

New York Author in Vienna Will Lead Writing Workshops This Fall and Winter

Auch in Deutsch

I am a children's book author who lives in Vienna. I have time this fall and winter to lead a few writing workshops for those interested in writing fiction.

The Craft of Writing Fiction

Writing Seminar: Plot

Long-Term Writing Workshop

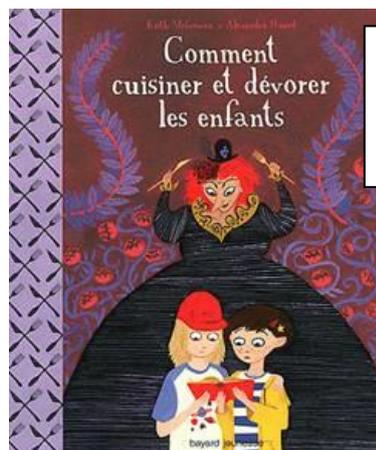
Picture Book Seminar

How to Write Children's Books

Teenager Fiction Writing Seminar

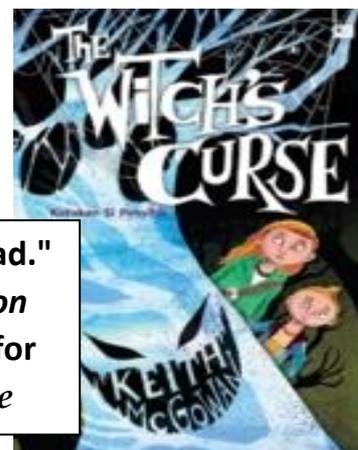


For more information, write to workshop@keithbooks.com. For more about me, see the last page of this pamphlet and visit Keithbooks.com.



"Some seriously cerebral humor that will delight."
– *The New Yorker*

"Another edgy, absorbing read."
– *American Library Association*
"A funny and heartfelt treat for its readers." – *Dhaka Tribune*



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The Craft of Writing Fiction

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This is a good seminar for people who love to write but haven't studied fiction writing—including people who already write marketing or other nonfiction documents as part of their profession.

Day 1: I'll teach as many writer's tricks and techniques as possible in three-and-a-half hours. We'll complete brief writing exercises as we go.

- **Create characters with depth and nuance.**
- **Bring vivid scenes to life.**
- **Construct a plot based on the characters.**
- **Use dialogue to drive plot, reveal character, and bring a world to life.**
- **Analyze the sentence structure of diverse writing styles.**
- **Find your voice.**



Day 2: Participants bring their own stories in for constructive feedback based on what we've learned. We see how to apply the techniques discussed on day one to a work-in-progress. Participants learn a lot from giving feedback to others—at least as much as from getting feedback on their own writing. I lead the discussion and focus on everything I believe most important for each writer to consider.

Duration: Saturday, 13:00–16:30; Sunday, 3 to 4 hours depending on size of group

Dates: Fall or Winter, 2019–2020 (Dates to be set)

Price: Day 1 only: €100; Both Days: €175



Writing Seminar: Plot

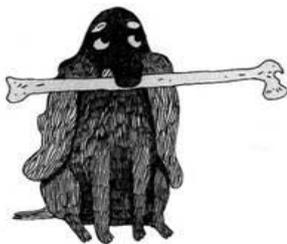
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This is a seminar for those who are actively writing stories or in the middle of writing a novel and faced with the typical issues of constructing a plot, such as how to set up the ending, unsatisfactory narrative tension in the middle, and how to connect diverse storylines. If you are just getting started writing stories and want to learn how plots are structured, you can take this seminar too. No prerequisite knowledge is required.



We analyze the plot structure of novels and learn:

- the classic three-act structure
- the timing of subplots and plot reversals
- the interplay between plot and characterization
- what to do when you discover in the middle of writing that your plot must change
- how to pair spontaneity with careful plot planning



We also compare the suspense that carries readers from one scene to the next with the long-term narrative tension of each character's story arc. Be prepared to take notes!

Duration: Saturday, 13:00–16:30

Dates: Fall or Winter, 2019–2020 (Date to be set)

Price: €100



Long-Term Writing Workshop

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This is the workshop for those who plan to write stories or work on a novel this year and want personalized instruction. We meet every two weeks. Participants bring in their work for critique and discussion. I teach writing techniques and help participants find their way through the drafting process. Participants develop their voice and a working process that's right for them.



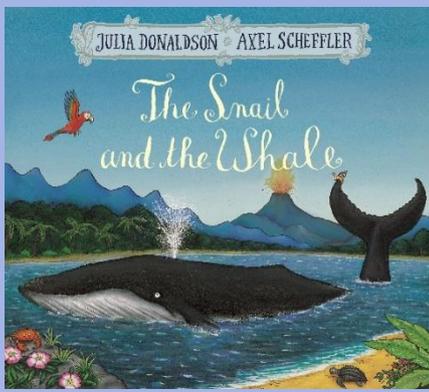
Duration: We meet in the evening for 2½–3 hours every 2 weeks for 8 weeks.

Dates: Fall or Winter, 2019–2020 (Dates to be set)

Price: €550

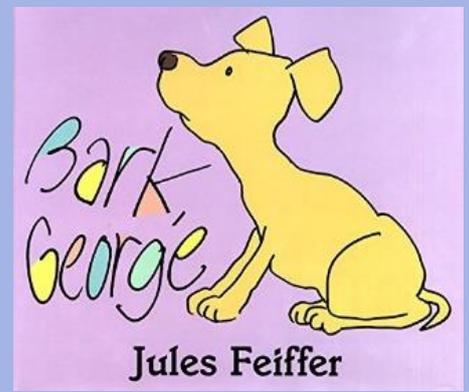
Note: A maximum of four people can participate in this workshop.





