

Name	Presenter(s)	Description	Audience	Length	Level	Day
Communication - Beyond Dialogue Tags	Amelia Loken	Communication is more than spoken English, that can be jotted down and wrapped in quotation marks. Amelia will explore communication in its more visual aspects, from facial expressions and body language to memes/emoticons to sign languages (in all their varieties). Amelia will use her experience as an ASL user and writing from Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing perspectives in her YA novels. She will also encourage group participation as they use photos, memes, and volunteers playing a short game of charades as writing prompts in the last 20 mins.	GN, Illustration, MG, PB, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Creating a Buzz with Your Local Bookstores	Eric Rosswood, Valerie Bolling, Adria Karlsson	With so many books available in bookstores, how do you get yours to stand out? Join authors Valerie Bolling, Adria Karlsson, and Eric Rosswood, as they discuss how they built relationships with local independent bookstores using a combination of planned bookstore "tours" and dropping into local bookstores when they happened by. They will discuss tips they learned that helped get those indie bookstores to champion their books in their physical stores and their social media accounts. Attendees will leave this workshop with the tools to find their own routes for bookstore tours, knowledge about approaching bookstore owners and sellers, information on what to bring with them, and insight into what to expect.	PD	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Creating Vibrant Secondary Characters	Sylvia Liu	When writing a novel, it's just as important to flesh out your secondary characters as your main characters. Middle grade authors Sylvia Liu and Elaine Kiely Kearns will share tips on how to create memorable and complex secondary characters; provide examples of successful secondary characters in middle grade and YA novels; and give writing exercises to help develop your secondary characters.	MG, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Easy Peasey - Writing Easy Reader Books	Jennifer E Morris	Picture books are meant to be read TO kids. Easy readers are meant to be read BY kids. We will discuss considerations when writing for this genre. Write books for beginning readers that to get them excited about reading and get them to come back and read your book again and again.	PB	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Embrace the Mess!	Courtney Pippin-Mathur	Courtney will lead students through several drawing and painting exercises to help unlock their "brain doors" to create art for fun and to generate new ideas and reinvigorate the love of art for art's sake. Bring a sketchbook and be ready to have fun and get (a little) messy.	Illustration, PB	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Help! My Picture Book Manuscript is Not Working! (Intensive)	Heidi E.Y. Stemple	10 things to help you identify and fix a picture book manuscript in revision.	PB	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	Beginner	Sunday

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High-Low Books: Stretch Your Skills by Writing Books for Reluctant Readers	Rebecca J. Allen	High-low books are a hot segment of the middle-grade market. What are they? HIGH engagement, LOW reading level. They have exciting plots, engaging characters, and fun graphics—perfect for reluctant readers. High-low books address more grown-up topics than others of similar length, helping readers build vocabulary, reading confidence, and love of story. This workshop will cover what publishers look for in high-low books, tips on developing concepts, characters, and on drafting pitches. By writing high-low, you won't just stretch your skills and land a book deal. You'll stretch reluctant readers' literacy skills and love of reading.	MG, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Illustration workshop with Christopher Denise	Christopher Denise	TK	Illustration	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Irresistible Doorways: Nailing Opening Scene	Cameron Rosenblum	You've got a great concept for your MG or YA novel, a story you really think future readers will love. Is your opening scene doing it justice? In this hands-on workshop, participants will explore different ways to balance action, voice, character, tension, and sensory detail to create the optimal opening scene for their unique story-- and also learn what can be left for later in the narrative (or left out altogether). I'll use literary and cinematic examples to illustrate irresistible entry points and what it is about them that draws us in.	MG, YA	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	General	Sunday
Let's STRETCH our Understanding of Neurodiversity in Kidlit	Meghan Wilson Duff, Katie Mazeika, Federico Erebia	This workshop will include a brief overview of neurodiversity as a concept, as well as the terms neurodivergence, neurodivergent (ND), and neurotypical. There will be a moderated panel discussion of authors and/or illustrators who have forthcoming books with ND characters. The panel will address the importance of ND representation, relationship between disability, neurodiversity, and diagnosis, things to consider when writing ND characters, strategies for writing ND characters outside your own experience, and the importance of intersectionality. Attendees will have time for Q&A and will receive a handout of resources and recommended titles.	MG, PB, YA	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	General	Sunday
No Rhyme, No Rhythm, No Problem! (Intensive)	Matt Forrest Esenwine	Rhyme and rhythm often dominate discussions about the craft of writing children's poetry; however, poetry is much more than that! Free verse, from children's poems to YA novels, eschews rhyme and meter in favor of devices like creative line breaks and internal rhyme. This workshop is geared both for writers interested in venturing into poetry for the first time as well as more experienced writers seeking guidance on how to write free verse for their verse novels. This workshop can be a standard length, or as intensive can include brainstorming topics and short writing exercises. Non-rhyming, non-metrical poetry? No problem!	MG, PB, YA	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	General	Sunday

