

SCRIBBLERS SCOOP



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Children's Book Writers of Los Angeles

Educating and Inspiring Writers on the Road to Publication

Vol. 2 No. 1

February 2013

Scribblers Scoop is the non-profit CBW-LA's newsletter.

Available to the public, it is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.

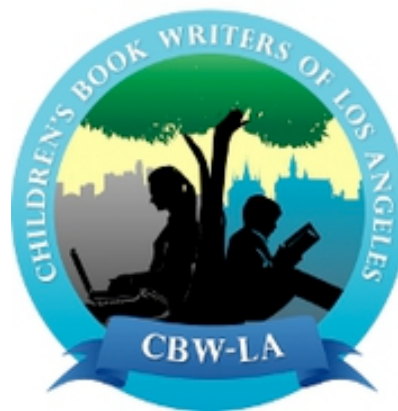


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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, and welcome back to Scribblers Scoop, the official newsletter of the non-profit Children's Book Writers of Los Angeles!

The newsletter is published quarterly, and filled with events, news and information that you will not want to miss.

In this issue, we introduce you to the new CBW-LA Board Member Angie Flores, interview Author Samantha Combs, hear about the writer-publisher relationship from Columnist Anjali Amit, learn more about industry news, share several upcoming events with you, and more!

Please enjoy your complimentary copy of our newsletter, and share it with family and friends. Archives will always be available on our website.

We welcome editorial submissions, comments, questions and suggestions. Write us - CBWLANewsletter@gmail.com.

Bonne lecture!
Alana Garrigues
CBW-LA Stationer



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Scribblers,
CBW-LA's initial nonprofit year has started auspiciously.

January's "Kickstarting Your Writing Career" workshop was a

success and February's first ever First Pages critique, along with our regular critique, was well-received, with participants vowing to attend more sessions in the future.

As always, I send my big thanks to our tireless volunteers who make all these activities possible. We hope to have bigger and better programs for you all in the years to come. In order to make this possible, we had to make big changes in our organizational structure.

Our primary and official website www.cbw-la.org is up and running.

Starting March 1, 2013, all CBW-LA Event RSVP's will be made from this website.

Our meetup webpage (www.meetup.com/CBW-LA) will remain only as a gateway for potential members and as a means to alert non-members to our events.

In January, we launched CBW-LA membership options at the workshop! I encourage you to sign up at www.cbw-la.org to take advantage of our full membership for \$30/year or \$50/two years.

This group is run by volunteers who work for FREE. Your membership fees are meant to fund all the expenses necessary to keep this group afloat, and to help us organize even more helpful writing events and programs for all.

As a CBW-LA Member, you will receive the following benefits:

1. FREE Critique Sessions/ First Pages Critique Sessions every other month. (Save \$30!)

Non-members (those not registered at cbw-la.org) will pay \$10 for critique sessions.

2. Access to a regular critique group.

Members who fill out our Critique Group Form will be organized into small critique groups based on their genre and location.

3. Discounted admission to all our workshops.

Regular workshops are priced at \$20*.

CBW-LA Members who RSVP online and pay in advance will SAVE \$10.

CBW-LA Members who pay at the door will SAVE \$5.

*some workshops may cost more than \$20; CBW-LA Members will always receive discounted rates

4. Resources available ONLY on our www.cbw-la.org website.

- Check out writing contests, challenges and prompts in our Writing Resources section.
- Read summaries of past events and workshops on our Blogs tab.
- RSVP to workshops, panels and critique sessions, using your CBW-LA member



discount.

- Check the Events section for local writing events, including book signings and writing conferences.
- Use the **Members Only** section to:
 - o Post any questions about the craft and business of writing on our Forum.
 - o Download copies of Scribblers Scoop, our quarterly newsletter.
 - o Download the latest handouts and worksheets.
 - o Network with other members through the Directory.

Once you have registered and paid for your membership at www.cbw-la.org, you will receive a welcome packet containing more information on how to make the most of your CBW-LA membership, along with a

complimentary CBW-LA Button and Pen (and tote bag, if you paid for the 2 year membership).

Again, I encourage you to sign up as full CBW-LA members. Through our writing community, you'll acquire a wealth of knowledge to help you attain your goals, and discover new friends who will accompany and support your budding writing career.

