



Stories. Everywhere.

Summer Classes 2022



Everyone has a story.

WE WANT YOURS.

Gotham Writers Workshop is a creative home in New York City and Online where writers develop their craft and come together in the spirit of discovery and fellowship. We've been teaching creative writing to students since 1993.

We believe that everyone has a story to tell. Indeed, many stories. Keep your eyes and mind open and you will find them everywhere. And we can help you tell your stories better.

Whether you're a new writer looking to explore, or an experienced writer looking to strengthen your skills, our classes will help you reach your goals—through clear instruction on elements of craft, critique in a safe environment, and a structured process that keeps your work on track.

We also teach Business Writing, with the same verve and expertise we bring to our creative writing courses.

We strive to give each student the best possible learning experience. Class size is strictly limited so you never get lost in a crowd. And our instructors are consistently excellent—working writers who are as skilled at teaching as they are at writing.

We are invested in helping students find the writing class that is most appropriate for their particular needs. Explore our website, and feel free to discuss options via email or phone.

Thousands of people have been enriched by the Gotham experience. It's why we've been around for over almost 30 years.

COVID-19 NOTE:

We are offering a small selection of in-person classes in NYC, available to those who can show proof of a COVID vaccination. We also offer many classes Online and through Zoom videoconference. Check our website for the most current information.

Ways to Learn



NYC classes, in person.



Online classes.

NOT TAKING PLACE IN REAL TIME



Zoom classes.

IN REAL TIME VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

Summer classes begin throughout June, July, and August.
Registration fee for all classes: \$25 paid once per term.

10-Week Workshops

These classes use a combination of lectures, exercises, and workshopping (critiquing of student projects). In NYC and Zoom, they meet for three hours per week; online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. Available in Level I, II, III.

\$445 — NYC
\$419 — Online, Zoom

6-Week Classes

These classes let students explore a variety of forms and concepts in a low-pressure manner, through a combination of lectures and exercises. In NYC and Zoom, they meet for three hours per week (two hours for Business Writing); online, each session begins at the same time each week, and unfolds gradually all week long. (Timing and price is different for Business Writing.) All Level I.

\$345 — NYC
\$319 — Online, Zoom

Selling Seminars

These courses emphasize the business side of writing. The Online version takes place over four weeks. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions.

\$175

Intensives

These are fast and fun crash courses. The NYC version takes place in one seven-hour day. The Zoom version takes place in two three-hour sessions. The Online version takes place over three weeks.

\$165

Courses



Fiction

Whether delving inside the truth of our everyday lives or letting us escape into an entertaining page-turner, fiction takes us through the “looking-glass” into a world that’s a curious mixture of real and made-up.

FICTION/NOVEL
CHILDREN’S BOOKS
SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY
MYSTERY
ROMANCE
COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS
READING FICTION



Nonfiction

Whether it’s an experience found in your kitchen or halfway around the world, whether it’s an idea you can’t forget or a conversation with a fascinating person, sometimes the most intriguing stories are true.

CREATIVE NONFICTION 101
MEMOIR
ESSAY & OPINION
PERSONAL ESSAY
ARTICLE
TRAVEL WRITING
FOOD WRITING



Scriptwriting

We all like to be entertained, whether it’s watching a performance live on stage or flickering on a screen. Here’s where you learn to write the material that holds those audiences in thrall.

WRITING SCRIPTS 101
SCREENWRITING
TV WRITING
PLAYWRITING
DOCUMENTARY FILM
SCRIPTS IN FOCUS
VIDEO GAME WRITING
WEB SERIES



Comedy, Poetry & Song

Send words soaring in the lyricism of poetry or song. Or get people high on laughter through stand-up comedy or humorous prose.

POETRY
SONGWRITING
HUMOR WRITING
STAND-UP COMEDY



Essentials

Creative Writing 101 is an ideal starting point for writers, to test the waters or wash off the rust. The other courses here focus on crucial aspects of the writing craft, useful for all types of writing.

