

Preliminary schedule
Novel Beginnings:
Building Strong Foundations for Your Novel and Career

March 16-19, 2017

Note: all meals and sessions take place in the barn

Thursday

3:00 p.m. Tour of Highlights for Children
4:30 p.m. Depart for conference site and settle into lodgings
6:00 p.m. Hors d'Oeuvres
6:30 p.m. Dinner
After Dinner: **Show and Tell: Demystifying the Publishing Process**

Friday

7:30 to 8:30 Breakfast

8:30-10:00 **Getting to the Heart of Your Character** (Clara Gillow Clark)
In-depth presentation on building strong characters from the outside-in.

10:00 *Break*

10:15-11:30 **Creating the Strongest Plot Possible** (KL Going)
What keeps a reader turning the pages? What are the pitfalls of plotting that writers must avoid?

12:00 Lunch

1:15 to 2:00 **Skype Visit with Guest Editor Andrea Tompa, Candlewick**

2:30 to 5:30 *Individual critiques* with Clara and Kelly
(writing time for those not in critique)

6:00 p.m. Hors d'Oeuvres

6:30 p.m. Dinner

After Dinner Workshop: **Character Speed Dating**

Just for fun, can you become your main character for an evening, answering the get-to-know-you questions that the other participants ask? Is your character compelling enough to warrant a second date?

Saturday

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30-10:00 **Most Common Writing Mistakes & How to Fix Them** (Clara)
What mistakes do new writers make again and again? How can we avoid making them in the first place? How can we fix them once we find them?
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15-11:30 **What to Know NOW to Build a Strong Career** (KL Going)
What do I know now that I wish I'd known when I first started out? How can writers transcend rejection?
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:15-2:30 *Writing Exercise: Writing Your Author Manifesto* (KL Going)
- 3:00-5:30 *Individual One-on-One Critiques* with Kelly and Clara
(writing time for those not in critiques)
- 6:00 Dinner (with Guest Agent TBA)
After Dinner: Guest Presentation

Sunday

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30 Group critique time
- 11:00 Wrap-up. Q & A.
- 12:00 Lunch