I promise you'll find your CBW-LA Membership a rewarding experience.

Sincerely,
Nutschell Anne Windsor
CBW-LA Founder and President

CBW-LA NEWS

CBW-LA launched its new website and membership options in January 2013. One-year memberships are available for \$30. Two-year memberships are available for \$50. Membership benefits and details outlined in this newsletter on page 17. Please sign up online at www.cbw-la.org/joinus. The new website includes a member directory, online forum for all members, event RSVP (members save!), information about local writing events, contests, challenges, prompts and more.

With the CBW-LA website up and running, we will continue to use Meetup as a marketing platform in the short term. However, long term we will transition entirely to the CBW-LA website. We encourage Meetup members to convert their membership to CBW-LA as early as possible to ensure the most up to date news and information.

The board of directors is expanding! We are recruiting for a new Herald, a.k.a. Publicity and Social Media Coordinator. If you live for social media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.), this job is for you! More information on page 5.

We wish to thank Lena Chen for her tireless work as Treasurer and Website Coordinator. Lena stepped down from her position in February to pursue other goals. We wish her well and thank her for her continued passion and support for the club.

Congratulations to Tiffani Barth, who was promoted from Herald to Chamberlain (Treasurer) and to Angie Flores who was installed as Solicitor (Marketing Manager) on February 23.



MEET YOUR NEWEST CBW-LA DIRECTOR



Angie Flores | Marketing Manager | Aspiring PB Author

Born and raised in Hollywood, Angie was always destined for some kind of "Stardom."

While attending Cal State Dominguez Hills and receiving a BA in Child Psychology and Masters courses in Conflict Negotiations, she met her Prince Charming who became her happily ever after. Now she calls the South Bay her home with her husband and three boys, and her Oscar will just have to wait.

Angie found her love in writing children's stories and picture books through the concepts and questions her young boys would present. She is also following in her grandmother's footsteps, who illustrated children's books in Germany in the 1920's.

With over 20 stories waiting to be discovered, Angie continues to write and knows her time will come. Angie has also written two television pilots, scripts for on-air radio announcements, and a movie script. (Maybe that's where the Oscar will come.)

Angie has come a long way from her first job at Mann's Chinese Theater popping popcorn. She has taught physically and mentally challenged children and adults, been an Event Coordinator for weddings and corporations, owned a photography business for babies and weddings, worked as Casting Assistant for a popular casting agency in Hollywood, was a Placement Manager for executives, office personnel, and medical personnel, and served as Human Resources Manager for a major satellite company.

Currently Angie is a Human Resources Manager on a part-time basis and spends the majority of her work time writing handbooks, policies and procedures, and marketing materials. Angie is also very active with the WALTERIA Academic Alliance where she has implemented and coordinated several successful fundraisers for WALTERIA Elementary School.

On her down time she loves to travel, make jewelry, and roller skate on the beach. Insomnia usually brings her the time to write her stories. Angie also reads her stories at different schools for her target audiences, and has spoken to middle school writing classes on the journey of a story and finding motivation.

Since joining the CBW-LA Angie has been able to put her stories in to action, instead of remaining in her journal. With the CBW-LA, she found a renewed interest in becoming a serious writer and the motivation to take her stories as far as they can go. With excited eyes, Angie will handle Marketing, Fundraising and Publicity for the CBW-LA.



CBW-LA OPPORTUNITIES: HELP WANTED

CBW-LA is recruiting. We have several openings for highly talented and spirited volunteers!



BOARD POSITION OPEN: CBW-LA HERALD (a.k.a Publicity and Social Media Coordinator)

We are looking for a **social media master** to join the CBW-LA Board of Directors. The Herald will be responsible for constant communication with our membership through various social media, including Facebook and Twitter. Potential opportunities to expand our social media presence to YouTube, blogging and Pinterest. Herald will also be responsible for expanding our reach and enhancing CBW-LA recruitment through use of #CBWLA hashtag across

media. Must be passionate about social media.