CREATIVE WRITING 101
PLOT
CHARACTER
DIALOGUE
GRAMMAR!
THE WRITER’S MIND
THE EDITOR’S EYE
IN(VERSE): POETIC TECHNIQUES FOR NON-POETS
SOCIAL MEDIA
PEN ON FIRE
JUST WRITE



Professional Development

These courses sharpen your skills in the workplace, or help you build a platform as a writer, or guide you through the tricky task of publishing your work. We also offer Corporate Classes.

BUSINESS WRITING
BLOG BASICS
BLOG WRITING
HOW TO GET PUBLISHED
NONFICTION BOOK PROPOSAL
HIT SEND: PUBLISHING SHORT NONFICTION



Teen Classes

Pressure-free, creativity-stretching, not-like-school courses for writers ages 13-17. Useful for expanding your talent or gaining skills bound to help with essays and schoolwork.

UNBOUND: CREATIVE WRITING
TRUE STORY: CREATIVE NONFICTION ACTION: TEEN SCRIPTWRITING



One-on-One

It’s wonderful to learn in a group setting, but sometimes one-on-one is the right match. You may want a private class, or “doctoring” on a specific project, or a professional mentor to guide you, or one of our specialty arrangements.

DOCTORING - BOOK/STORY/SCRIPT MENTORSHIPS
PRIVATE SESSIONS AND CLASSES
PRIVATE GRAMMAR SESSIONS
PRIVATE BUSINESS WRITING SESSION/CLASS
COLLEGE ESSAY COACHING
MFA APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
BLOG LAUNCH
BLOG BOOST
PODCAST LAUNCH
PROOFREADING
QUERY LETTER COACHING
AGENT/EDITOR EVALUATION

Write Now

The most challenging part of writing is often just getting started—daring yourself into the wide-openness of the blank page. We invite you to do just that.

To help out, we present several “story starters” and some tantalizing blank space to write upon.

IT'S A VISUAL

Begin a story inspired by this photograph.



Photo by Mike Lloyd

TRY TO REMEMBER

As you'll see in the article on the following page, the key to writing for children is to get inside the mindset of a child, perhaps even the child you once were. Find a picture of yourself as a kid, or even just remember one. Then write a story about what was happening at that time, or use the picture as a springboard to a story that's totally made up. The main thing is to get inside the mind of that kid.

READY, SET, WRITE

Use this writing prompt as inspiration: *squint*

Now write a story that springs from this prompt in some way. It can be true or made up. Prose, script, poem, whatever you like. The trick is not to think about it, but just dive in and start writing. Let the prompt lead you wherever it wants to. Often this “no thinking” approach to writing is the best way to tap your creativity. (This will give you a taste of what we do every Friday at our Write-Ins.)

Gotham Faculty

STEPS TOWARDS FINDING YOUR INNER CHILD ON THE PAGE

Faculty Insight

BY MARGARET MEACHAM

"Childhood is another country."
—*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*,
The Little Prince

Even if you haven't been a child for decades, if you want to write children's books, you need to find a way to see the world through your child characters' eyes, minds, and hearts. You need to remember what it's like to be a kid, to find a passport to that other country.

How does an adult writer create realistic child and teenage characters? Here are some ways of thinking like a kid—plus some exercises to help you practice.

Wonder why and ask what if.

Kids are curious. They don't know as much as adults, but they desperately want to know about and understand the world, and because they don't come with preconceived notions, they are much more able to question, imagine things differently, and see other possibilities.

A child might ask "Why does it get dark at night?" An adult would explain that it's about the earth spinning. The child might then think, but what if it didn't? Or what if the earth slowed down? Sped up?

A child might ask, "Why is there gravity?" An adult would explain that it's because of the pull of the moon. The child might then think, what if something shifts, and there's much less gravity? Or much more?

Practice:
Play your own "what if?" game. Make up 10 *what if...* questions and think about possible outcomes.

Next time you're with a kid, listen to his or her questions. What do they wonder about? What do they imagine? How do they see things differently?

Read, watch, play.

