching and connecting youth with opportunities to grow! Although he doesn't work as a professional writer, he spends a lot of time volunteering at schools assisting students with scholarship essay applications!

Classes for Teens

Ages 13-17



CLASSES STARTING IN JUNE

CHILDREN'S BOOKS, COMICS, & CARTOONS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ILLUSTRATION & VISUAL STORYTELLING

with Aurora Whittet Best
1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUNE 21-25 | 10 a.m.-noon | MULTIGENRE

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Jump into the joyful experience of illustrating children's picture books and graphic novels. We'll explore visual storytelling through stylistic inspiration, character development, and storyboarding.

Aurora Whittet Best is the author of a young adult series *The Bloodmark Saga* and the author and illustrator of a children's book *Mama's Knight*. She previously taught at Brainco, the School of Art and Design, and is also a national award-winning graphic designer.

WRITING IT OUT: FROM GETTING STARTED TO GETTING PUBLISHED

with Katie Ward
1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUNE 21-25 | 10 a.m.-noon | CREATIVE PROCESS

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Do you want to ban writer's block, energize your writing, and learn how to publish your work all in one class? Then join us! We will explore the creative process through writing prompts, get feedback on new or existing work, and learn how to submit writing for publication.



Kathryn Ward is a creative writer whose poetry and short stories have appeared in several literary magazines, including *Up North Literary Journal*, *Cathexis Northwest Press*, and *Tiny Seed Literary Journal*. She is a student and teaching assistant at St. Catherine University, where she also works for *Ariston*, a magazine of literary and visual arts.

THE ART OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

with Mariah Rigg
8 MONDAYS | JUN 21-AUG 16 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 13-17

Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

Too often, young authors erase themselves from the narratives they write in an attempt to fit their writing into what they think a story should be. In this class we will explore writing from life, how to center our personal experiences in our writing, and what it means to blur the distinctions between fiction, nonfiction, and autobiography. Together we will tackle the difficulty of reclaiming our own narratives.



Mariah Rigg is a writer from Honolulu, HI who likes writing about how things break. Her work has been featured or is upcoming in *Rough Cut Press*, *Pidgeonholes*, *Hawai'i Pacific Review*, *Yes Poetry*, and elsewhere. She is pursuing an MFA from the University of Oregon where she teaches Intro to Fiction Writing and Composition.

WRITING A GREAT ACT ESSAY with Rhea Davison

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUNE 21-25 | 1-3 p.m. | CREATIVE NONFICTION
AGES 13-17 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

If you're taking the ACT essay, this class is for you! First we'll break down the prompt and scoring. Then, through brainstorming, timed writing, and reviewing samples, you'll develop strategies to tackle the essay while avoiding pitfalls. You'll leave with the confidence and skills you need to do your best!



Rhea Davison has taught at the Loft for five summers and is looking forward to coming back again! She has experience teaching creative writing and English composition at the college-level and has an MFA in fiction. Honors include winning first place in the Robert C. Wright competition, attending the Callaloo workshop, serving as Artist in Residency at Devil's Tower, and participating in the Loft Mentor Series in the genre of poetry.

READING & WRITING WITH
YOU SHOULD SEE ME IN A CROWN

with Margaret Yapp
4 WEEKS, TUE & THU | JUN 22-JUL 15 | 1-2:30 p.m.
AGES 13-17 | Reg \$210.00 | Mem \$189.00



In this hybrid book-club meets writing workshop group, we will read and discuss the novel *You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson as a class, complete writing exercises based on our reading of the novel, and workshop our writings together.



Margaret Yapp is from Iowa City, IA. Her poems and essays have appeared in *Peach Mag*, *Apartment Poetry*, *the minnesota review*, and elsewhere. Margaret is an MFA candidate at the Iowa Writers' Workshop where she teaches literature to college students.

HAUNTED WORDS: READING AND WRITING
GHOST STORIES with Adrianna Jereb

4 WEEKS, WED & FRI | JUN 23-JUL 16 | 10-11:30 a.m. | FICTION
AGES 13-17 | Reg \$210.00 | Mem \$189.00

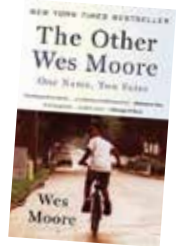
Do you believe in ghosts? Let's dig into that question together as we read ghost stories and practice writing our own. We'll learn about the bones of stories, including worldbuilding, plotting, and characterization, and develop our tools for writing fantasy fiction.



Adrianna Jereb loves any story where something weird happens. She studied creative writing and edited the student newspaper at Macalester College. After graduating in 2018, she taught English at a high school in Madrid, Spain for two years. She's a vegetarian who puts cheese on everything. Someday, she'd like to get a dog and learn to play guitar; for now, she's a freelance tutor and a writer.

