

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 and the retreat facilitators.

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.

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Saturday, 13 May 2017

Time	Activity
10.15 AM	Meet at Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal in Singapore for departure from Bintan Resort Ferry (website: http://www.brf.com.sg/)
11.15 AM – 12:00 Noon	Ferry travel from Singapore to Bintan
12:00-2:00PM	Arrival at resort. Luggages will be sent to the respective rooms. Participants can check-in at 2pm.
1:00-2:00 PM	Buffet lunch for all
2:15PM-2:30 PM	WELCOME SESSION (all lecture and workshop sessions will be held at Angsana 1 meeting room) 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 catered 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: SAYONI BASU 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. She will also discuss how writing in Asia differs in some ways from English writing in the UK, US and Australia.
6:00-6:30 PM	Free time for facilitators and participants to freshen up
6.30-7.30 PM	Set dinner for all (sit –down dinner)

7.30 PM- 8.30 PM	EVENING EVENT: Mentor Group Discussions Groups discuss work of 2 – 3 participants per evening.
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Day 2: Sunday, 14 May 2017

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: Holly Thompson 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	Catered tea break for all
12:00-1:30 PM	Buffet lunch for all
1:30-3:00 PM	LECTURE WORKSHOPS: Writer track: Sayoni Basu Sayoni Basu will look at the process of crafting your writing using examples from published books to focus on areas such as strong openings, dialogues and points of view. 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 catered 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 who do not want to receive consultations (Participants will sign up for the round robin sessions on day 1 before lunch through Prema)
5:30-6:30 PM	Free time for facilitators and participants to freshen up
6.30-7.30 PM	Set dinner for all (sit-down dinner)
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

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: Sayoni Basu and Holly Thompson Part 1: Sayoni Basu will discuss the preconceptions that hold us back when we are crafting stories for local readership, and the need for us--as adult creators--to open our mind to what our readers want and need. 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	Catered tea break for all
12:00-1:00 PM	LUNCH for all (buffet)
1:00-2:30PM	MENTOR PANEL: Holly Thompson, Amy Ng and Sayoni Basu 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 catered 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	Set dinner for all (sit-down dinner)
7.30 – 8.30PM	EVENING EVENT: Mentor Group Discussions Groups discuss work of 2 – 3 participants per evening.

Day 4: Tuesday, 16 May 2017

Time	Activity
7:30-9:00 AM	BREAKFAST (buffet at Lotus Café) Participants can bring their packed luggage along
9:00-11:00 AM	PARTICIPANT READINGS AND REFLECTIONS: Readings and sharing by participants on what they wrote, sketched, learned and discovered during the retreat.
11:30 AM-11.45 AM	Closing Comments Mentors Holly Thompson, Amy Ng and Sayoni Basu offer their closing comments.
12:00 PM	Check-out by 12 noon and leave to catch 2:35pm ferry