

The logo for Highlights Foundation, featuring the word "Highlights" in a white, stylized script font with a registered trademark symbol, set against a green background.

Highlights®

The word "Foundation" in a white, sans-serif font, set against a blue background.

Foundation

Intimate and inspiring workshops for
children's authors and illustrators.



2019 WORKSHOP CATALOG

HighlightsFoundation.org

For more than 35 years, the Highlights Foundation has been fulfilling its mission of improving the quality of children's literature by helping authors and illustrators hone their craft. We welcome you to join us at our picturesque retreat center nestled in the northern Pocono region of northeast PA for one of more than 40 annual workshops.



Our campus consists of the Founders' farmhouse, 17 cabins with modern facilities, a lodge, and a 5,200-square-foot retreat center known as the Barn at Boyds Mills.

The Barn has several relaxed classroom-like areas, a Great Hall, an outdoor fireplace, and a giant kitchen serving farm-style meals. Cabins and lodge rooms have modern facilities and are writer-ready with desks, chairs, and filled bookshelves. The Lodge contains eight private rooms with private baths and a great room for getting together with others or just relaxing.

Farm-style meals are deliciously prepared, and mealtimes are perfect for lively discussion. Snacks are always available for late night or early morning writing sessions. Gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options available.





UNWORKSHOPS

Imagine your own private retreat in a picturesque setting currently
just \$149/day

**“It was a turning point in my writer’s journey, the moment when
I crossed the threshold into that world.”** - JODY CASELLA

In an “Unworkshop,” time is yours to spend as you please. We’ll
provide you with comfortable lodging and three meals a day.

From the moment you arrive, you’ll feel right at home and fussed over.
We’ll furnish a peaceful setting that lets you focus solely on your work.

CUSTOM RETREATS: Bring along your critique buddies or grad class
fellows for a customized Unworkshop experience.

For available dates or to make a reservation, visit
highlightsfoundation.org/unworkshops.

Highlights®

Foundation

(877) 288-3410
HighlightsFoundation.org





SPOTLIGHT ON...

SUMMER CAMP: A WEEK OF CREATIVE MENTORSHIP

JULY 7 – JULY 12, 2019

Find the kind of encouragement for your writing that only a generous mentor can provide, with:

- Inspiring daily keynote sessions
- Breakout craft sessions led by an editor, agent, author, or illustrator
- Daily one-to-one support, including critiques and feedback, from your creative mentor
- Time to network with all faculty and writing peers
- Free time to write, revise, or explore new ideas

SUMMER CAMP FACULTY & SPECIAL GUESTS



TRACI
CHEE



ANGELA
DOMINGUEZ



KATHRYN
ERSKINE



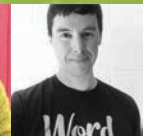
TIFFANY D.
JACKSON



TARA
LAZAR



SHADRA
STRICKLAND



MATTHEW
WINNER

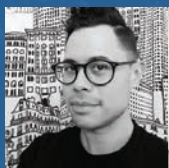
SPOTLIGHT ON...

ILLUSTRATION INTENSIVE

JULY 17-20, 2019

Explore the ever-changing children's book market with authors, illustrators, and art directors who are currently in the field with:

- Faculty demonstrations and lectures
- One-to-one critiques from mentor faculty
- Hands-on activities to learn new techniques and generate ideas
- "Making a Living as an Illustrator" panel
- Portfolio and dummy preparation



MIKE
CURATO



KELLY
LIGHT



STEVE
LIGHT



KATHRYN
OTOSHI



MERRILL
RAINEY

SPOTLIGHT ON...