Time commitment: frequent, regular online research and updates plus quarterly CBW-LA board meeting

Benefits: complimentary CBW-LA membership, media exposure, leadership development

Interested? Contact Nutschell: nutschell@cbw-la.org

Additional Volunteer Opportunities:

Events Committee (nutschell@cbw-la.org): day of event set up, clean up, event photographers

Newsletter Committee (alana@cbw-la.org): reporters, columnists, photographers, comic strip, book reviewers

Newsletter Ad Sales (alana@cbw-la.org)

Fundraising Committee (angie@cbw-la.org): grant writers, solicitation letter writers

Publicity Committee (nutschell@cbw-la.org): flyer distributors, graphic designers

ADVERTISE IN SCRIBBLERS' SCOOP

Reach more than 200 local Los Angeles writers and get a link on our website!

RATES

1/4 page ad = \$50 / year

1/2 page ad = \$75 / year

full page ad = \$100 / year

(1 year = 4 issues)

SPECIALS

CBW-LA member discount: \$20 off

Author promo: 1/4 page = \$25 / year

Contact CBWLANewsletter@gmail.com
to reserve your ad space now.

JUMP ON THE CBW-LA SOCIAL MEDIA BANDWAGON!



[@CBWLA](https://twitter.com/CBWLA)



www.facebook.com/CBWLA

Use hashtag **#CBWLA** to connect!



YOU'RE INVITED: UPCOMING EVENTS

The Author's Platform: Blogging with the Bird

Saturday, March 30

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

El Segundo Library | 111 W Mariposa Ave. | El Segundo, CA 90245

CBW-LA Members: \$10 pay in advance, \$15 at the door

Non-members: \$20

Register and RSVP online at:

<http://www.cbw-la.org/events?eventId=632583&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

Advance payment and registration highly advised.



Arlee Bird, creator and host of the A to Z Challenge, will speak to CBW-LA about the benefits of blogging and the blogging community.

The A to Z Challenge is the brainchild of the influential blogger. When he began blogging four years ago, Lee was looking for a way to tie the community together, build sustaining relationships between writers and bloggers and populate his blog with useful posts. He decided to dedicate an entire month to challenge himself to blog through the alphabet, and invited others to join him. A to Z was born, and with the help of several co-hosts, Lee will kick off the fourth annual A to Z Challenge this April. Nearly 2,000 people signed up for the challenge last year, and for those who use it wisely, readership and fans soar.

Why is blogging important? Shouldn't an aspiring author focus on writing and revising their manuscript rather than focus on blogging and other social media?

The answer is yes and no. If an aspiring author spends all their time on a blog, Facebook and Twitter, a manuscript will not write itself.

However, in today's world where a writer is expected to engage in marketing and sales in addition to stellar writing, the author who finds the right balance between blogging, social media and writing will vastly improve their chances of getting an agent or a book deal. Ultimately, agents and publishers want something that will sell, and blogging enthusiasts and followers will buy a quality blogger's book.

The other upside is - the more you write, the better you become. It doesn't matter what you write about - the simple act of putting words on paper or on a computer screen will improve your ability to communicate and tell a compelling story.

Lee will talk about his blogging journey, and the networking opportunities afforded him through the A to Z Challenge. He will also talk about how to get started blogging, how to create a sense of online community, and how to use Facebook and Twitter to maximize the writer's platform.

There will be time for questions and answers, but any attendee may submit a question prior to the event by sending it to any CBW-LA board member or alana@cbw-la.org.

Lee would be happy to incorporate advance questions in his talk.

YOU'RE INVITED: UPCOMING EVENTS

Critique Session

Saturday, April 13
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

El Segundo Library | 111 W Mariposa Ave. | El Segundo, CA 90245

CBW-LA Members: FREE

Non-members: \$10



RSVP online: <http://www.cbw-la.org/events?eventId=646413&EventViewMode=EventDetails>

Participants will be grouped according to genre (Picture Book/ Middle Grade/Young Adult & Adult/ Poetry & Nonfiction) so they can get the best feedback possible. We may combine certain groups due to low registration in a particular genre.

Please bring:

1. **Copies of the first chapter** of your novel. If you're writing a picture book, bring the whole book that you want critiqued. The general rule is that you must bring copies for every member who has signed up for the session. * Please wait for the final email from the organizer before printing copies, so you know exactly how many to print.*
2. A **voice/tape recorder** if you wish to record the critiques.
3. A **notebook/pad and pen** to use for your critique notes.

