

(AFCC) Writers and Illustrators retreat

Who may apply

The retreat is open to local and overseas children's content creators writing, illustrating or creating content with an Asian focus. There are twenty (20) slots available, not all of which may be filled depending on the quality of the submissions.

Submission guidelines

Please e-mail all submissions to: afcc@bookcouncil.sg

For authors

Though the merit of the work will override the word count, below are guides:

1. For picture books, 500-700 words;
2. For beginning readers, 5-7 years, a word length of 5,000-10,000;
3. For confident readers, 7-9 years, a word length of 10,000-20,000;
4. For middle grade readers, 10-13 years, a word length of 35,000-55,000
5. For young adult readers.

In the subject line, write "A Picture Book by _____" or "A Middle Grade Story by _____". Or "A Young Adult Novel by _____" with your name replacing the blank. Submissions must be accompanied by a short cover letter, which forms the body of the email stating the reason why the applicant wishes to participate in the retreat. In a separate attachment labeled with "YOUR NAME's bio and synopsis", write a short paragraph introducing yourself as the author, which may include the your writing history, previous books published, awards won, and other relevant details.

In the next paragraph of the same attachment, write the title of the work and your byline, below it a short synopsis of no more than five sentences that describes the work and its target audience, with the first sentence already summarizing the work: A tearjerker love story of two teenagers stricken with cancer whose love overcomes human frailties/ An adopted child who discovers he has magical powers and goes off to a school of magic to defeat an evil sorcerer/ The adventures of nursery toys that come to life every evening.

For chapter books, include a chapter-by-chapter one-sentence description, showing the narrative arc of the story.

In a separate attachment, include a PDF copy of the manuscript itself. The work should show the byline and word count on the title page, be in 12-point Cambria, Times, Times New Roman, Garamond, double-spaced, and paginated. Label the attachment with your name and the title of the work, example: "ANNABELLE LEE-Title of Story"

All attachments should be in one e-mail.

For illustrators

In the subject line write "Illustrations by _____" with your name. If you have a website, do send the URL, please enclose a maximum of two illustrations. Within the body of the email, write a cover letter about yourself which should be no longer than five sentences detailing your style and books you have illustrated, prizes, and other relevant details. Include no more than two attachments of sample work.

If you're a writer/illustrator write in the subject line "A story written and illustrated by _____" with your name. The cover letter written on the body of the email should introduce yourself as a writer/illustrator. The next paragraph should be the synopsis

of the picture book, the first sentence of which should summarize the story as previously demonstrated.

On a separate attachment, include a PDF attachment or a link to the fully illustrated story.

Other info:

Retreat Director

Andrea Pasion-Flores

Andrea Pasion-Flores is a literary agent with Jacaranda Literary Agency. As the former Executive Director of the National Book Development Board of the Philippines, Andrea was known for her pioneering work introducing high-impact literary events to the country, such as the Philippine Literary Festivals Lit Out Loud (2010), The Great Philippine Book Café (2011), and Read Lit District (2012). She also put Philippine poetry in the train system. Andrea is also a copyright lawyer.

Retreat facilitators

Candy Gourlay

Candy Gourlay is a Filipino author based in London. Her debut novel **Tall Story**, set in both London and the Philippines, was published to acclaim in 2010 in the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States. Tall Story was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and shortlisted for thirteen prizes in the UK. It won the Crystal Kite Prize for Europe and the National Children's Book Award in the Philippines. It was chosen one of the 50 Best Diverse Books in the UK by leading British literacy organisations. **Shine**, published in the UK in September 2013, has won Candy a second Crystal Kite Prize for Europe and as we go to press, Shine was one of only eight titles listed for the prestigious Guardian Children's Fiction Award.

Sarah Odedina

Sarah has been committed to publishing excellent children's books since 1988. She began her publishing career in the rights department of Penguin Books, moved in 1992 to the Watts Publishing Group and for the past fourteen years served as publishing director of the children's list of Bloomsbury Publishing – including overseeing and managing the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. She is now managing director of Hot Key Books, a part of Bonnier.

Joelle Jolivet

Joëlle Jolivet grew up near Paris. She studied graphic design before illustrating her first published book in 1989 Danger Bonbon! written by Christine Brouillet (Souris Noire, Syros, 1989). Today, her works have been exhibited around the world and the books she has collaborated on have been translated in many languages. Joëlle Jolivet is an internationally acclaimed author and illustrator for children's books. Publishers Weekly has called her books 'vibrant...dazzling', and School Library Journal said they 'are as aesthetically impressive as they are informative.' In 2007, the book 365 Penguins that she cleverly illustrated (written by Jean-Luc Fromental) entered the best-selling list of The New York Times. Joëlle Jolivet will be presenting her new American release Oops! (written by Jean-Luc Fromental), a story about a family's crazy trip to the airport.