MASTER CLASS IN WRITING NONFICTION

JULY 13-17, 2019

Explore factual writing through a range of topics, including biography, nature writing, science writing, and more:

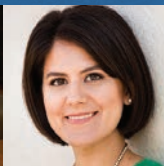
- Work with your mentor to revise or explore story ideas in daily one-to-one sessions
- Develop necessary research and interview skills
- Discover the trade book and magazine markets for your work
- Find out how to enliven nonfiction with personal experience



CAROLE BOSTON
WEATHERFORD



LESA CLINE-
RANSOME



EMMA
OTHEGUY



ROB
SANDERS



HEIDI
STEMPLE

See full workshop descriptions and updated listings at HighlightsFoundation.org

2019 UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

WRITING INTENSIVE

- May 19 - 24 **Filling the Writer's Toolbox: Tools for First Lines, Voice, Character, World Building & Revision**
Renowned editor Emma D. Dryden will guide you through proven techniques for editing and revising your manuscripts.
- Jul 31 - Aug 4 **Revision Retreat**
Editors Harold Underdown and Eileen Robinson will give techniques for self-editing and revising and give you time to use them to make your manuscripts stronger.
- Sep 22 - 25 **Nurturing Your Artistic Voice: A Guide for Kidlit Rebels & Risk-Takers**
Author Meg Medina and illustrator Carolyn Dee Flores will lead you in an exploration of identity, creativity, and publishing to help bring your voice to the page.
- Nov 7 - 10 **Master Class: The Search for Voice, the Next Step! with Patti Gauch**
Using the work of some of our best young adult and middle grade fiction writers, experienced writers will take next steps to refine and finally discover their most authentic Voices.

NOVELS

- May 5 - 11
Aug 11 - 17 **The Whole Novel Workshop**
Revise and polish your novel in preparation for submission. This mentorship program guarantees significant progress with focused attention in an intimate setting.
- May 12 - 19
Oct 20 - 27 **Writing the Unreal: The Whole Novel Workshop in Fantasy & Speculative Fiction**
For writers of YA fantasy, alternate history, science fiction, magical realism, paranormal romance, or horror, this workshop guarantees progress with focused attention.
- Jun 6 - 9 **Anti-Heroes & Villains: Crafting Flawed Characters We Love to Hate**
Create deep veins of backstory and characterization to shape villains and anti-heroes in MG and YA novels.
- Aug 8 - 11 **Novel Beginnings: Building Strong Foundations for Your Novel & Career**
Get feedback on your novel AND guidance about your writing career from two experienced authors with great teaching and editing experience.
- Oct 31 - Nov 3 **Jump-Start Your Creativity! Idea Generator for Novelists**
Join YA author AC Gaughen for a madcap retreat that will jump-start new ideas, unlock your creativity, and reinvigorate your writing.
- Date TBD **Getting Your MG or YA Novel Unstuck**
Join us to find tools for getting unstuck, with a focus on character development, plotting and outlining, revision, journaling, and improvisation/play.

EXPLORING WRITING FOR CHILDREN

- Mar 21 - 24 **Everything You Need to Know About Children's Book Publishing**
This weekend is designed to give you a comprehensive look at how the children's book publishing industry works. Our goal is to answer ALL your questions!
- Jul 7 - 12 **Summer Camp at the Barn: A Week of Creative Mentorship**
At our signature workshop, you'll find keynotes, workshops, and a creative mentor to provide one-to-one support.

- Jul 13 - 17 **Master Class in Writing Nonfiction for Children & Young Adults**
Work with our talented group of mentors to explore all facets of factual writing!
Explore the editorial and business aspects and the art of telling true stories.
- Oct 10 - 13 **Writing for All Young Readers: Board Books through MG Series**
This workshop is for anyone looking for ways to break in or expand upon a career in writing for children, from board books to middle grade series.

ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS

- Jun 14-16 **Building Cultural Competency in Today's Children's Publishing Industry**
Begin the hard work needed to learn about and fight for representation of cultural differences in children's books and our world.
- Jun 27 - 30 **Native Creators' Summer Retreat**
A retreat for Native American book creators writing for and about children. This four-day retreat focuses on mentorship and polishing a manuscript for submission.
- Jun 30 - Jul 2 **From the Outside in: Writing Outside Your Own Experiences for Books for Children & Teens**
Join Laurie Halse Anderson, Linda Sue Park, and Leah Henderson to learn ways to form diverse characters and worlds and avoid harmful stereotypes.
- Sep 12 - 15 **Diversity Fellowship Kick-Off**
- Oct 27 - 30 **Writing the Rainbow: Crafting Picture Books with LGBTQ+ Themes**
- Date TBD **Power of the Picture Book: Community, Kindness, Social & Emotional Influence**
- Date TBD **Responsible Representation**
Explore ways to include diversity in your work and create authentic worlds and characters that provide windows and mirrors for the next generation of readers.