THE VALUE OF A CRITIQUE SESSION

As writers, we are very close to our work and often times we miss certain details on story development or story elements like characters, setting, etc.

Critique sessions allow other people with "fresh eyes" to have a look at your writing sample, and read them as your future readers would, providing you with valuable feedback to improve your writing skills and get your manuscript ready for submission.

In all our Critique Sessions, we give you feedback in the most TACTful way possible.

TACT = Finesse, thoughtfulness or having a keen sense of what to say or do to avoid giving offense; skill in dealing with difficult or delicate situations. TACT is also the technique we use for our critiques:

T = Terrific

We share what we loved in your piece, what worked in your story and what we liked about your plot, setting, character, pacing, etc.

A = Author Questions

In the last few minutes of your critique time, we encourage you, as the author, to ask questions about your story or to clarify the comments you received.

C = Constructive Comments

We deliver, in the politest way possible, comments that are specific and helpful to help you improve your story.

T = Talent

Talent can get you far, but hard work can get you farther. We always end by encouraging you, the author, to keep on writing. We remind you that we are here to help you achieve your writing goals.

YOU'RE INVITED: UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date
Queries, and Loglines, and Blurbs, Oh My!
Guest Speaker: Samantha Combs

Saturday, May 11 --- Time and Location TBD

CBW-LA Members: \$10 pay in advance, \$15 at the door
Non-members: \$20

Ever feel like Dorothy in Oz trying to navigate defining your book? You just get done giving birth to your opus, typing those words The End, and you are sure it's time to sit back and relax. Except, it's not. Now you have to tell the world what your baby is about. Sometimes at a conference, most times in a pitch to an agent. In 150 words or LESS. What? Now the hard part begins

.Samantha is a CBW-LA member and published YA author.
A full description of her talk and online registration
will be available online prior to the event at www.cbw-la.org.

For more information on Samantha's writing career,
read the Member Spotlight on page 9 of this edition of Scribblers Scoop.

Get Published!
June 2013 CBW-LA Anthology Workshop
Inspiration and Publication

Your CBW-LA Board of Directors is hard at work planning
the South Bay writing workshop of the summer!

Keep your eyes and ears open for your opportunity to get published during our Anthology Workshop in June. Details, including date, time, location and registration will be available online at www.cbw-la.org prior to the event.



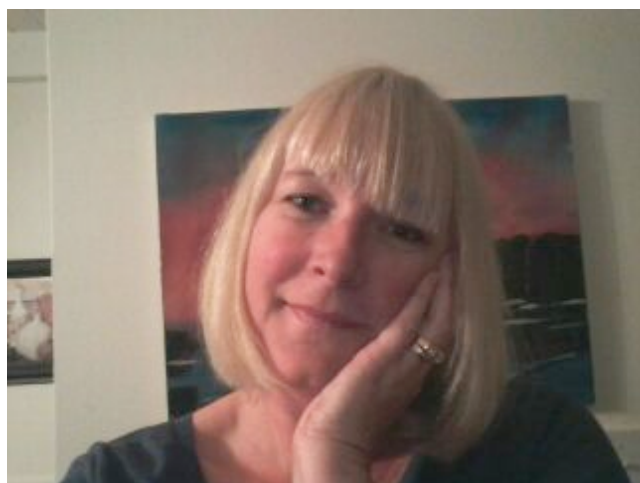
We will provide you with a full day of writing tips, tricks, prompts and inspiration!

We will lead you on various prompts and give you time to craft your own flash fiction. At the end of the day, you will turn in your best writing samples of the day. We'll have a line editor look it over to make sure it's polished and grammatically sound, then we'll compile the workshop instructions and prompts along with your responses to publish an anthology.

Every attendee will receive one free copy of the anthology with the price of admission. Additional print and digital copies will be available online through Amazon.



CBW-LA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SAMANTHA COMBS



Kudos to CBW-LA Member and Published YA Author Samantha Combs for being the brave first member to step into our spotlight!

Member Spotlight is a quarterly feature of Scribblers Scoop. If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact alana@cbw-la.org and we will be happy to consider you for a future issue. Amateurs welcome.

AG: What is your genre, and what are the titles of your books?