FATE OR FREE WILL: READING & WRITING
WITH THE OTHER WES MOORE

with Jasmine Harris
4 TUESDAYS | JUN 23-JUL 14 | 10 a.m.-noon
AGES 13-17 | Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00



In this month-long bookclub/writing workshop, we'll read the nonfiction book *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*; we'll cover discussion topics such as history, fate, and resilience and write our own work based on these themes.



Jasmine Harris is an Educational Specialist and internationally published poet learning and living in Arkansas. Her first collection of poetry, *I May Have Been In My Feelings*, focuses on identity, relationships, and the climate of society. Her inspirations are Maya Angelou, Ntozake Shange, and Tupac Shakur. Stay updated with her next project, events, and more by following her on Instagram @dr_harris.

WRITING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

with Krystal Jagoo
8 WEDNESDAYS | JUN 23-AUG 11 | 1-3 p.m. | CREATIVE PROCESS
AGES 13-17 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

Students will engage with the meaningful practice of letter writing towards embarking on the adventure of fighting for social change. Each session will include review of writing from BIPOC writers, generative letter writing, and voluntary sharing of narratives. Participants will write insightful letters to themselves, Activist Love Letters, and more.



Krystal Kavita Jagoo is an artist and social worker committed to anti-oppressive practice. Her work has been featured in *Huffington Post*, *MedTruth*, *Verywell Mind*, *Social Justice Solutions*, and *o.School*. Her essay "Inclusive Reproductive Justice" was published in Volume 2 of the *Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on Reproductive Justice and Social Change*. Krystal has taught "Sustainable Resistance for BIPOC Folx" writing workshops with Scarborough Arts. Her visual art, "University Ableism Bingo," was featured in *Pandemic: A Feminist Response*, and the zine *CRIP COLLAB*.

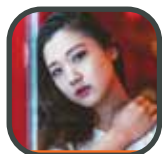
READING AND WRITING POETRY

WITH **THE POET X** with Elizabeth Chen

8 THURSDAYS | JUN 24-AUG 12 | 1-3 p.m.

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

We will explore narrative poetry and verse novels to look at the ways in which poetry can be a powerful vehicle for telling our own stories. We will discuss specific craft elements such as rhythm, word choice, line breaks, descriptive language and characterization. Together, we'll read Elizabeth Acevedo's verse novel *The Poet X* to help guide us.



Elizabeth Chen is both a fiction writer and poet. She holds a BA in Psychology from UC Berkeley and an MA in English from Chapman University. When not writing, she is tutoring children in a multitude of subjects and taking road trips around the states. Her poem, "Next Word, Please," can be found in *The Hong Kong Review*.

FIELDS OF GOLD: WRITING NATURE POETRY

with Kareem Tayyar

4 FRIDAYS | JUN 25-JUL 16 | 1-3 p.m. | POETRY | AGES 13-17

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

This class will provide students with the skills to craft poems that celebrate the beauty of nature, with a focus on emphasizing nature's fragility and sanctity. Students will discuss work by poets like Langston Hughes and Joy Harjo, in addition to receiving verbal and written feedback from the teaching artist.



Paul Kareem Tayyar's novel, *The Prince of Orange County*, received the 2020 Eric Hoffer Award for Young Adult Fiction. He is also the author of two collections of poetry, and his work has been widely published in literary journals. He holds a PhD in English from UC - Riverside and he is a Professor of English at Golden West College, where he teaches Children's Literature and Creative Writing.

THE ART OF NOTICING with Elaine Levia

8 FRIDAYS | JUN 25-AUG 13 | 1-3 p.m. | CREATIVE PROCESS

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

This class is designed to help cultivate a creative practice based in mindfulness techniques. Poetry is a way of expressing what you notice about the world in a succinct and artful way. Mindfulness is noticing with a purpose. We'll use the work of conceptual artists, filmmakers and other writers who do this particularly well, all with their own twist.



Elaine Levia (she/her/hers) is an educator, librarian, writer and dancer. She has tutored, taught writing and facilitated poetry workshops in schools, community centers, and camps since 2007, and has hosted dozens of poetry slams and open mics. She uses her combined experience as a research librarian and teaching artist to empower students in all their curious and creative pursuits.

CLASSES STARTING IN JULY

POETRY, POP CULTURE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

with Saba Keramati

4 MONDAYS | JUL 19-AUG 9 | 1-3 p.m. | POETRY | AGES 13-17

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

As the topic of representation in media and culture grows, poetry remains an excellent way to interrogate society. Whether through celebration, or critique, this class is designed to tackle topics like Beyonce, Sailor Moon, and more. We will read award-winning poems and emerging poets to learn fundamentals of poetic craft.



Saba Keramati is a multiracial writer from the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds degrees in English and Creative Writing from University of Michigan and UC Davis. She has worked as a creative writing instructor, editor, literary magazine reader, and dramaturge. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her work has appeared in or is forthcoming in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*, *Hobart After Dark*, and elsewhere, including several anthologies.

