

Title: The AFCC Writers and Illustrators Retreat

Dates: Saturday 13 May to Tuesday 16 May 2017 (Residency programme)

Venue: Angsana Bintan Resorts, Indonesia

Retreat participants also have free entry to the five-day AFCC Conference (excludes masterclass) held from 17 May – 21 May 2017 at the National Library Building, Singapore.

The AFCC Writers and Illustrators Retreat is a four-day/three night residency with the goal of encouraging more writers, illustrators and content creators to create Asian content for children. The AFCC retreat fee includes:

1. AFCC Writers and Illustrators retreat May 13-16, including a critique consultation with a publisher/senior editor, author, illustrator, or literary agent (in which the participant may be expected to explain the topic of the project and the creative process, focusing on the Asian aspect of the work).
2. Five-day AFCC conference May 17-21.
3. Speed pitching session for writers at the AFCC conference.
4. Portfolio review for illustrators at the AFCC conference.

Who may apply

The retreat is open to local and overseas children's content creators writing, illustrating or creating content with an Asian focus. Applicants must be pre-published (or published with only one children's book so far) authors and writers of children's content. There are twenty-six (26) slots available, not all of which may be filled depending on the quality of the submissions.

Submission guidelines

Please submit your application with attachments via e-mail to alap@bookcouncil.sg

For writers

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

1. For picture books (for readers ages 3–8 years), writers and writer-illustrators submit text up to 1,000 words for fiction; up to 2,000 words for non-fiction. Illustrators, in addition to the picture book text, submit a PDF or link (see below in *For Illustrators*) of the picture book dummy.
2. For chapter/middle-grade/young adult novels (for readers aged 8–16), submit the first 10,000-12,000 words of your novel (about 50 pages) plus a single-spaced synopsis up to 200 words.

For writers to submit:

- In the subject line of the e-mail, write “Picture Book by _____” or “Chapter Book by _____” or “Middle Grade Novel by _____” or “Young Adult Novel by _____” with your name replacing the blank.
- In the body of the email, include a short cover letter, stating the reasons why you wish to participate in the retreat.
- In Attachment 1, labeled with “YOUR NAME bio and synopsis”: Write a short paragraph, single spaced, introducing yourself as the author, which may include your writing history, previous work published, awards won, and other relevant details. Follow that paragraph with the title of the work and your byline, and below it your synopsis, up to 200 words, single spaced.
- In Attachment 2, labeled with “YOUR NAME TITLE OF WORK”: include a Word copy of the first 10,000-12,000 words. Include title, byline and word count on the title page. Use font size 12: Cambria, Times, Times New Roman, or Garamond. Use double line spacing. Pages must be numbered. Label the attachment with “YOUR NAME Title of Work”.

Both attachments must be included with one e-mail.

For illustrators/ writer-illustrators

For illustrators/writer-illustrators to submit:

- For illustrators: In the subject line of the e-mail write “Illustrations by _____” or “Dummy by _____” with your name replacing the blank. The cover letter written in the body of the email should introduce yourself as an illustrator, detailing your style of illustration, illustration background, books you have illustrated, prizes, and other relevant details. Include your website URL.
- For writer-illustrators: In the subject line of the email write “Picture book written and illustrated by _____” with your name replacing the blank. The cover letter written in the body of the email should introduce yourself as a writer/illustrator, detailing your style of illustration, illustration background, books you have authored/illustrated, prizes, and other relevant details. Include your website URL. The next paragraph should be the synopsis of the picture book, the first sentence of which should summarise the story.
- For illustrators AND writer-illustrators, in a separate attachment, include three illustrations showing the same character in different scenes of one story or sequential scenes of one story. Label your illustrations labeled with “Your Name Illustrations” or “Your Name Illustration 1/2/3” as a multi pages PDF file, or three separate jpeg files (jpeg should be: RGB, 200 dpi, High quality compression).

Fee

The fee for the retreat is SGD600. The fee includes a four day/three-night stay at the AFCC Writers and Illustrators Retreat at Angsana Bintan, Indonesia, and a five-day pass (valued at SGD500) to the AFCC Conference in Singapore.

SCHEDULE and NOTES

Each day of the retreat will include lectures and workshops led by the mentors. Works submitted and brought by the participants will be critiqued by the mentors in one-on-one sessions during the three days. Each day will also include a variety of writing and illustrating exercises and time for writing and revision. Participants will be expected to offer and receive constructive feedback on works.

Writers should bring their manuscript, ideally both hard copy and in a computer, as well as notebook(s) and pens/pencils. Writers should be prepared to revise and develop the work they have submitted.

Illustrators and writer-illustrators will have a separate track for Day 2 and half of Day 3. Illustrators and writer-illustrators should come to the retreat with ideas for a childhood memory they would like to work on in picture book format. All illustrators should bring materials they need for working on their illustrations during the workshop (paints, paper, sketch pads, pencils, pens, computer, etc.).

RETREAT FACILITATORS

Retreat Director: Holly Thompson:

Holly writes fiction and poetry for children, teens and adults and is author of the verse novels *Falling into the Dragon's Mouth*, *The Language Inside*, and *Orchards*; the novel *Ash*; and the picture books *The Wakame Gatherers* and the forthcoming *Twilight Chant*. Longtime resident of Japan, she serves as Co-Regional Advisor of SCBWI Japan. She teaches writing at Yokohama City University, U.C. Berkeley and Boston's Grub Street, and many places in between. For more information, please visit: (www.hatbooks.com)

Retreat facilitators

Amy Ng (Malaysia)

Editor, Illustrator, Writer, Pikaland Media

Amy Ng is a teacher, writer and a self-taught illustrator based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her blog, Pikaland, is a popular stop for illustration lovers, students and artists trying to find a balance between art, creativity and commerce. Ng is also an adjunct lecturer at The One Academy of Communication Design and has created online workshops for artists around the world, teaching them how to use their unique strengths to create their own

opportunities. Her clients include Communication Arts, Marie Claire magazine, Maxis, Tesco Malaysia and Zeno Malaysia, among others.

Sayoni Basu (India)

Primary platypus, Duckbill Books

Sayoni Basu has worked with OUP, Penguin/Puffin, Scholastic and Amar Chitra Katha. She and author Anushka Ravishankar started Duckbill in 2012, which is a tiny publishing house specialising in contemporary fiction for children and young adults, where they delight in finding new voices and new stories.