SC: I write YA paranormal and adult horror. I currently have 8 books: Spellbound, Everspell, Ghostly, Waterdancer, The Detention Demon, Teeth and Talons, Way Past Midnight, and Halloween.

AG: Choosing a genre can be a challenge for some authors. How did you choose yours?

SC: I actually feel as though the genre chose me. I started with sweet YA paranormal, but my first love, horror, kept creeping in. I started killing people and things off and one day, I found myself writing into a very dark, paranormal place. After writing for young adults, it was freeing to write horror. There are no restrictions and nothing is taboo. Very enlightening.

AG: As a published author, can you share what you gain from CBW-LA membership?

SC: Mostly, the camaraderie. The knowledge that I am on the same road as everyone else in the room is comforting. Even though I may be a little farther along, I still have the same fears and doubts as when I first started out professionally two years ago, and my whole life before that! When I help a member critique something they have written, I find I may uncover the breakthrough I need on my own project. And just like my blog, www.samanthacombswrites.blogspot.com, I am all about helping the newbie, aspiring, or already published author. We all want the same thing; to see our dreams in print.

AG: When thinking of the road to publication, what is your best advice to aspiring authors on how to navigate the map?

SC: Get thick skin. Fast. Rejections are a necessary, yet painful part of the writing process. Your own, your friend's, your Beta readers, and agents. All will cause you to doubt yourself at least once, and more likely, a ton. If you become your own biggest fan, then you will always have someone in your corner. Somehow, someday, someone will get you. They just will. But that will never happen if you don't get yourself first.

AG: When, how and where do you tend to write?

SC: As a working mother of two, I have always found the nights to be my best friend. Everyone else in the house is asleep and my muse and I can get our write on. I've tried writing in the day and there is



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SAMANTHA COMBS (cont.)

something about brilliant sunlight that stunts me. The dark of the night works better for me. My creatures came all come out and play.

AG: Do you have a favorite writing exercise? Or way to overcome writer's block?

SC: Writer's block has plagued me in the past and when it does, I always remember what my Mum tells me: Just do the next thing on the list. Usually, I just close the laptop and do something else but write. If my muse isn't in the mood, she gets cranky if I force it. I hope this doesn't sound like heresy, but I don't subscribe to the adage that a writer must write something every day. Maybe I might if I had the time, but I don't have that luxury. And I'm not sure if I would want it. See, it's the minutiae of my day is what turns the ordinary in my mind into the extraordinary, the tiny unexpected thing in an otherwise orderly day that gives way to something unreal tapping out on my keyboard. From the mundane, I find the mystical, from the pedestrian, I find the preposterous, and from the dreary, I can find the dynamic. We all can. That's what writers do.

AG: After several books, how do you keep your writing fresh for yourself and your readers?

SC: I think one of the ways I do it, is I'm not a series writer. Each time I write a book, I have an idea so strong it nearly knocks me flat with its desire to be. Now, I say this with a codicil: I did write a series as my first and second book, and there is a third planned. But for now, my ideas come so rapidly, I barely get one finished before another is begging to be birthed. I hope that always is the case.

AG: Many writers struggle moving past the first draft. Do you have any advice on revision?

SC: I have heard two schools of thought on the topic of revising: 1) write like a person possessed, and only edit and revise a completed manuscript. 2) revise as you go along. I'm a member of Team #2, but I slink around Team #1 as well. I revise as I go along from each writing stint to the next. As a pantsier, or a person who does NOT plot out and meticulously outline her stories, I revise about every four chapters or so, not for grammar, but for continuity. If the chapters don't read well, I can't move forward with the next story arc. Whatever it turns out to be. Grammar corrections I do line by agonizing line after I complete the manuscript.

AG: Do you have a website or blog? How about a Twitter feed or Facebook fan page for our members to follow you?

SC: I'd love everyone to come on over and check out the bloggy at www.samanthacombswrites.blogspot.com, connect with me on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/samanthacombswrites>, and twitter at @samanthacombs1. Or just send me an email at samanthacombswrites@gmail.com.

AG: Anything else we didn't cover yet?