SCREENWRITING FOR TEENS with Michael Gorrie

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUL 19-23 | 1-3 p.m. | PLAY- AND SCREENWRITING

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

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

Michael Gorrie is an award winning screenwriter and filmmaker from the Twin Cities. He is currently in pre-production on a web series about an aging Twin Cities rapper from Executive Producers Alan Porter (McKnight winner), and Sean "Slug" Daley, from Atmosphere.

DIY LITERATURE: ZINES, ARTISTS' BOOKS, AND COMICS

with Taylor Zhang

4 TUESDAYS | JUL 20-AUG 10 | 10 a.m.-noon | CREATIVE NONFICTION

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

This class will provide a broad overview of DIY literature — those books, pamphlets, comics, and zines that are self-made and self-published, often with limited resources. Later, we will apply our insights to self-publish our very own book.



Taylor Zhang is a teaching fellow at Columbia University in New York, where she recently received her MFA in nonfiction. She runs a small Risograph press (Choo Choo Press) that publishes literary zines and chapbooks. Her own work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Louisville Review*, and *Columbia Journal*.

SUMMER WRITING GROUP FOR TEENS

with Kaia Preus

4 TUESDAYS | JUL 20-AUG 10 | 1-3 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 13-17

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

This writing lab is perfect for any writer who wants to practice their skills, share their work and get feedback, and engage in a supportive and fun learning environment. Each week, we will share our work, talk about the writing process, and have time to write.



Kaia Preus is a writer and creative writing teacher in Minneapolis. She is the author of *The War Requiem* (Essay Press, 2020) and holds an MFA in creative writing from Hollins University. She was a 2019 Author Fellow through the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing and her work has appeared in *Pleiades*, *The Drum*, *The Briar Cliff Review*, and elsewhere.

READING & WRITING FANFICTION WITH *CARRY ON*

with Jack Harris

4 WEEKS, WED & FRI | JUL 21-AUG 13 | 10 a.m.-noon

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

What happens when the hero falls in love with his nemesis instead of fighting him? Students will flex their reading and writing muscles to answer similar questions by investigating how Rainbow Rowell's fanfiction-inspired novel *Carry On* offers a new and diverse take on old stories.



Jack Harris is a fiction MFA candidate at MSU Mankato who also holds degrees in creative writing and graphic design. He has previously served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *SAGA Art & Literary Magazine*. His work has appeared in *Ligonier Valley Writers* and *Wisconsin People & Ideas*.

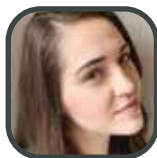
MONSTERS AND MAGIC IN FAIRYTALES

with Elizabeth Bluth

4 WEEKS, WED & FRI | JUL 21-AUG 13 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$280.00 Mem \$252.00

This class will introduce students to the origins of fairy and folk tale writing, themes, and motifs and explore modern adaptations such as those by Disney or Studio Ghibli, with particular attention to how and why these magical and monstrous stories continue to be relevant today.



Elizabeth Bluth is a writer of fiction, poetry, and plays. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *LIT Magazine*, *Kissing Dynamite Poetry*, *Emerge Literary Journal*, and others. She has taught at The New School and The University of Redlands. She holds degrees and certificates in creative writing and theatre. She is a graduate of the New School's MFA program in fiction.

WHAT CAN POETRY DO? EXPLORING NEW POETIC POSSIBILITIES

with Jake Kirby

4 WEDNESDAYS | JUL 21-AUG 11 | 1-3 p.m. | POETRY | AGES 13-17

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

In this class, we will work to subvert the consciousness of our minds, and attempt to write from the new spaces that emerge in their absence and witness the results. We will call on techniques such as meditation, somatic poetry, erasure, centos, and other surrealist poetic techniques.



Jake Kirby is a writer who recently graduated from UMass Amherst and currently resides in Massachusetts. They have previously worked with the Juniper Institute for Young Writers as a Program Assistant. Jake is an editor and reviewer for the online journal *Decolonial Passage*.

INTRODUCTION TO FLASH FICTION

with Ariel Goldenthal

4 THURSDAYS | JUL 22-AUG 12 | 10-11:30 a.m. | FICTION

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$105.00 | Mem \$94.50

Flash fiction, which is defined as any story that is fewer than 1,000 words (about 4 pages), has been around for decades, but not many people know about it. If you have tons of story ideas and not a lot of time, want to be able to write a complete story in 30 minutes, or just enjoy writing short and beautiful pieces, this class is for you.



Ariel M. Goldenthal holds her MFA in fiction from George Mason University where she is now an assistant professor of English. Her flash fiction writing has appeared in *MoonPark Review*, *Emerge Literary Journal*, *Tiny Molecules*, and more.

WRITING ABOUT NATURE IN THE TIME OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

with Halee Kirkwood

4 THURSDAYS | JUL 22-AUG 12 | 1-3 p.m. | CREATIVE NONFICTION

AGES 13-17 | Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

In this class, we'll address the urgent issue of climate change through creative non-fiction. By the end of the class you'll have a wide array of writing tools to describe your climate concerns — and the joy of nature that makes it worth saving!



