

Workshop series on
Writing and Publishing Fiction for Older Children and Young Teens
by Dr.Ken Spillman

Workshop activity outlines

Stage I (Duration: 4 hours per day, 3 consecutive days)

Content:

- ‘Getting to know you’—our objectives individually and as a group
- General introduction—what it takes to be a writer
- Our audience—the social and developmental interests of ‘tweens’/teens.
- Genres within the market—what is being published globally and in Asian markets
- Software and formatting tools
- Writing exercises: getting started
- Writing exercises: the centrality of character and point of view
- Basic plot development—the ‘story arc’
- Selected readings from published work—discussion
- Homework timelines

Stage II (Duration: 4 hours per day, 3 consecutive days)

Content:

- Revision of Set 1 content—questions arising
- Discussion of group progress in the intervening period
- Selected readings from participants’ work—discussion
- Selected readings from published work—discussion
- What is writer’s block? How can we avoid it?
- More on plot development
- Writing exercises: plot
- Writing exercises: setting
- The importance of developing self-editing skills
- Homework timelines

Stage III (Duration: 4 hours per day, 3 consecutive days)

Content:

- Discussion of group progress since Set 2
- Selected readings from participants’ work—discussion
- Selected readings from published work—discussion
- Writing exercises: endings
- Editing and working with an editor
- Submitting manuscripts to publishers
- Developing your author profile