SC: One exciting thing is that my ninth book, THE DEADLIES, has been contracted by Secret Cravings Publishing and I am anticipating an April release. It's my first book with SCP, and I am looking forward to developing a new relationship with my new publisher. I also love my other publishers, Astraea Press and Musa Publishing, each for different reasons. Astraea Press published my first book, were the first ones to put me in print, and first to release one of my books in audio. You always love your first. Musa Publishing was there for me when I experienced my first pistol-whipping by a disintegrating publishing house and helped me pick up the pieces and assert my rights. I am proud to me among their ranks. And I am blessed that all three of these publishers believe I have something to offer.

CBW-LA VIEW: JANUARY KICKSTART WORKSHOP PHOTOS

Photos from our January 2013 Kickstart Your Writing Your Writing Career Workshop





COLUMN: SEEKING INSPIRATION

by Anjali Amit

Dear Writers,

Publishers love you. Publishers love writers? Consider -- writers provide the material that allows publishers to create a product to take to the market. There may be people wanting to read books (though current research argues that the number of readers is steadily declining), but there would not be any books if there were not people -- you, dear writers -- willing and ready to write a book. You are needed. You create that which keeps a whole industry on its feet and running.

Aha! you say. We create jobs -- for editors and sub-editors, first readers and second readers, graphics designers and illustrators, strategists, analysts, marketers and salespeople. Our work sustains the economy. But tell us, pray, who or what sustains us?

Each occupation has its tools and rules. An engineer has the set square and slide rule. The doctor has her stethoscope and *Materia Medica*. A gardener takes into account the soil conditions and weather to know what plants will flourish locally. He would not plant date palms in Iceland or lemon trees in the Sahara Desert. No profession suffers from "the block". Plumbers unclog drains. A doctor unclogs blocked arteries almost faster than a plumber unclogs drains. A chef's tools adorn the kitchen, and his rules are the recipes he works with.

A writer's tools are words and her rules are the rules of grammar and common usage. But there is a difference, and this is a very big difference, I agree, dear writer. Unlike those of the other professions, a writer's rules and tools are abstractions. So the work is all done in the mind, and the mind, we all know, is notoriously fickle. One moment it is at escape velocity, and the writer floats free, ideas coming from all directions. The next moment it runs out of fuel. Gravity reasserts itself, the writer goes into free fall and the ideas come to a screeching halt. What to do? How to find the inspiration to keep going?

Love Life

Look around you. Life is teeming with action. One does not have to go to the souks of Marrakech to find movement and color. Study a ladybug on a blade of grass -- how fearlessly it scurries up the blade and takes off. Stand at a street corner. Go to the coffee shop in the mall and people watch. Enjoy all that you experience. Love it. Love provides the clearest filter because it accepts everything. The mind is not involved in making judgement calls, and what is 'writer's block' other than a judgement call on your own work?

Be Awestruck

It follows logically from seeing everything with love - you see then the magic inherent in all of life. Stephen King called it the 'mystery'. See how precisely a cat twists its body so it always lands on its feet. Science has studied the physics of cat motion (<http://www.physlink.com/education/askexperts/ae411.cfm>) but a cat does not know physics! It only knows itself. The migrating monarch butterfly flies across North America to its wintering grounds in the Oyamel forests of Mexico without maps or GPS. Its an amazing world; be open to the wonder and new worlds of ideas will open to you.

Never A Hunter Be

By its very definition a hunt implies the hunter and the hunted; so if you chase after ideas they will seek to escape. Rather take a lesson from Hemmingway's Old Man who prepared his fishing lines, set them precisely where he wished them to be, and waited. How exactly his words describe a writer's predicament:

....I keep them with precision. Only I have no luck any more. But who knows? May be today. Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes you are ready

All those tips about 'butt-in-chair', adhering to a set routine, starting early, free writing are good and practical tips. Prepare your mind to be receptive and accepting and they will land on fertile soil, inspiring you, dear writer, to create your best work ever.

CBW-LA INSPIRES: QUARTERLY QUESTION & BRAIN BOOST

QUARTERLY QUESTION

In November, we asked our members:
What children's book turned you on to reading, and
why?

There's still time to share. Send your answer and we'll publish it in May!



February's Quarterly Question:

What is your favorite writing software?

Submit your response to alana@cbw-la.org to be published in our May newsletter!

Please include your first name, last initial and city in your reply.

