



## Syllabus

### Children's Book Writing

(2 hour class)

**Introduction to Children's Books** - The different categories of children's books. Constants and variables in children's books. Vocabulary, darkness, humor, series and humanization. Where to find inspiration and ideas. The importance of craft.

**Theme** - Type of Theme defined. Weaving theme into a story.

**Plot** - Finding a major dramatic question. Shaping a book plot. Pros and cons of outlining.

**Character** - Where to find characters. Making characters dimensional through desire and contrasts. Creating character profiles. Showing vs Telling.

**Point of View/Voice** - Point of view defined. Exploration of the various types of point of view. Voice defined.

**Description** - Using the senses. Specificity. Techniques for creativity. Finding the right words.

**Dialogue** - The importance of scene. Dialogue's illusion of reality. Quotation marks and tags. Characterization through dialogue. Subtext.

**Setting/Fantasy** - Creating settings through time, place, and weather. Description of setting. When setting is a major character. Fantasy logic and details. Finding a fresh fantasy world.

**Nonfiction** - Pros of writing a nonfiction children's book. The spectrum of nonfiction. Shaping nonfiction into a story. Choosing a topic. Nonfiction book proposals.

**Revision** - Exploration of the various stages of revision.

**The Business** - Proper format for manuscripts. How to target publishing houses and agents. How to send your work out.

\*The instructor is an award winning children's chapter book author.