Halee Kirkwood is a poet and descendant of the Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and received their MFA from Hamline University. Kirkwood is a mentor with the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop and 2019-2020 Loft Mentor Series Fellow. They were a 2019 inaugural Teaching Fellow at the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writing Conference at Arizona State University and their minichapbook, "Exorcising The Catalogue," is available with Rinky Dink Press.

FICTION OF THE STRANGE with Rachel Moulton

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUL 26-30 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 13-17

Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Consider the outrageous, the hilarious, the unrealistic, and construct a world in which it is the accepted norm. In this class we will investigate the different narrative forms you can use to shape a story. From using a list to construct to writing in vignettes, there is a great deal that can be done to produce something wholly your own.



Rachel Eve Moulton earned her BA from Antioch College and her MFA from Emerson College. Her work has appeared in *Beacon Street Review*, *Bellowing Ark*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Cream City Review*, and *Bryant Literary Review*, among other publications. Her short story "Deluge" is forthcoming in *New Ohio Review*. Her debut novel—*Tinfoil Butterfly*—was long-listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize.

CLASSES STARTING IN AUGUST

WILDERNESS WRITING CRASH COURSE

with Kelsey Daly

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | AUG 2-6 | 1-3 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 13-17

Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

During this week-long class, we'll explore writing about wilderness adventure, including outdoor sports, the natural world, technical guides, natural history, and environmental justice. We'll read excerpts from a full roster of outdoor adventurers, including columnists with Melanin Base Camp, adaptive athletes and gear designers, and the conservationists working to keep our home healthy. Students will learn to use personal narrative, sensory details, and outdoor research to explore their relationship to the natural world.



Kelsey Daly is a writer and photographer living in Minneapolis. She worked as an assistant for the Veteran's Book Project, a series of workshops that helped survivors of war and refugees write autobiographical books, as well as the Positive Stories Project at the Research and Documentation Center in Sarajevo, which sought stories of heroism across the ethno-religious divides of the 1992-1995 conflict. She is currently finishing her first YA fantasy novel, *Quillfall*, which was the recipient of a 2020 Minnesota State Artist Initiative Grant.

Classes for Teens

Ages 12-14



CLASSES STARTING IN JUNE

RETHINKING THE SUPERHERO with Alex Juffer

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUN 21-25 | 1-3 p.m. | CHILDREN'S & YA

AGES 12-14 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Avengers is over. Batman is boring. We need new heroes. That's where you come in. We will discuss the importance of backstory, how super-abilities arise, and what forms of diversity we want to see represented. This class will give you the tools to craft a hero (or anti-hero).



Alex Juffer is a graduate of the MFA program at Southern Illinois University. He is represented by Jordan Breindel of Literary Counsel. His work has been previously published in *Epoch*, *The Red Line*, *Maudlin House* and more. He teaches contemporary fiction at Southern New Hampshire University.

WRITING OUR STORIES: CHARACTERS, PLANS, AND PLOTS with Chris Negron

4 TUESDAYS | JUN 22-JUL 13 | 10 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

How do you create fictional worlds and stories? Do you fill out notebooks with plans and plot points, or do you write by the seat of your pants? In this class, we'll explore how to write our stories and plan out our novels in ways that are generative, fun, and can get our creativity flowing.



Chris Negron is the author of *Dan Unmasked* (HarperCollins 2020), which was an Indies Introduce Summer/Fall 2020 pick by the American Booksellers Association, a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection, and a nominee for the middle grade fiction category of the Cybils Awards. He grew up outside Buffalo, New York and attended Yale University. If you spot him in the wild, it's probably in a comic book shop. He now lives in Atlanta with his wife. Visit him at www.chrisnegron.com

POETRY CLUB with Carolyn Williams-Noren

4 WEEKS, WED & FRI | JUN 23-JUL 16 | 1-3 p.m. | POETRY

AGES 12-14 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

Are you poem-curious? Do you already write poems? Want to write poems but are never sure where to start? This is the place for you! We'll get inspired by all kinds of poems, write our own, and give each other useful, encouraging feedback.



Carolyn Williams-Noren writes poems and lyric essays. Her poetry chapbook, "Small Like a Tooth," was published by Dancing Girl Press in 2015. She lives in Minneapolis.

BUILDING ADVENTURES AND PLAYABLE WORLDS with Jack Harris & Anthony Procopio Ross

8 THURSDAYS | JUN 24-AUG 12 | 10 a.m.-noon | MULTIGENRE

AGES 12-14 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

This class is designed to allow students to immerse themselves into fantastic worlds that they can bring home to friends, family, and fellow wizards. We will take new adventurers to faraway lands populated with diverse casts of characters, magic, and monsters, and examine the machinery and storytelling at work.