We also welcome replies to our

BRAIN BOOST

Quarterly Writing Prompt for Children's Book Authors

It has been said throughout the years that imitation is the best form of flattery. To get the creative juices flowing this month, you will need to turn to your author heroes for inspiration. Take a mundane idea and turn it into literary gold by rewriting a simple scene in the vein of your favorite kid lit author.

PROMPT

A child wakes up and looks out the window to see a rainy day. S/he must find a way to keep occupied. Look around the house? Look inside his/her imagination? With your favorite children's book author in mind, craft a short story.

For the purposes of this exercise, child may apply to anyone under age 18 to fit our authors from PB to YA. We'd love to see how this prompt inspired you.

Please send your effort (500 word limit) to CBWLANewsletter@gmail.com and we'll pick a few top answers to publish in February. Subject to editing for length. Character studies and prologues welcome from YA / MG authors!



ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, CRITIQUE GROUP CALL-OUT

CALLING ALL ILLUSTRATORS AND GRAPHIC ARTISTS!

CBW-LA is hosting a postcard design contest.

We need a postcard for promotional purposes to distribute in local businesses and at writing events.

Wow us!

Remember our audience – children's book writers – and get creative!!

Send your submission to CBWLANewsletter@gmail.com by May 1, and the board will review all submissions and select a winner this spring.

The winner will receive our eternal praise and gratitude and promotion as the winning designer listed on the printed postcard, but the contest has no monetary value.

Send an email of your intent to enter the contest to receive your copy of the CBW-LA logo.

ADVERTISE IN SCRIBBLERS' SCOOP

Reach more than 200 local Los Angeles writers and get a link on our website!

RATES

1/4 page ad = \$50 / year
1/2 page ad = \$75 / year
full page ad = \$100 / year
(1 year = 4 issues)

SPECIALS

CBW-LA member discount: \$20 off
Author promo: 1/4 page = \$25 / year

Contact CBWLANewsletter@gmail.com
to reserve your ad space now.

WANT MORE GREAT WRITING INFO?

DOWNLOAD THE NOV. 2012 SCRIBBLERS SCOOP ONLINE FOR INSIGHT INTO CRITIQUE GROUP BEST PRACTICES AND A LOOK BACK AT ALL OF OUR 2012 WORKSHOPS!

JUMP ON THE CBW-LA SOCIAL MEDIA BANDWAGON!



[@CBWLA](https://twitter.com/CBWLA)



www.facebook.com/CBWLA

Use hashtag **#CBWLA** to connect!

JOIN A REGULAR CRITIQUE GROUP

We all know how important critiques are. Getting feedback for our works in progress is a valuable part of our publishing journey. Many members have emailed their need for more regular critique sessions, aside from the one we facilitate every other month.

We're in the process of trying to organize more regular critique groups for all interested members, but for that we need more information.

If you are interested in joining a regular critique group, please click on this link: <http://www.meetup.com/CBW-LA/files/> to download the Critique Group Form. **You MUST be a current member at cbw-la.org to get paired up.**

Fill out the form and email your answers to cbwla2012@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MARKET: IN THE NEWS

Got children's market news tips? E-mail CBWLANewsletter@gmail.com!

NONFICTION NEWS

INK Think Tank Connects Educators and Authors

According to the [Children's Book Guild](#), 22 children's book nonfiction authors have joined forces to create the new online portal www.INKThinkTank.com. The website includes a free database of non-fiction books and is designed to help librarians, educators and homeschoolers find the best nonfiction children's book to meet curriculum requirements.

Visitors will be able to search by national standards, subject, grade level, author names, titles and keywords.

Children's Book Guild references recent studies that show many children,

particularly boys, prefer nonfiction to fiction. They also say that children exposed to high quality creative nonfiction are more likely to become lifelong readers.

Children's nonfiction has also made waves lately for its strong connection to improved test scores. The [San Antonio Express News reported in October](#) that nonfiction reading helps students understand structure, organization, purpose, audience and the writing craft. It also increases vocabulary and non-conversational language skills and builds a child's ability to seek out facts.

PICTURE BOOK NEWS

Newbery Medal Turns 91, Caldecott Medal Celebrates 75 Years

In the midst of the Hollywood Golden Globes and Oscars Awards Season, the children's book industry chooses two major award winners of their own every February. The [Newbery Medal](#), established in 1922 to award the most distinguished American children's book of the previous year, and the Caldecott Medal, established in 1938 to award the best children's book author of the previous year, have been longstanding traditions in the world of children's literature. The bronze sticker emblazoned on the cover boosts book sales and lends credibility to the author and illustrator's careers. It is awarded by the American Library Association.

