

Connections & Craft 2011

Writing & Illustrating for Children & Young Adults

November 12, 2011
8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

A&M United Methodist Church
417 University Drive
College Station, TX 77840

Featuring:

Kathi Appelt, award-winning author and respected teacher
Brian Floca, award-winning author/illustrator
Claudia Gabel, Senior Editor, Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins) and author
Martha Mihalick, Editor, Greenwillow Books (HarperCollins)
Doris Fisher, magazine & picture book author, puzzle creator extraordinaire
Molly Blaisdell, magazine & picture book author, blogger

Registration Fees:

Early Bird SCBWI Member (postmarked by Sept. 8)	\$115
Early Bird Non-member (postmarked by Sept. 8)	\$135
SCBWI Member (postmarked <u>after Sept. 8</u>)	\$135
Non-members (postmarked <u>after Sept. 8</u>)	\$155

Manuscript Critiques and Portfolio Reviews Available--\$35

Participate in a Critique:

All critique participants will meet one-on-one with a reviewer. Manuscripts must be postmarked by Sept. 8. Limit one per attendee. No late submissions. Submit 10 pages, any genre, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font.

For proper format, see "From Keyboard to Printed Page" at www.scbwi.org. Under "Resource Library" click on "Just Getting Started?" in the drop down menu.

Participate in a Portfolio Review:

Brian Floca will meet one-on-one with illustrators to help them fine tune their portfolios and put their best images forward in professional presentations.

Book Sales:

In order to participate in book sales and signings at SCBWI events, PAL (Published And Listed) membership is required. More information is available at:

<http://www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Levels-of-Membership>.

Download Registration Form here:

[\[2011 Registration Form-19.pdf\]](#)



Hotel Information

Courtyard Marriott
3939 S.H. 6 South
College Station, TX 77845

A limited number of king bed rooms have been reserved at \$99 plus tax for Friday and/or Saturday, Nov. 11-12. Specify the code SCBN for the SCBWI BV discount. Reservations must be made by Oct. 21 to receive the discount.

The Faculty

Kathi Appelt is the award-winning author of more than thirty books for children and young adults. Her picture book, *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers: How a First Lady Changed America* (HarperCollins, 2005) was given the "Growing Good Kids Award for Excellence in Children's Literature." In 2003 Appelt won the Irma and Simon Black Award for Excellence in Children's Literature, given by the Bank Street College of Education, for her picture book *Bubba and Beau, Best Friends* (Harcourt Brace, 2002). Her memoir, *My Father's Summers* (Henry Holt, 2004) won the Paterson Prize for Young Adult Poetry.

Her first novel, *The Underneath*, a haunting story of love and survival in the pine forests of East Texas, has been described by reviewers as a "classic." It was named a National Book Award Finalist, a Newbery Honor Book, and most recently awarded the PEN USA Literature for Children Award.

Her newest book is *Keeper*, published by Atheneum, 2010.

Ms. Appelt was presented with the A.C. Greene Award by the Friends of Abilene Public Library, which named her a "Texas Distinguished Author."

In addition to writing, Ms. Appelt is on the faculty in the Masters of Creative Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

She and her husband Ken live in College Station, TX with four adorable cats, Django, Peach, Hoss and Jazz. They are the parents of two even more adorable sons, Jacob and Cooper, musicians who both play the double bass. For more information, check her website: www.kathiappelt.com.

Brian Floca was born and raised in Temple, Texas. He graduated from Brown University, with coursework at the Rhode Island School of Design, and received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts.

He is the author and illustrator of *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*, a Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book of the Year, and a Society of Illustrators silver medal winner. Brian's other books include *Lightship*, a Sibert Honor Book and Booklist's "Top of the List" picture book for 2007, and *The*

Racecar Alphabet, an ALA Notable Children's Book and a *Kirkus Reviews* Editor's Choice.

Brian has illustrated several books by Newbery Award-winning author Avi, including *Poppy*, winner of the *Boston Globe-Horn Book Award*, and the other books in the Poppy Stories series. He has illustrated *The Hinky-Pink*, by Megan McDonald; and, most recently, *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring*, by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, a Sibert Honor Book and winner of the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children.