Jack Harris is a fiction MFA candidate at MSU Mankato who also holds degrees in creative writing and graphic design. He has previously served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *SAGA Art & Literary Magazine*. His work has appeared in *Ligonier Valley Writers* and *Wisconsin People & Ideas*.

Anthony Procopio Ross is a Poetry MFA Candidate at MSU Mankato. When he's not teaching, Anthony spends his time writing, interviewing artists, and creating hand-cut collages. Anthony's poems have appeared in the *Laurel Review*, *Levee Magazine*, and *Evocations Review*. He is currently a Poetry Editor and Visual Arts Editor at the *Blue Earth Review*.



UPSIDE DOWN: WRITING THE FAMILIAR INTO STRANGE with Roohi Choudhry

4 THURSDAYS | JUN 24-JUL 15 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

In this generative writing class about unearthing strange stories inside familiar rooms, we'll incorporate magic, fantasy, and horror in our writing to turn the banal into the babadook. Using discussions, readings, prompts, and games, we'll spot the spooky stories hiding within everyday books, songs, and memories.

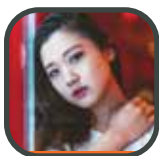


Roohi Choudhry was born in Pakistan and grew up in southern Africa and the Middle East. Her work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Callaloo* and *The Kenyon Review*. She holds an MFA in fiction from the University of Michigan, where she taught undergraduates. She now teaches fiction and memoir writing in New York City and online; she also consults for the United Nations.

WRITING FOR SCHOOL: CREATING STRONG ARGUMENTS with Elizabeth Chen

8 FRIDAYS | JUN 25–AUG 13 | 1–3 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 12–14
Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

In this class we will focus on the core components of writing strong academic essays. We'll cover topics like brainstorming exciting and interesting topics, how to write introductions and conclusions, and more. We'll talk about how to make 4-5 paragraph papers not so boring, and how acknowledging the "other side" can strengthen an essay. We'll outline our own essays in a fun, supportive environment and share them with each other. You'll walk out of this class with new tools and more confidence in your academic writing skills.



Elizabeth Chen is both a fiction writer and poet. She holds a BA in Psychology from UC Berkeley and an MA in English from Chapman University. When not writing, she is tutoring children in a multitude of subjects and taking road trips around the states. Her poem, "Next Word, Please," can be found in *The Hong Kong Review*.

CLASSES STARTING IN JULY

FICTION WRITING CRASH COURSE

with Kaia Preus

1 WEEK, MON–FRI | JUL 19–23 | 10 a.m.–noon | FICTION | AGES 12–14
Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Do you have an idea for a short story or a novel but you don't know where to begin? This class is perfect for the beginning to intermediate fiction writer who wants to practice their skills and share their work in a fun and supportive environment.



Kaia Preus is a writer and creative writing teacher in Minneapolis. She is the author of *The War Requiem* (Essay Press, 2020) and holds an MFA in creative writing from Hollins University. She was a 2019 Author Fellow through the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing and her work has appeared in *Pleiades*, *The Drum*, *The Briar Cliff Review*, and elsewhere.

TELLING STORY (12–14) with Ty Chapman

4 MONDAYS | JUL 19–AUG 9 | 1–3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12–14

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

This class will focus on how to create great narratives by exploring different aspects of story and storytelling. We'll focus on character development, and how to think up compelling characters. We'll also look at story arcs—students will brainstorm narratives as we learn different concepts of story. Finally we'll discuss the "Why" of storytelling. Why am I writing THIS story? What am I trying to say?



Ty Chapman is a Twin Cities-based author, poet, puppeteer, and playwright of Nigerian and European descent. He has been creating art with social justice themes for many years and is passionate about speaking to the Black experience in America. He is a Loft Mirrors & Windows fellow and has published a collection of poems through SOFTBLOW.

EXPLORING THE FAIRY TALE

with Liz von Klemperer

4 TUESDAYS | JUL 20–AUG 10 | 10 a.m.–noon | FICTION | AGES 12–14

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

Once upon a time, witches, princesses, and evil stepmothers populated our consciousness, from Disney movies to bedtime stories. Plot twist: the land of fairy tales is not so far, far away! We'll generate writing through in-class exercises, group discussions, and readings. Students will create stories inspired by fairytales.



Liz von Klemperer is a writer, educator, and editor based in New York City. Liz received an MFA in Fiction from Columbia University in 2019, where she acted as the online fiction editor for the *Columbia Journal*. Liz has been a staff writer for *Electric Literature*, and has had reviews and interviews featured in *Tin House*, *The Rumpus*, *Lambda Literary*, and *Full Stop*. Liz is currently at work on a novel.

WRITING THE FANTASY WORLD with Holly Day

4 TUESDAYS | JUL 20–AUG 10 | 1–3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12–14

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

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.



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 numerous awards, and she is the recipient of two Midwest Writer's Grants, a Plainsongs Award, and the 2011 Sam Ragan Prize for Poetry.