Though many aspects of childhood are the same as they were when you were a kid, and even when your grandma was a kid, a lot of things are different. To understand the world of children today, immerse yourself in their culture. Read the books they are reading, watch the shows they're watching, play the games they're playing.

Practice:
Talk to at least three kids about their favorite books, TV shows, games. Read the books, watch the shows, play the games—preferably with the kids.

Remember.

Understanding today's kids is important, but if you are to really get inside your child characters, you also want to remember your own childhood. You were there once yourself. You passed through every age of childhood, and there are probably a lot more memories of those days buried in your subconscious mind than you realize.

Here are some methods for bringing those memories to the surface:

- Look at old photographs and home movies.
- Talk to people you knew back in the day, reliving old times.
- Reread old letters, journals, diaries, school projects.
- Research what was going on in the world when you were a child—politics, local news, culture.
- Listen to the music you listened to back then.
- Ruminates—think about past life events in a relaxed and meditative state.

Practice:
Ask yourself: What was one thing you really wanted when you were a child that you couldn't have?

What is the worst fight you ever had? Who was it with? What about?

What was the thing that scared you the most as a child? Did you get over this fear? How?

What is the bravest thing you've ever done? What was the meanest?

Of what are you most proud? Most ashamed?

What is the best holiday or birthday you can remember? What is the saddest? Why?

Can you remember the first time you were away from home overnight? What was it like?

Do you remember the first time you realized someone had lied to you? Who was it? Why did they lie? How did you feel? What did you do?

Finally, before you write, practice being a kid. It will help your writing, and more than that, it will keep you young. As playwright Tom Stoppard said, "If you carry your childhood with you, you'll never grow old."

Margaret Meacham has published many books for children, including *Oyster Moon* and *A Mid-Semester Night's Dream*.

SEE MORE FACULTY
ARTICLES AND PROFILES
ON OUR WEBSITE.

Photo by
Anna Azarov



LARA EWEN

Faculty Profile

BY STUART PENNEBAKER

"I don't think that you should let somebody else tell you what your writing career looks like," Gotham teacher and multi-hyphenate Lara Ewen says. As the former editor in chief of a fashion magazine, a journalist who has worked with publications including *Women's Wear Daily* and *Rolling Stone*, and a musician who's released three albums, Lara has much to say about a creative career in the writing world.

Lara's writing career began at Boston University where she studied poetry. This was also where she received her first assignment as a fashion journalist:

"I was working at a vintage clothing store, because clothing is awesome," Lara says, "and a friend of mine, who was working at the college newspaper, says something along the lines of, so you're like, a writer, right? And you understand, like, fashion

and stuff? And I was like, I suppose..." Lara found herself in Boston reporting on a fashion show.

Following her first foray into fashion journalism, Lara began covering fashion for a local newspaper in Boston and then LA, where she also worked as a film critic. Lara applied her sense of humor and perspective to these assignments, as well:

"Everybody wanted to go see the best movies so they could write these sweeping wonderful reviews... I was always like, no, send me to the one you know you have to review that nobody wants to go see. Which is how, you know, my absolutely stunning review of *Timecop* came to exist."

Lara then relocated to Williamsburg where she worked as the editor in chief of a fashion magazine that focused on trade:

"I was writing about the business of it—so textiles, and how different denim mills were working on fashion or, you know, what was happening in the streetwear industry."

She also co-authored *The Girlshop Guide to NYC*, a shopping guide to New York City:

"These were our favorite very, very, very hand-picked stores...we were never trying to be comprehensive. It was never about that. It wasn't like I'm going to list every bar in New York City. I'm just going to tell you about the three bars that I think are cool."

Lara continues her work as a journalist now. She is a regular contributor for *American Libraries Magazine* where she investigates issues that affect society:

"I just filed a story for *American Libraries* about period equity and period poverty and how

libraries are working to provide free period products across the country," Lara says. "I love talking to people who are trying to make a positive change in the world, but also then talking to people who are like, yeah, but here's why that's a problem... I want, if somebody reads this, to understand the entirety of the issue, to understand that it turns out that period products aren't free because men don't understand periods and men are in charge of almost all the funding everywhere in libraries, in the government."

