**2017 AFCC Writers and Illustrators Retreat**

**Dates: Sat, 13 May 2017 – Tues, 16 May 2017**

**Venue: Angsana Bintan Resorts, Indonesia**

\*Any changes made to the programme will be at the discretion of the organiser – NBDCS.

The retreat fee of SGD600 paid by selected participants will cover accommodation, all meals (hotel buffet breakfast, lunch, dinner), return ferry transfer, trip guard on the ferry, VISA application (excludes Business VISA application), express immigration service and personal insurance from NTUC.

Meals provided at the resort are not Halal-certified. The hotel buffet has vegan options. Muslim participants may request vegetarian options for the main meals (lunch and dinner) through NBDCS.

The flow of the programme below may be altered at the discretion of NBDCS and the retreat facilitators.

**PROGRAMME**

**Day 1: Saturday, 13 May 2017**

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| Tentative timing: 9:30 AM | Meet at Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal in Singapore for departure to Bintan Resort Ferry (website: <http://www.brf.com.sg/>) |
| 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon | Ferry travel from Singapore to Bintan |
| 12:00-2:00 PM | Check-in, free time, explore the resort |
| 1:00-2:00 PM | Lunch for all |
| 2:00-2:30 PM | WELCOME SESSION  Brief address from the retreat director Holly Thompson including house rules; mentor groups; explanation of ‘Dear Diary’ exercise to be done every evening (handing out of notebooks and pens for this ongoing exercise).  ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY 1. |
| 2:30 PM-3:30 PM | LECTURE: HOLLY THOMPSON will speak on her journey to publication—the many “vessels” and the many “routes”; her wide-ranging writing projects; and her approaches to Asian content. |
| 3.30-4:00 PM | Tea break for all |
| 4:00-5:00 PM | LECTURE: AMY NG will talk about how she transitioned her career from a landscape architect to a creative director. She'll share her own experiences and tips on navigating creative career changes, as she continuously builds on her interest in the field of illustration. |
| 5:00-6:00 PM | LECTURE: SARAH ODEDINA will talk about her work as a publisher of books for young readers. She will discuss the industry and how editors operate within publishing houses using their taste and preferences to build lists that are both award-winning and commercially successful. |
| 6:00-6:30 PM | Free time for facilitators and participants to freshen up |
| 6.30-7.30 PM | Dinner for all |
| 7.30 PM- 8.30 PM | EVENING EVENT: Mentor Group Discussions  Groups discuss work of 2 – 3 participants per evening. |

**Day 2: Sunday, 14 May 2017**

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 7:30-9:30 AM | BREAKFAST (buffet at Lotus Café)  Diaries to be left on a table for people to browse through all morning—readers may write comments on entries |
| 10:00 AM | Reporting time for retreat |
| 10:00-10:30 AM | ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY 2. |
| 10:30-12:00 Noon | LECTURE WORKSHOPS  Writer track:  Storytelling Techniques—Holly Thompson will zero in on scene elements in this workshop focused on creating effective scenes that develop character and advance plot--for picture books, chapter books, and novels. Participants will be guided through an examination of consecutive scenes in their own work.  Illustrator track: Amy Ng  Amy Ng will conduct a step-by-step workshop for illustrators, taking a personal memory and transforming it into a story. In this session, the emphasis will be on finding the heart and purpose of the story, and laying it out in book form. |
| 10:45-11:15 AM | Tea break for all |
| 12:00-1:30 PM | LUNCH for all |
| 1:30-3:00 PM | LECTURE WORKSHOPS:  Writer track:  Sarah Odedina will look at the process of crafting your writing by examining examples of other people’s writing to focus on areas such as over explanation, use of cliché, strong opening lines and dialogue.  Illustrator track: Amy Ng  Amy Ng will conduct a step-by-step workshop for illustrators, taking a personal memory and transforming it into a story. This session will deal with character and environment to help flesh out stories. |
| 3:00-3:30 PM | Tea break for all |
| 3:30-5:30 PM | ROUND ROBIN 1: One-on-one pre-scheduled critique consultations of 15 minutes each. Free writing and revision time for those not receiving consultations. |
| 5:30-6:30 PM | Free time for facilitators and participants to freshen up |
| 6.30-7.30 PM | Dinner for all |
| 7.30 -8.30 PM | EVENING EVENT: Mentor Group Discussions  Groups discuss work of 2 – 3 participants per evening. |

**Day 3: Monday, 15 May 2017**

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 7:30-9:30 AM | BREAKFAST (buffet at Lotus Café)  Diaries are left on a table for people to browse through all morning—readers may write comments on entries |
| 10:00 AM | Reporting time for retreat |
| 10:00-12:00 Noon | LECTURE:  Writer Track:  Part 1: Sarah Odedina will talk about building a social media profile and will look at examples of authors and publishers from around the world who make social media work for them. As well as some examples of a few who may not be expressing themselves quite so successfully!  Part 2: Holly Thompson will discuss the role of audience for creators of children’s and young adult content and the dual importance of creating Asian content for both local and global readers.  Illustrator Track: Amy Ng  Amy Ng will conduct a step-by-step workshop for illustrators, taking a personal memory and transforming it into a story. In this session, illustrators will work on putting illustrations and words together to form a complete story book. |
| 10:45-11:15 AM | Tea break for all |
| 12:00-1:00 PM | LUNCH for all |
| 1:00-2:30PM | MENTOR PANEL: Holly Thompson, Amy Ng and Sarah Odedina will share revision tips for writers and illustrators of children’s content.  SPEED SHARE: Participants share next steps, goals and dreams. |
| 2:30-3:00 PM | Tea break for all |
| 3:00-5:00 PM | ROUND ROBIN 2: Mentor Consultations  One-on-one pre-scheduled critique consultations for 15 minutes each. Free writing and revision time for those not receiving consultations. |
| 5:00-6:30 PM | Free time for facilitators and participants to freshen up |
| 6.30-7.30 PM | Dinner for all |
| 7.30 – 8.30PM | EVENING EVENT: Mentor Group Discussions  Groups discuss work of 2 – 3 participants per evening. |

**Day 4: Tuesday, 16 May 2017**

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| **Time** | **Activity** |
| 7:30-9:00 AM | BREAKFAST (buffet at Lotus Café) |
| 9:00-11:45 AM | PARTICIPANT READINGS AND REFLECTIONS: Readings and sharing by participants on what they wrote, sketched, learned and discovered during the retreat. |
| 11:45 AM-12:00 Noon | Closing Comments  Mentors Holly Thompson, Amy Ng and Sarah Odedina offer their closing comments. |
| 12:00 Noon-2:00 PM | Check-out and leave to catch 2:35 ferry |