Write

Stories. Everywhere.

Summer Classes 2022
Everyone has a story.

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.
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, exercise, and workshop (critique of student projects). Each NYC and Zoom class 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.

$419 — Online, Zoom

$445 — NYC

The Gotham Writing School offers a variety of writing courses. Whether you are looking to improve your writing skills, get published, or simply learn for fun, we have a course that is right for you. Our courses include fiction, nonfiction, scriptwriting, and more. All courses are taught by experienced writers and editors.

Online classes.

NOT TAKING PLACE IN REAL TIME

Ways to Learn

NYC classes, in person.

Zoom classes.

IN REAL TIME VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

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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.

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.

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.)
A child might ask, “Why does it get dark at night?” An adult would explain that it’s about the earth’s rotation. The child might then think, but why does it get dark? Or, “What if the earth doesn’t turn? Speed 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 falls, and there’s much less gravity? Or much more?

Practice: Play your own “what if?” game. Make up 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 kid.

Remember:
Understanding today’s kids is important, but if you are to really get inside your child’s character, 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.
• Read 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 as a kid.
• Reminisce—think about past life experiences 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 it? What was the bravest thing you’ve ever done? What was the measure?

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 met the friend you still cherish today? Who was it? Why did you like him/her? How did they 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 Muschen has published many books for children, including The Fägegoons and A Mid-Summer Night’s Dream. She is also the talent booker for the Free Music Project.

“On our website:”

Gotham gives students both craft and confidence.

—Will Paris, theater teacher/director

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

—Reemun King-Feuerman, writer

—Karen Z. Waltensperger, international health advisor

—Ramona Sidlo, wellness coach & astrologer

“Gotham teacher and multi-implantee Lara Ewen says. As the former editor in chief of a fashion magazine, a journalist who has worked with publications including Vogue, W, Harper’s Bazaar, and a musician who’s released three albums, Lara has much more to offer than just writing work.”

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 expensive,” Lara says, “and a friend of mine, who was working at the college newspaper, gave me a job. So you like to write, 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 see the best movies so they could write those glowing wonderful reviews. I always used to say, 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 Tropicana 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—on textiles, and how different denim mills were working on fashion or, you know, what was happening in the outerwear industry.”

She also co-authored The Gotham Guide in NYC, a shopping guide to New York City.

“These were our favorite very, very, very hand-selected products across the country,” Lara says. “I was able to develop a character for a novel I had been working on, which is now due for publication in August.”

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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 Project, writing articles for American Libraries. "I think you can’t do journalism unless you understand the world a little bit, and so for me, it’s important to have different perspectives from places that aren’t just the city. Places that aren’t just the United States," says Lara. “I think we often get stuck in Zoom. We should be making that as accessible as possible. And I think Zoom is a great step.”

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.

—Roxann King-Feuerman, writer

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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 once 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.

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WRITERS OF COLOR

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

Temperatures Rising

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

- Passion, obsession, lust, stress, climate change, anything you can conjure. It can be true or completely made up. It might be a terror novel, romance or a treatise on making the perfect cup of tea. Anything goes, as 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 doe 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 Stephens

For competition rules and online entry form.

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM/TEMPERATURE

CONTACT@GOTHAMWRITERS.COM 212-974-8377
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 #GWstorieseverywhere. 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 #GWstorieseverywhere.

Everyone has a story. Especially you.

GOTHAMWRITERS.COM
212–974–8577