



Course Title: Writing for the Youngest Audience: Little Children, Big Emotions

Course Code: CW 16

Instructor Names and Bios: Elissa Haden Guest & Lynn E. Hazen

Elissa Haden Guest, Author

Elissa Haden Guest's most recent picture book is *Baby Builders*. Her ten-book early reader series, *Iris and Walter*, includes five Junior Library Guild Selections, an ALA Notable Children's Book, and a PEN Center USA West Literary Award.

Lynn E. Hazen, Author

Lynn Hazen is the author of the young adult novel *Shifty*, which was named to VOYA's Top Shelf Fiction and was a Smithsonian Notable Book for Children. Her other books include *Mermaid Mary Margaret*, *Cinder Rabbit*, *The Amazing Trail of Seymour Snail*, and *Buzz Bumble to the Rescue*.

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting days and times:

3 Saturdays, April 15, 22 & 29, 2023

9:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Meeting location: Zoom

The class sessions will not be recorded.

Course Features:

- Lecture, discussions, in-class writing, breakout groups, and Q&A
- Optional Assignments, discussions, and course materials posted in Canvas

Course Summary

Through lecture and discussion we'll explore a variety of books for young children (six months old through age nine). We'll examine classic and new picture books, early readers, and young chapter books. Through in-class writing prompts, students will develop their own characters and stories, with the opportunity to share their writing in breakout groups. Due to the short nature of this course, students will not receive instructor feedback on their writing. Practical tips about the publishing world will be addressed with plenty of time for Q & A. This course is open to aspiring as well as experienced writers.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Attend all 3 class sessions
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Attend all 3 class sessions, write and participate

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Textbooks/Required Materials

We highly recommend you read the first four picture books before the first session as we will be discussing them in class. If you can, please read *Love From Anna Hibiscus* before the second session.

- Kevin Henkes, *Kitten's First Full Moon* ISBN 9780062417107
- Phyllis Root, *Oliver Finds His Way* ISBN 9780763613839
- Deborah Underwood, *Walter Had a Best Friend* ISBN 9781534477001
- Jacqueline Woodson, *The Other Side* ISBN 9780399231162
- Atinuke, *Love From Anna Hibiscus* ISBN 9781406349122

An extended bibliography will be provided in class.

Tentative Weekly Outline

Class 1 -Saturday, April 15, 2023

- Introduction to board books & and picture books
- Young children and their emotions
- Writing exercises
- Developing empathetic characters
- Pacing, page turns, & building tension
- Q & A

Class 2 - Saturday, April 22, 2023

- Introduction to early readers & young chapter books
- Voice & vivid language
- Conflict & emotion
- New and expanded writing exercises
- Strategies for critique partners
- Q & A

Class 3 - Saturday, April 29, 2023

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650

PRELIMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS

- Writing exercise
- Strategies for critique groups
- Sharing first pages in breakout groups
- Publishing info, advice, and Q & A

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