WRITE WHAT YOU LOVE with Chris Negron**4 WEDNESDAYS | JUL 21-AUG 11 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 12-14**

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

Most writers have heard the phrase “write what you know” but this class will encourage students to use what they love in a story. Learn how to create the foundation for compelling stories by mining the things you love or are vitally important to you.



Chris Negron is the author of *Dan Unmasked* (HarperCollins 2020), which was an Indies Introduce Summer/Fall 2020 pick by the American Booksellers Association, a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection, and a nominee for the middle grade fiction category of the Cybils Awards. He grew up outside Buffalo, New York and attended Yale University. If you spot him in the wild, it's probably in a comic book shop. He now lives in Atlanta with his wife. Visit him at www.chrisnegron.com

WRITING LAB with Emily Weitzman**4 WEEKS, WED & FRI | JUL 21-AUG 13 | 1-3 p.m. | MULTIGENRE****AGES 12-14 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00**

In this process-driven and generative writing class, we will write together, create our own stories and poems with the help of writing exercises, develop our voices on the page, share our work, and connect with other young writers. This class will focus on idea generation, prompts to ignite in-class writing, writing workshop, and revision skills.



Emily Weitzman is a writer and educator from New York. She has taught creative writing to students of all ages in places ranging from Nairobi to Cape Cod to Kathmandu. Her writing has been published in *Longreads*, Vol 1. *Brooklyn*, and *The Kathmandu Post*, and elsewhere, and her spoken word poetry has been featured on HuffPost, Bustle, and Button Poetry. She holds an MFA in creative nonfiction from Columbia University.

GET REAL: WRITING REALISTIC FICTION

with Lisa M. Bolt Simons

4 THURSDAYS | JUL 22-AUG 12 | 10 a.m.-noon | FICTION**AGES 12-14 | Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00**

Numbered agents with legacies, students with magical powers, a talking lion. Yes, all good stories. But they're not real; they can't really happen. In this class check out realistic fiction--stories that can really happen--explore essential pieces of a novel, and write your story. Come and GET REAL!

Lisa M. Bolt Simons is the author of over 40 fiction and nonfiction books for children and adults. An educator with over 25 years of experience, she's worked with students ages 5 to 70 from around the world. Her website is www.lisamboltsimons.com.

**GET OUT OF HERE!: WRITING “OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD” FICTION** with Lisa M. Bolt Simons**4 FRIDAYS | JUL 23-AUG 13 | 10 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 12-14**

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

A sport on broomsticks, thoughts on skin like tattoos, a world that opens up with a punch of a tree. All good stories that can't really happen. In this class explore “out-of-this-world” fiction, dig into pieces of a novel, and write your story. Get out of here in this class!



Lisa M. Bolt Simons is the author of over 40 fiction and nonfiction books for children and adults. An educator with over 25 years of experience, she's worked with students ages 5 to 70 from around the world. Her website is www.lisamboltsimons.com.

CLASSES STARTING IN AUGUST**FINDING FANTASY IN THE EVERYDAY**

with Kelsey Daly

1 WEEK MON-FRI | AUG 2-6 | 10 a.m.-noon | MULTIGENRE |**AGES 12-14 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50**

Our daily lives are full of fodder for our fantasy worlds. During this week-long intensive, we will be taking real moments from our everyday lives and transforming them into fantasy short stories. Instead of looking for inspiration outside ourselves, we'll dig into the source material available in our own lives before layering on imaginative twists.



Kelsey Daly is a writer and photographer living in Minneapolis. She worked as an assistant for the Veteran's Book Project, a series of workshops that helped survivors of war and refugees write autobiographical books, as well as the Positive Stories Project at the Research and Documentation Center in Sarajevo, which sought stories of heroism across the ethno-religious divides of the 1992-1995 conflict. She is currently finishing her first YA fantasy novel, *Quillfall*, which was the recipient of a 2020 Minnesota State Artist Initiative Grant.



Classes for Kids

Ages 9–11

CLASSES STARTING IN JUNE

TELLING STORY (9-11) with Ty Chapman

4 MONDAYS | JUN 21-JUL 12 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

This class will focus on how to create great narratives by exploring different aspects of story and storytelling. We'll focus on character development, and how to think up compelling characters. We'll also look at story arcs—students will brainstorm narratives as we learn different concepts of story. Finally we'll discuss the “Why” of storytelling. Why am I writing THIS story? What am I trying to say?



Ty Chapman is a Twin Cities-based author, poet, puppeteer, and playwright of Nigerian and European descent. He has been creating art with social justice themes for many years and is passionate about speaking to the Black experience in America. He is a Loft Mirrors & Windows fellow and has published a collection of poems through SOFTBLOW.

IT'S ALL ABOUT ME! with Brenda Hudson

4 TUESDAYS | JUN 22-JUL 13 | MULTIGENRE | AGES 9 - 11

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

Tell your own story of who you are and what you think, feel, and dream! We'll show you how to use your writing to learn more about yourself and to create stories with you as the main character!