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No, You're Not a Poser: Stretching Beyond Our Insecurities	Nancy Tandon, Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo	In this workshop, two recovering posers and award-winning middle grade authors will meet you where you are to share examples of when obstacles made quitting feel like the right decision. If you're on the verge of giving up, come learn how to turn "insurmountable" roadblocks into stepping-stones to success! From professional disappointments to personal challenges, stumbling blocks can become downright boulders. But what if the challenges that make success seem unattainable are there to propel you to the next level? Come prepared to be guided through mind-body exercises and practical hands-on activities to manifest your personal success story!	GN, MG, PB, PD, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	Beginner	Sunday
Nonfiction Writing that Sparks and Sizzles	Kathryn Hulick	A story about chemistry or ancient China may cover some tricky material. But it doesn't have to be boring. Kathryn Hulick has been writing about tough nonfiction topics for kids and teens for over a decade. She has learned some tricks that help communicate complicated ideas without losing anyone's attention. Many of the same techniques that bring life to fiction writing can also liven up nonfiction, for example bringing in all five senses or using dialogue. Numbers can be presented in ways that make them easier to grasp and more fun (like measuring something in elephants instead of kilograms). In this interactive workshop, participants will work to turn a boring paragraph of text into something that sparks and sizzles.	MG, Nonfiction, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	Beginner	Sunday
School Visit Success from Pitch to Presentation	Janae Marks	For children's book authors and illustrators, school visits can be a great way to reach new readers, connect with educators and supplement your income. In this workshop, we will share strategies for school visit success, walking you through best practices before, during, and after your visit. Topics include booking, picking your topic and planning your presentation, and making the visit enjoyable and memorable for everyone.	GN, Illustration, MG, PB, PD, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Story Structures Beyond the Hero's Journey	Erin Dionne	We are all familiar with the hero's journey...but what about other storytelling structures? Fishbone or "little e," braided narratives, the heroine's journey, or folktales...there's a range of other ways to tell a good story. In this session, we'll explore other storytelling structures and assess what types of projects they may be good for. Participants will leave with detailed notes for each structure, and more flexibility in applying those structural elements to their own stories.	GN, MG, PB, PD, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Stretching Your Storyboard to Connect as a Whole	Rebekah Lowell	How much thought do you give to the natural flow of your storyboard as a work of art in itself? When you step back, does it flow? Do you feel the rhythm in the shapes as you look across the spreads? If you cut out each page, would it connect? In this workshop we will explore how we can push the heartbeat of your storyboard even further and find the visual ribbon that ties the book together from beginning to end.	Illustration, PB	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday

