

# Children's Book Workshop

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Michael Katz  
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### **RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

*2004 Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market* by Alice Pope

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Children's books are a specialized corner of publishing. We will see how picture books are created and learn to recognize what makes a successful book. Students will benefit from direct tutorials by the instructor and will have the opportunity to have one manuscript sent on their behalf to a publisher.

### **GOALS:**

Writers, illustrators, graphic designers and those interested in entering the publishing industry will benefit from a more complete understanding of how children's books are made. Course participants will:

- Identify the main types of children's literature.
- Identify, step by step, how a book is published and marketed.
- Understand the various aspects of publishing itself.
- Understand the craft of fiction.
- Understand how illustration works to illuminate text.
- Understand the various roles of writer, illustrator, editor, art director and book designer.
- Learn the best way to submit samples of illustration and stories for publication.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Each writer will prepare a cover letter and a manuscript for submission to a publisher. Illustrators and graphic designers will develop work for their portfolios. All participants are encouraged to join the Children's Book Round Table and SCBWI Canada (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators). Students should complete the assignments as they arise in order to contribute to class discussions. Students must attend one tutorial with the instructor during the session.

## Course Schedule

1. **Introduction: handouts, slides and assignments**
  - storyboard one new story
  - write cover letter
  - choose books for presentation
2. **Story—*Craft of Fiction***—presentation (books)
3. **Illustration—*Craft of Illustration***—presentation (books)
4. **How to get published**—how a publishing house works—the publishing process—presentation (cover letters)
5. **Children’s book illustrator**—presentation (storyboards)
6. **Children’s writer**—presentation (storyboards)
7. **Tutorial week**—hour-long individual tutorials
8. **Workshop**—questions

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