Brenda Hudson is an award-winning teacher, writer, and author. She loves teaching youth and adults at the Loft and has twice received its Excellence in Teaching Fellowship. She also teaches at the Madeline Island School of the Arts, and at schools, libraries, and historical societies. She holds an MS in journalism from Boston University and a PhD in rhetoric from the U of MN's Department of Writing Studies. She is the founder of voicedlife.com.

WRITING FUNNY STORIES with Kristi Romo

4 TUESDAYS | JUN 22-JUL 13 | MULTIGENRE | AGES 9 - 11

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

In this class, we will learn on how to write funny short stories. We will review the key elements of stories—character, plot, point-of-view, setting—and incorporate them in our own stories. We will also examine hilarious short stories to see what techniques writers use to make them so funny.



Kristi Romo is a high school English/Reading teacher. She has her MFA in Creative Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University. She loves to paint for fun, cook delicious meals, and recently fell headfirst down the stairs at her parent's house. She loves to write funny stories that will get you right in the heart.

LET'S WRITE! SUMMER WRITING GROUP FOR AGES 9-11

with Starrla Cray

8 WEDNESDAYS | JUN 23-AUG 11 | 10 a.m.-noon | MULTIGENRE

AGES 9 - 11 | Reg \$280.00 | Mem \$252.00

Are you looking for a fun way to connect with other writers this summer? Join us as we explore fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction through group writing activities and individual writing prompts. This is a great opportunity for writers of any skill level to meet new friends and receive encouragement.



Starrla Cray is an English composition instructor and creative writing MFA candidate at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has a BA in journalism and spent 10 years working as a reporter and editor. Her writing, photography, and artwork explore the natural world and the human experience.

WRITE LIKE AN ANIMAL: A LOFT/MCBA COMBO CLASS

with Carolyn Williams-Noren

5 THURSDAYS | JUN 24-JUL 22, 9 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$277.50 | Mem \$249.75

In this class, write like an animal! Develop and inhabit an animal character (real and researched, wild and imagined, or something in between). Write your story and make a handmade book to show it off.



Carolyn Williams-Noren writes poems and lyric essays. Her poetry chapbook, "Small Like a Tooth," was published by Dancing Girl Press in 2015. She lives in Minneapolis.

100 WAYS TO KEEP WRITING

with Carolyn Williams-Noren

4 FRIDAYS | JUN 25-JUL 16 | 10 a.m.-noon | MULTIGENRE | AGES 9-11

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

Everyone tells young writers, "Keep writing." It's good advice. But how? Find out about 100 games, questions, tips, tricks, ideas, and tools to keep you writing. Try out many of them, and take away a list of others to use on your own.



Carolyn Williams-Noren writes poems and lyric essays. Her poetry chapbook, "Small Like a Tooth," was published by Dancing Girl Press in 2015. She lives in Minneapolis.

CLASSES STARTING IN JULY

SPY STORIES

with Connie Kingrey Anderson

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JULY 12-16 | MULTIGENRE | AGES 9-11

Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Are you captivated by spy missions, double agents, disguises and secret codes? Then join us for this week-long adventure as we read spy stories and write our own.



Connie Kingrey Anderson is the author of the Creepers Mysteries series, including *Haunted Drive* and *Toadies*. She also produced the audio movie for *Haunted Cattle Drive*, which won the Audie Award for Best Original Program from the Audio Publishers Association. Previously, Connie produced films and videos in Los Angeles. She has a BA in Theatre from the U of MN and an MFA in Drama from the University of Georgia.

BUILDING A NOVEL: FROM PARAGRAPHS TO PAGES

with Debra Blake

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JULY 19-23 | 10 a.m.-noon | CREATIVE PROCESS

AGES 9 - 11 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

Writing a novel can seem daunting, but "Building a Novel" breaks it down into manageable steps. We will work on plot, characterization, point of view, and scene building. I will provide short, informative lectures. Classes include free-writing exercises that help jump-start and deepen your thinking.



Debra Blake is a Twin Cities writer, editor, and educator, who has taught literature and writing courses and mentors teens and adults in writing and revising. She participated in The Loft's first year-long Novel Writing Project with Peter Geye and is finishing a novel about three Iowa sisters whose lives are upended when the family loses the farm during the Great Depression.

FAIRY TALES, MYTH, MAGIC, AND BOOKMAKING: WRITE YOUR OWN STORY: A LOFT/MCBA COMBO CLASS

with Marie Olofsdotter

1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JULY 19-23 | 1-4 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 9-11

Reg \$277.50 | Mem \$249.75

Explore the timeless territory of magic and write your own fairy tale! Record the hair-raising adventures of a main character, who sets out on a journey to save a troubled land, then bring your story to life in an artists' book at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts.



Marie Olofsdotter is an interdisciplinary artist and writer. Born and raised in Sweden, she has lived in Minneapolis since 1982. Marie has written and illustrated several children's books and won many awards. She has been working as a teaching artist and creative consultant for more than 20 years. For more information visit www.marieolofsdotter.com.