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Style Reset (Intensive)	AJ Smith	Reaffirm your illustration style! Identify and fortify your strengths; Recognize and revise your shortcomings. We'll take a step-by-step approach, self-assessing illustrator attributes and setting tangible career goals that touch on artistic skills, market fit, daily routine, promotion/branding/social media, all stemming from YOUR personal voice and unique skillset to ensure you're fitting in AND STANDING OUT.	GN, Illustration, PB, PD	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	General	Sunday
Ten Tips to Creating an Informational Book Editors Can't Resist	Sarah Albee	We'll start with the basics—what's the difference between an "informational book" and a nonfiction book? How do writers decide on a structure, a format, and a target age group? Where do you go to find the best sources? In this session, New York Times best-selling nonfiction author Sarah Albee will also discuss whether to tie your book to curriculum standards, what to consider including for back matter, and the fundamentals of tackling image research. Whether you're just venturing into the realm of informational writing, or already have a project nearing completion, this discussion will help guide you toward making your project into a market-ready, professionally-presented, age-appropriate submission.	MG, PB, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	Beginner	Sunday
The End is Just the Beginning: What Comes After the First Draft	Christy Yaros	You've finished your first draft. Now what? In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn actionable steps to prepare for your revision.	MG, YA	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	Advanced	Sunday
The Query Doctor Is In! (Intensive)	Anika Aldamuy Denise	Tips for crafting successful query letters. Participants in this session are invited to pre-submit their query letters for discussion and critique.	GN, Illustration, MG, PB, PD, YA	Intensive (1:45 minutes)	General	Sunday
Track to Overcome: Persevering through Personal and Professional Setbacks	Sam Taylor	Pandemic-time debut. Book releases three months after a baby's heart surgery. Publisher folding. Sales record leaves author with "a track to overcome." Learn how one author moved past it all and found her reasons to keep writing. Some stories must be told. YOUR stories deserve to be heard!	PD	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Using Lists as a Back Door	Dana Rau	So much of what keeps a writer from tackling a subject is the overwhelming task of finding just the right words to present facts, establish atmosphere, define character, provide sensory details, and create lasting imagery. List-making is a valuable craft tool that can provide a back door into a project. Brainstorming is a pressure-free activity that can help a writer collect an abundance of words (and inspiration) to help them find just the right language to make a text come alive. This workshop will be full of guided activities.	MG, PB, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
What to Expect When You're Self-Publishing	Katie L. Carroll	Have you ever wondered if the self-publishing path is the right one for you? Is the process too complicated or expensive? Will it hurt your chances of being traditionally published? Can you actually make a living self-publishing? Award-winning author Katie L. Carroll gives you an inside look at what it really takes to self-publish a book.	MG, PB, PD, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	Advanced	Sunday

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Words with Friends: How to Navigate Co-Authoring a Book	Kathryn Holmes, MarcyKate Connolly	What goes into writing a co-authored book? Authors Kathryn Holmes and MarcyKate Connolly will share how they worked together to write their upcoming middle-grade novel, "The Thirteenth Circle." They will discuss their creative process, from initial inspiration and brainstorming to drafting and revision, and beyond. The workshop will provide attendees with insights into multiple approaches to the co-author relationship. Who writes what? How do you give each other feedback? What if you disagree? And then, what happens when you're ready to sell the book?	GN, MG, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Writer/Life Balance	Rajani LaRocca	You're a writer. But you're also a parent/spouse/full-time____. How do you keep it all in balance? How do you stretch, but not overextend? Rajani talks about finding balance in your writing life so that it fits into your real life.	GN, MG, PB, YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Writing and Selling Graphic Novels	George Jreije	Graphic novels are a growing segment of the book market, but most writers don't know how to start writing one, let alone getting it published. This workshop will break down the differences between graphic novel and other forms of writing, techniques for creating a stellar script, and the steps you can take to sell your graphic novel to a publisher.	GN	Standard (50 minutes)	Beginner	Sunday
YA Panel: Writing Authentic YA Characters When You're No Longer a "Young" Adult	Rachel Menard, Brian Kennedy, Riss M. Nelson, Rosaria Munda	Join Rachel Menard as she interviews fellow YA authors: Brian Kennedy, Riss M. Nielson, and Rosaria Munda to gain insight into best tips, strategies, and tactics for creating authentic young adult characters when writing as an older author. This will be a small, informal panel of new and established young adult authors who are all over the age of 30, discussing how they channel their inner teenager to write for young adults. Rachel Menard will be directing the questions while allowing for an open discussion with the audience.	YA	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday
Yoga for Writers	Padma Venkatraman	Yoga exercises to help writers gently move and care for the parts of the body they often over work - the shoulders, the fingers, the neck.	PD	Standard (50 minutes)	General	Sunday