Picture Book Seminar

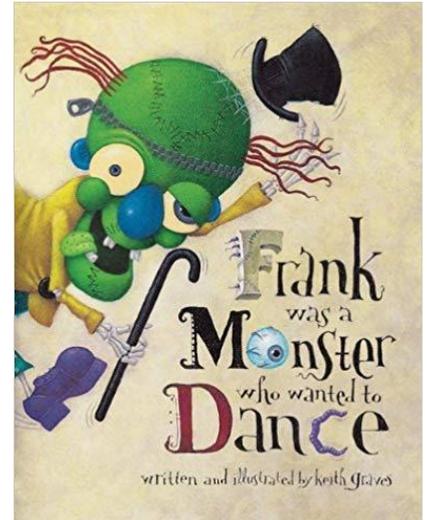
Auch in Deutsch



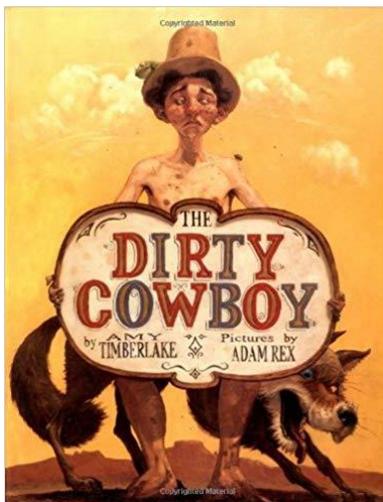
Learn more than you expect about writing picture books.

Day 1: We analyze approximately 18 picture books from every angle: the interplay between illustrations and text, the plot structure, the literary qualities, a child's perspective, and much more.

Day 2: Each participant works on several picture books—text and illustration concepts—and presents them. We discuss, analyze, and brainstorm within the context of what we've learned.



Non-illustrators and illustrators alike can take this seminar.



You go home with a new perspective of how to pair creativity and inspiration with craft and technical knowledge to create a picture book as fascinating as the ones you read and love.

Duration: Saturday and Sunday, 13:00–16:30

Dates: Fall or Winter, 2019–2020 (Dates to be set)

Price: €175





How to Write Children's Books

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This is the seminar for those who love children's books and want to write one.

Day 1: We analyze children's novels written by terrific authors to examine their writing techniques and to explore the diverse styles one finds in literature for 8- to 12-year-olds.

Day 2: You bring your own writing in for constructive feedback based on what we've learned. I lead the discussion and focus on everything I believe most important for each writer to consider. Writing for children has subtleties that can only be learned through trial and error, critique, and hearing a text read aloud.



- **Capture the perspective of children, writing in first and third person.**
- **Develop a narrative tempo suitable for the age group.**
- **Bring imaginary characters to life—such as dragons, robots, aliens, or intelligent animals.**
- **Approach emotional conflict with the honesty that young readers expect.**
- **Learn writing techniques, explore character development, grapple with plot and pacing, and much more.**



Duration: Saturday 13:00–16:30; Sunday, 3 to 4 hours depending on the number of participants

Dates: Fall or Winter, 2019–2020 (Dates to be set)

Price: €175



Writing Workshop for Teenagers

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A 3-day workshop for teenagers who love to write and want to learn writing techniques from an author.

Participants analyze writing techniques from novels, learn writer's tricks, and most importantly write stories, receive feedback, and keep on writing.



- **Bring nuanced characters to life.**
- **Devise a plot and change it as necessary while you write.**
- **Include backstory and necessary information without slowing a story down.**
- **Work through the ups and downs of daily writing.**
- **Learn revision and drafting techniques.**
- **Learn the creative process and what it's like to be a working artist.**

Participants focus on developing their own writing voice, writing stories only they can tell.

Duration: Friday, 3 hours; Saturday, 3½ hours; Sunday, 3½ hours

Dates: Fall or Winter, 2019–2020 (Dates to be set)

Price: €200



About the Author

Keith McGowan is a children's book author from New York who has lived in Vienna for over a decade. His first novel was called a "literary treat" by *The New Yorker* and his second novel was named a Best Book of the Year by the Bank Street College of Education. He graduated from Brown University and besides writing children's books, he has worked as a teacher, a director of research for *New York Times Digital*, an editor, and the director of an afterschool. He's currently at work on his third children's novel. Visit Keithbooks.com for more information. For more information on the workshops, write to workshop@keithbooks.com.

Awards

- AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NOTABLE CHILDREN'S RECORDING
- TEXAS BLUEBONNET BOOK
- JAMES THURBER CHILDREN'S WRITER IN RESIDENCE
- BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION *BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR*



Reviews

"Some seriously cerebral humor that will delight." – *The New Yorker*

"Funny and subversive." – *USA Today*

"Blending classic fairy tale and contemporary elements, magic, suspense, and vibrant, diversely drawn kid protagonists into another edgy, absorbing read." – *American Library Association*

"A funny and heartfelt treat for its readers... this book is a must read." – *Dhaka Tribune*

"Sacrément attachants, tant par leurs personnalités atypiques qu'en raison de leur passé douloureux, nos deux jeunes héros font de ce conte moderne un roman à la fois émouvant et drôle." – *L'Express*