WRITING SCARY STORIES with Kristi Romo

4 TUESDAYS | JULY 20-AUG 10 | 10 a.m.-noon | FICTION | AGES 9 - 11

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

In this class, we will learn on how to write scary short stories. We will review the key elements of stories—character, plot, point-of-view, setting—and incorporate them in our own stories. We will also examine creepy and unsettling short stories to see what techniques writers use to make them so suspenseful and upsetting.



Kristi Romo is a high school English/Reading teacher. She has her MFA in Creative Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University. She loves to paint for fun, cook delicious meals, and recently fell headfirst down the stairs at her parent's house. She loves to write funny stories that will get you right in the heart.

GET PSYCHED ABOUT WRITING!

with Sara Altman

4 TUESDAYS | JUL 20-AUG 10 | 1-3 p.m. | MULTIGENRE | AGES 9-11

Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

This class will introduce students to the wonderful world of writing by introducing broad genres (nonfiction, fiction, poetry). Each week we will address a different element of writing and we'll cover topics such as journaling, short story structure, character, setting, and more. Classes will consist of short interactive lectures, writing exercises, and opportunities for students to share and enjoy one another's work. Together we'll explore the fun, therapeutic, and enlightening effects of writing and will have the opportunity to discover and develop our own voices and writing style. There will be time for questions and discussion as they aid in the student's understanding and creativity.



Sara Altman holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in Psychology, is the creator of WhimsicalPoet, an online poetry resource, and editor of the affiliated Journal of Contemporary Poetry. She has poems published in PoetryPotion.Com, 34th Parallel Magazine, and in Willows Wept Review. When not writing and working on the Website or Journal, she can be found hiking the Hudson Valley with her pup, enjoying the home life with her wife and pets, cooking up a storm, or ripping up the pavement with her electric moped.

EXPLORING STORYTELLING THROUGH READING AND WRITING with Starrla Cray

4 THURSDAYS | JUL 22-AUG 12 | 1-3 p.m. | FICTION | AGES 9-11

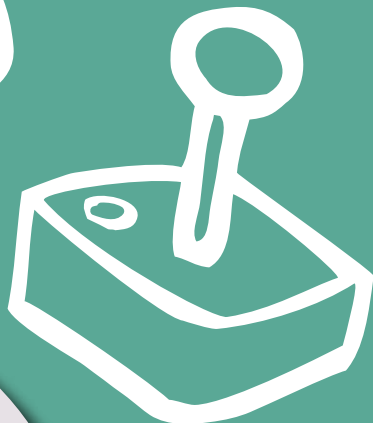
Reg \$140.00 | Mem \$126.00

Have you ever read a really good book and wondered, "How did the author do that?" In this class, we'll explore the basic elements of fiction and do some writing on our own. Young writers of any skill level will build confidence in their abilities. We'll also do some reading, using excerpts from Joy McCullough's middle-grade novel, A Field Guide to Getting Lost, as a springboard for our own writing.



Starrla Cray is an English composition instructor and creative writing MFA candidate at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has a BA in journalism and spent 10 years working as a reporter and editor. Her writing, photography, and artwork explore the natural world and the human experience.

Classes for Kids Ages 6-8



CLASS STARTING IN JUNE

USE YOUR IMAGINATION! with Nancy Carlson
1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JUNE 21-25 | 10 a.m.-noon | CREATIVE PROCESS
AGES 6-8 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

This is a class for kids who love to draw and write. We will invent a character and use artwork and the written word to bring it to life!



Nancy Carlson has been writing and illustrating for children for over 30 years and has 65 published books. She recently wrote a book with a young man, Armond Isaak, who took this very class (Use Your Imagination!) at the Loft. When Nancy is not writing, illustrating, or teaching, she loves to ride her bike and eat cookies.

CLASS STARTING IN JULY

USE YOUR IMAGINATION! with Nancy Carlson
1 WEEK, MON-FRI | JULY 26-30 | 10 a.m.-noon | CREATIVE PROCESS
AGES 6-8 | Reg \$175.00 | Mem \$157.50

This is a class for kids who love to draw and write. We will invent a character and use artwork and the written word to bring it to life!



Nancy Carlson has been writing and illustrating for children for over 30 years and has 65 published books. She recently wrote a book with a young man, Armond Isaak, who took this very class (Use Your Imagination!) at the Loft. When Nancy is not writing, illustrating, or teaching, she loves to ride her bike and eat cookies.

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...and much more!



bring the Loft to you

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

Our classes harness the power of the written word to strengthen every student's voice, and we're happy to work with you to create content that fits your needs.

Want to bring the Loft to you?
Contact Rachel Yang: **ryang@loft.org**

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You, too!

The Loft has a full lineup of online classes for grown-ups!
Treat yourself this summer – awaken that creative spirit.



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