Brian lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. You can visit him online at brianfloca.com.

Claudia Gabel is a Senior Editor at Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Children's Books. Gabel is acquiring and developing middle grade and YA fiction in a variety of genres. Her best known titles are the New York Times bestselling series *Summer Boys* by Hailey Abbott, and the 2011 Stonewall Award-winning novel *Almost Perfect* by Brian Katcher. She is also the author of the YA mash-up novel *Romeo & Juliet & Vampires* (HarperTeen) and the YA series IN OR OUT (Scholastic/Point). She lives in New York City.

Martha Mihalick is an editor at Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins. In her ten years there, she has worked with many acclaimed authors and artists, including Kevin Henkes, Lynne Rae Perkins, Peter Sís, Megan Whalen Turner, Chris Crutcher, and Naomi Shihab Nye. Martha acquires books for children and teens of all ages, from picture books to young adult novels. Recent books she has edited include *Entwined* by Heather Dixon, *A Touch Mortal* by Leah Clifford, *Nightspell* by Leah Cypess, and *The Girl of Fire and Thorns* by Rae Carson, among others.

Doris Fisher's magazine writing includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, word puzzles and mazes. She has had more than 100 items published in various children's magazines including *Babybug*, *Highlights for Children*, *Fun for Kidz*, *Hopscotch*, *Boys Quest* and *Story Friends*. Her story, "Elvis in a Bottle," won first place in the Flash Fiction category of the Abilene Writers Guild Contest.

She was interviewed in the *Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Marketplace, 2005*, about creating and writing word puzzles. She has also been a first judge for the Barbara Karlin Grant given by SCBWI annually to a picture book author.

Her published picture books are *Happy Birthday to Whooo?* a book of baby animal birth announcements and a three book series of "math with laugh" that includes *One Odd Day*, *My Even Day* and *My Half Day*. She also has a six book elementary age series, *Grammar All Stars: The Parts of Speech*.

Doris is a former kindergarten teacher and private preschool teacher. She has a freelance editing service, Pink Ink Editing, and creates customized puzzles for any occasion through her Personal Puzzles business.

Visit her website anytime! www.abcdoris.com

Molly Blaisdell is a dash of fun, mixed in with some smart cookie and a splash of capable. She's also the author 30 books for kids, notably REMBRANDT AND THE BOY WHO DREW DOGS (Barron's, 2008) and most recently THE TRUTH ABOUT UNICORNS (Picture Window Books, 2010). She has also written hundreds of articles for many children's publications and a few adult ones. A long time member of SCBWI, she is a former Regional Advisor of SCBWI Western Washington and the 2011 recipient of the Martha Weston Grant. Molly inspires artists of all kinds with her weekly blog, Seize the Day (mollyblaisdell.blogspot.com). She lives under the wide open skies of College Station, Texas with her husband Tim and her maniacal cat, Mr. Tibbs.

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 – 8:30	Registration, coffee & snacks
8:30 – 8:45	Introductions, door prize
8:45 – 9:45	Keynote: Claudia Gabel—ACTIONS SPEAK AS LOUD AS WORDS: Why Crafting Plot Is Essential in Building Your Novel
9:45 – 10:45	Keynote: Doris Fisher—MAGAZINE MOTIVATION
10:45 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Keynote: Brian Floca—WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch, book sales
12:45 – 1:00	Door prizes
1:00 – 1:45	Workshop: Molly Blaisdell—CREATE A SYNOPSIS TO SHOWCASE YOUR STORY – a hands-on-workshop to help authors create a synopsis that reveals character motivation, specific setting, the rising action of a plot, the emotional landscape of a story , and unique voice that sets a piece apart.
1:45 – 2:00	Break
2:00 – 3:00	Keynote: Kathi Appelt—WHAT MAKES YOUR CHARACTERS TICK?
3:00 – 4:00	Keynote: Martha Mihalick—THE KEY INGREDIENTS OF PICTURE BOOKS
4:00 – 4:15	Break
4:15 – 5:15	Panel Discussion
5:15 – 5:30	Door Prizes & Wrap-up

Manuscript critiques and portfolio reviews will be scheduled throughout the day.