Lara's journalistic interests and publications are wide, but she does not limit herself to a single form of writing. "I've been writing songs for as long as I've been alive," Lara says.

She is also the talent booker for the Free Music Fridays series at the American Folk Art Museum, which has featured musicians such as Marc Delgado and Lizzie No.

As a teacher, Lara highlights the importance of inclusivity in her classroom:

"I think that you can't do journalism unless you understand the world a little bit, and so for instance, it's important to have students' perspectives from places that aren't just the city, places that aren't just the United States," says Lara, reflecting on the shift from in-person classes to Zoom. "We should be making this as accessible as possible. And I think Zoom is a great step."

Student Voices

I was able to develop a character for a novel I had been working on, which is now due for publication in August.

— Roxann King-Feuerman, writer

Gotham gives students both craft and confidence.

— Will Pharis, theater teacher/director

The class changed me personally. Giving me the courage to write, to share my writing, and to be open to feedback. I have never felt so seen!

— Ramona Sidlo, wellness coach & astrologer

A place to go to learn from other kindred spirits.

— Karen Z. Waltensperger, international health advisor

Community

WRITE-INS (FREE)

We offer free Write-Ins most every Friday on Zoom, at 2 and 6:30 pm Eastern Time.

Here's what happens. The teacher gives an interesting writing prompt. Everyone writes for a while. Then, those who want to read aloud their work. We take a break and socialize (bring refreshments). Then you go through the process one more time. It's writer's heaven.

You must sign up in advance. Spaces open every Thursday afternoon for the following day's Write-In.

[GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/WRITEIN](https://gothamwriters.com/writein)

INSIDE WRITING TALK SHOW (FREE)

We offer a free talk show on Zoom, most every Wednesday at 5 pm Eastern Time. It's called Inside Writing. Every episode, the host and guests (writers, agents, editors) discuss the inside scoop on publishing and writing. (Also available on YouTube and most podcast platforms.)

You must sign up in advance.

[GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/INSIDE](https://gothamwriters.com/inside)

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WRITERS OF COLOR

Did you know Gotham offers various scholarships to writers of color?

[GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://gothamwriters.com/scholarships)

SUMMER CONTEST

Temperatures Rising



Photo by Sharon McCutcheon

Tell us a story about temperatures rising, figuratively or literally.

Passion, obsession, lust, fever, climate change, anything you can conjure. It can be true or completely made up. It might be a torrid noir romance or a treatise on making the perfect cup of tea. Anything goes, so long as it's hot.

You get 99 words or fewer.

The writer that sets our pulse racing the most wins a free Gotham class of their choosing.

Here's an example:

Penn knew hot flashes were for women undergoing menopause. So, on her twenty-sixth birthday—when she found herself slumped over the dirty bathroom sink, staring hard into the mirror, skin splotched and red, her heart beating all irregular like a wounded deer running its way back to the forest from the busy road—she was struck. The warmth spread through her chest, knocking her down before she'd even had the chance to answer Grandma's Happy-Birthday-ladybug phone call. Sliding down to the merciful cold tile, Penn contemplated her body, and what it meant now.

Emma Stephenson

For competition rules and online entry form,
— visit —
[GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/TEMPERATURE](https://gothamwriters.com/temperature)

#GWstories everywhere

Stories are, truly, everywhere—every place you look, everyone you meet, everything you experience. Every day is filled with hundreds of potential stories awaiting your imagination and craft.

Each month we invite you to post a story on Twitter at #GWstories everywhere. Your stories (which can be true or made up) will be inspired by what you see, know, or do, and they should relate in some way to these monthly themes:

JUNE

camp

JULY

kid stuff

AUGUST

dreamy

At the end of each month, we will pick our favorite and reward that person with a free Gotham writing class.

Your story must be no longer than 25 words, with a max of 280 characters, including spaces and the hashtag #GWstories everywhere.

Everyone has a story. Especially you.

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM
212-974-8377



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