This year's Newbery Award winner is Katherine Applegate for her book, ["The One and Only Ivan,"](#) the story of a gorilla, his artwork, and an unexpected friendship with a baby elephant. Two weeks after the award, the [book ranks #44 in Amazon books](#) overall, and #1 in Amazon children's book sales.

Meanwhile, the Caldecott Award winner is ["This is Not My Hat,"](#) written and illustrated by Jon Klassen, about a fish who steals a hat. Two weeks after the award, the book was ranked #140 for sales in all Amazon books.

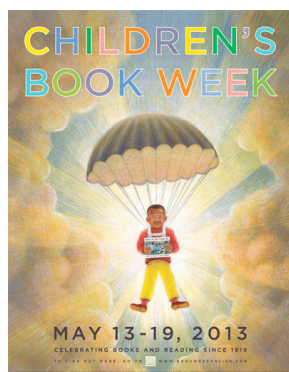




CHILDREN'S MARKET: IN THE NEWS

INDUSTRY NEWS

Children's Book Week May 13-19 – Local Events in L.A. and Long Beach



Librarians, teachers, authors and readers gear up for the 94th annual [Children's Book Week](#), held May 13-19. The nationwide event brings authors, illustrators and their fans together to

celebrate children's literature, and children award their favorite new books with the Children's Choice Award – the nation's only child-chosen book awards program!

YOUNG ADULT NEWS

Shorts: YA App, Vernacular and Sex

What makes Young Adult books sell? Emotional angst? First love? Risky behavior? Idealistic views?

As increasing numbers of readers of all ages flock to the YA genre, thanks in part to the success of *Twilight* and *Hunger Games*, publishers are looking for ways to bridge the gap between previous PG-13 limits found in YA fiction with the racier R- and even X-rated success of the *50 Shades of Grey* trilogy.

One way to bridge the gap is to create genre called New Adult, which essentially contains the emotional intensity of YA with steamier scenes in the bedroom. [According to the New York Times](#), even Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing released an "uncut and uncensored" version of "The Vincent Boys" in digital format.

What does that mean for writers and publishers? Confusion at the bookstore

concerning where to market a book, but good vibes on social networking sites such as GoodReads.

Another way to market to teens? Talk like them.

Writer Steven Salvatore Shaw writes on the [Teen Writers Bloc blog](#) that vernacular is important in YA fiction. If an author can not relate to current vernacular, they should either study up or avoid it all together to avoid sounding outdated or awkward. Shaw defines vernacular as a native or indigenous language that's written as it's expressed. He offers a look at two YA books to see how powerful vernacular can be when used properly.

Finally – where do teens go to buy books today? YALSA, the Young Adult Library Services Association, has [released a mobile Teen Book Finder app](#).



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Payment is accepted online or by check, payable to CBW-LA. Checks may be mailed to: CBW-LA / PO Box 4376 / Torrance, CA 90510. We also accept cash payments accompanying membership form in person at any CBW-LA workshop or critique session.



ABOUT CBW-LA

Children's Book Writers of Los Angeles provides education and inspiration for published writers and writers on the road to publication. We also provide a venue for sharing knowledge and information between writers, illustrators, members of the publishing industry, booksellers, educators, librarians and other members of the community who wish to be involved in promoting children's literature and literacy for children.

☆☆☆☆☆ MEMBER REVIEWS ☆☆☆☆☆

"CBW-LA is an incredibly helpful organization that addresses the many issues that are critical to writers. Meetings, speakers and workshops offer amazing information!" – D.A. Anton

"Ms. Windsor impressed me highly. She is without a doubt one of the most professional persons I have have had the pleasure of meeting. An obvious expert in her area, she has domain of literary jargon, and an editor's eye for detail and improvement on her delivery of a critique. She makes the uncomfortable heat, inconvenient distance, and traffic battle very worth ones' while." – L. Donovan

"An excellent resource for writers of all kind." – A. Flores

"Very professional and friendly people! Well put together!" – Lisa

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