

## Writing picture books

**Start date** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016      **Time** 10.00am – 4.45pm

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Pippa Goodhart      **Course code** 1617NDX014

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biography

Pippa is the author of over a hundred books for children ranging from picture books, through early reader books, to novels for children. Best known amongst her picture books is prize-winning, million-copy selling, *You Choose* illustrated by Nick Sharratt. The opportunities and challenges of working text, pictures and book together to suit a very young audience and difficult market make picture book writing a very particular skill. Pippa has enjoyed teaching writing for children for many years at De Montfort University in Leicester and online for the Writers' Workshop.

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## Course Programme

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9:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10.00 – 11:15	Session 1: Thinking about the young child audience for picture books. Can we remember that young child view of the world from our own childhoods? Considering the demands of the market for picture books.
11.15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: What is a story? How to achieve a strong simple story suited to the young audience, and how to shape it using plot and character. Discuss and write.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Looking at the book format, and the restrictions and opportunities it offers the writer. Rework the story to fit the format. Are there opportunities to dramatise the story in less obvious ways?
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Workshopping the stories. Considering publication options (including adapting stories to work as young reader books).
16:45	Day school ends

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## Course syllabus

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### Aims:

1. To explore the range of picture books, and consider how they suit their young audience.
2. To shape and write a potential picture book story, considering illustration and design as well as text.
3. To develop an understanding of the market, and how to pursue publication.

### Content:

We will look at a range of modern picture books, and consider what story topics and treatments best suit the market and audience for these books, and why. We will look at how best to work pictures and text together (even though we are not producing any pictures ourselves) to bring a story to life through the page turns of a book to be read out loud. We will write and workshop stories, and then consider how best to achieve publication.

**Presentation of the course:**

Some course content will be presented by the tutor. There will be class discussion. We will work together on one story idea, and then participants will write their own story. Those stories will be read out loud, and workshopped together.

**Outcomes:**

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- Analyse how picture books work text and pictures together, combining different disciplines to work towards one end product.
- Develop an understanding of ~~as to~~ how the publishing world works, specifically in regard to the picture book market.
- Respond to the needs and tastes of young children.
- Respond to team work, and applying skills in critiquing and receiving critiquing in constructive ways.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

Write a picture book, complete with illustration notes, set out correctly, and to know how best to seek publication for that book.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher and date</b>
Coppard, Yvonne & Newberry, Linda	<i>Writing Children's Fiction</i>	Bloomsbury, 2013
<b>Young Adult:</b>		
Collins, Suzanne	<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Scholastic, 2009
Sacher, Louis	<i>Holes</i>	Bloomsbury, 2015
Wein, Elizabeth	<i>Rose Under Fire</i>	Electric Monkey, 2013
<b>Primary School Age:</b>		
Boyce, Frank Cottrell	<i>Millions</i>	Macmillan 2015
Lewis, Gill	<i>Scarlet Ibis</i>	OUP, 2015
Pichon, Liz	Tom Gates series	Scholastic, 2011
Reeve, Philip	<i>Mortal Engines</i>	Scholastic, 2015
Stanton, Andy	Mr Gum books	Egmont 2014
Wilson, Jacqueline	Tracey Beaker series	Yearling, 2006
<b>Picture books:</b>		
Brown, Peter	<i>Mr Tiger Goes Wild</i>	Two Hoots, 2014
Browne, Eileen	<i>Handa's Surprise</i>	Walker Books, 2006
Waddell, Martin and Oxenbury, Helen	<i>Farmer Duck</i>	Walker Books, 1995

**Students are encouraged to visit their local library and read a variety of picture books before the course takes place.**

### **Website addresses**

www.pippagoodhart.co.uk

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

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### **Additional information**

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#### **Venue**

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

#### **Refreshments**

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on

[ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

*Information correct as of:* 23 June 2016