

Writing workshop: Writing for children

Mining yourself and your environment for stories – then developing them

Come to Siena with the desire to tell a story you haven't found yet, or the inkling of an idea, or a full plot line, or a whole draft – whatever you come with, we will work with you to develop it. This will be an intensive week of workshops in the heart of old Siena – one of the most beautiful sites in Italy, and, therefore, in the world. The location itself nurtures your creativity. So whether you are a novice or someone with several publications under your belt, we will meet your needs in writing for children, from preschool through high school.

Location: Siena School for the Liberal Arts. The Siena School for the Liberal Arts is a non-profit organization, doing outreach service to the elderly, immigrants, and Deaf of Siena.

<http://www.sienaschool.com/>

Daily workshops feature:

- Writing exercises on virtually every aspect of a story: developing your characters, plots, and settings, building tension and creating dialogue that rings true to the ear, using facts (particularly historical facts) to tighten the screws of your story, incorporating non-traditional characters into your stories without turning the stories into "issue" books, and more
- Constructive criticism of your work both in writing circles and in one-on-one sessions with the instructor
- Discussions of practical issues, including how to position your work in the children's market, how to find an agent, how to find an editor, what to look for in a contract, how to work with an editor
- Readings by students, faculty, and local writers

Instructor for 8-14 May 2011: Donna Jo Napoli. Ms. Napoli has published approximately 70 books for children and won many awards, including the Golden Kite Award (and an honor book), the Sydney Taylor Book Award (and an honor book), the Parents' Choice Gold Award (and two Silver Award books), the Nevada Young Readers Award, the Kentucky Bluegrass Award, the Drexel University and Free Library of Philadelphia Children's Literature Citation, and the Literary Lights for Children Award of the Boston Public Library. She has taught writing in the United States, Australia, China, Japan, and Taiwan. She's been on the faculty of the Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua and at the Chautauqua Writers' Center, as well as at many regional and national conferences of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Her books have been translated into fourteen other languages. She is also a professor of linguistics at Swarthmore College.

<http://donnajonapoli.com/>

Price: \$2,500; cost for accompanying non-participants will depend on accommodation matters

Includes:

- Private room in hotel
- Daily traditional breakfast and simple lunch
- Daily workshop activities
- Being met at Siena bus station or train station at 3:30pm on arrival Sunday
- Being transported to Siena bus station or train station on final day

Does Not Include:

- Airfare and transportation within Italy to get to and from Siena
- Dinners (There are many delightful restaurants in Siena and in the environs suitable for all budgets.)
- Sight-seeing

Questions and Payment:

Nonrefundable deposit of \$700 is due by 1 April 2011. The remainder is due by 1 May 2011.

Contact m.grottanelli@sienaschool.com for payment details and questions regarding everything except the workshop. Contact donnajonapoli@gmail.com for questions regarding the workshop only.