NICHE WORKSHOPS

- Mar 25 - 28 **Self or Indie Publishing: Answering the Big Questions**
Authors and indie publishers Darcy Pattison and Harold Underdown will share their expertise to help you avoid pitfalls in the self-publishing business.
- Apr 28 - May 2 **Crafting Successful Author Visits**
Create and deliver an impressive school visit with our faculty by your side.
- Jun 23 - 27 **Writing for the Educational Market**
Would you like to have editors actually contacting you and asking you to write for them? This workshop will help you find your niche in the educational market.
- Jun 9 - 13 **Nuts & Bolts of Science Writing**
Energize readers through active fiction and nonfiction writing that shines the light on exciting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts.
- Aug 1 - 4 **Your Guide to Graphic Novels**
Have an idea for a graphic novel or comic book? Join us to learn about the narrative style of this engaging genre. Writers and writer/illustrators welcome.
- Sep 25- 29 **Taking Your Art & Writing to New Places: Published Authors & Illustrators at Work**
For published authors and illustrators to write, illustrate, and collaborate while sharing about their careers, challenges, deadlines, and upcoming projects.
- Oct 24 - 27 **Unlocking Your Story: Forms & Genres, a Mashup**
Join Newbery winner Kathi Appelt and author/editor Shelley Tanaka to find the form that best fits the story you hope to tell.

ILLUSTRATORS

- May 2 -5 **Color, Light, Line & Texture Hands-on Workshop**
Come play in paint, explore collage, and dive into textiles during this hands-on retreat for everyone. No previous art experience required!
- May 30 - Jun 2 **Crafting a Picture Book Dummy with Heart & Soul**
Floyd Cooper and Melanie Hall will guide you in preparing your picture book dummy for submission.
- Jul 17 - 20 **Illustration Intensive**
Come learn new techniques and enjoy the camaraderie of other artists — immerse yourself in illustration techniques and gain tools for storytelling.
- Sep 19 - 22 **Writing for Illustrators: An Author/Illustrator Intensive**
Join celebrated author/illustrators Elizabeth Rose Stanton, Lori Nichols, and Jessixa Bagley to grow as a writer while honoring your illustration background.
- Date TBD **Drawing 2.0**

PICTURE BOOKS, EARLY READERS & POETRY

- Apr 4 - 7 **Visual Arts Exhibit Reception & Special Unworkshop with Angela Dominguez**
- Jun 17 - 20 **Writing First Chapter Books & Early Readers**
Gain understanding of how to write for the unique needs of children who are beginning to read independently.
- Jun 20 - 23 **PB&J: Picture Books & All That Jazz**
This workshop digs deep into the many layers that are needed to write a successful picture book.
- Aug 4 - 7 **The Ins & Outs of a Picture Book & Its Many Forms**
This hands-on workshop will show you how to get your picture book ready for submission to editors and agents.
- Sep 23 - Nov 10 **Getting to Know Your Rhyming Picture Book: Online Course & Onsite Retreat**
Give your picture book the special attention it deserves with this long-form workshop: an activity-based web series paired with a guided writing retreat.
- Oct 13 - 17 **Craft & Heart of Writing Poetry**
Work in an intimate setting with published poets, make new friends, and immerse yourself in writing poetry and working on the craft.
- Oct 17 - 20 **A Working Poets Retreat**
Join Georgia Heard and Rebecca Kai Dotlich in this intimate retreat.
- Date TBD **Picture Book Biographies**
- Date TBD **Performance & Poetry**
- Date TBD **Creating Picture Books with Humor & Heart**
This workshop will guide you through the process of creating funny, emotionally satisfying picture books that connect with young readers.