

Society of
Children's
Book
Writers &
Illustrators'



St. Scholastica Retreat Center near Ft. Smith, AR



The Setting: Located on the campus of the historic St. Scholastica Monastery, built in 1929. The Benedictine sisters host retreats year-round for participants traveling from around the country. This peaceful setting provides the perfect backdrop for a retreat to renew and recharge us as writers. More than 60 acres are available to roam that includes wooded areas, gardens and a labyrinth.

Amenities: Private rooms with shared bath, meals, snacks and all sessions. Semi-private rooms with shared bath are available if you would like to room with a friend. Accommodations are retreat-like with no phone or television in rooms. Television and phone service are available in the lounge area.

For more info:

See the St. Scholastica Retreat Center website.
www.stscho.org/directions.html

FALL RETREAT FOR WRITERS OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

NOVEL FOCUS: Write a Winning Novel September 25-27, 2009

The Twelfth Annual Retreat for Writers of Children's Literature guides you through a series of exercises to strengthen your skills in fiction, especially novels. Explore new territory and bring your writing skills to the next level working hand-in-hand with editor Alexandra Penfold of Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Books and authors and writing teacher, Darcy Pattison.

This year, the retreat will take place at the St. Scholastica Retreat Center, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Their website provides maps, driving directions and weather information.

EDITOR-IN-RESIDENCE: Alexandra Penfold

Alexandra Penfold is an Associate Editor with Paula Wiseman Books at Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers where she works on hardcover trade picture books, middle-grade fiction, and young adult novels. She works closely with Paula Wiseman editing the *Amelia's Notebook* series by Marissa Moss in addition to editing her own list of books including *City Hawk: The Story of Pale Male* and *Seabiscuit* written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy, *Reindeer Christmas* by Mark Kimball Moulton and illustrated by Karen Hillard, *Good, Clang! Clang! Beep! Beep!: Listen to the City* by Robert Burleigh and illustrated by Beppe Giacobbe and *The Teashop Girls* by Laura Schaefer among others. Prior to becoming an editor Alexandra was a children's book publicist. She worked on media campaigns that appeared in USA Today, Newsweek, US News and World Report, and NPR's All Things Considered, among other national and local media outlets.



AUTHOR-IN-RESIDENCE: Darcy Pattison,

an author of both picture books and novels, has been published in eight languages. Her books include *Nineteen Girls and Me* (Philomel), *Searching for Oliver K. Woodman* (Harcourt), *The Journey of Oliver K. Woodman* (Harcourt) and *The Wayfinder* (Greenwillow/Harper). Her books have been recognized for excellence by starred reviews in *Kirkus* and *BCCB*, *Child magazine* Best Books of the Year 2003, *Nick Jr. Family Magazine* Best Books of the Year 2003, and the 2005-6 Arkansas Diamond Primary Book Award Reading List. Darcy is also widely published on the topic of creative writing and has two books available for adults. For those interested in writing or revising a novel, she provides help in *Novel Metamorphosis: Uncommon Ways to Revise* (Mims House). Her teacher resource book, *Paper Lightning: Prewriting Activities to Spark Creativity*, (Cottonwood Press) helps teachers as they work with student writers.



SESSIONS

FRIDAY

1-3 p.m. Check-in

3-3:30 p.m. Intro/Welcome

3:30-5 p.m. Scenic Writing – Darcy Pattison

Sharpen your skills at writing in scenes, the basic building block of fiction. Learn how scenes can increase tension, develop richer characterization, and simplify plotting. Short lectures will be followed by writing exercises: you may choose to revise scenes from your current work-in-progress or use prompts provided.

5:30-6:30 p.m. Supper

7-9:00 p.m. First Pages – Alexandra Penfold

An in-depth look at the first pages of a novel submission. What an editor gleans from the first page, common mistakes and exciting discoveries. Learn how one editor approaches reading a new novel. Each participant should bring the first page of a novel (skip the margins at the top).

SATURDAY

8-9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9-10:30 a.m. Create a Compelling Voice – Darcy

Pattison. Learn the basic tools of voice and how to combine them to create unique, compelling voices.

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Revise Like An Editor: Learn to Take Your Second Draft to the Next Level – Alexandra Penfold. When an editor edits how do they dig into the story and make it shine? Honing your revision skills so your manuscript is in tip top shape for submission.

12-1 p.m. Lunch

1-3:00 p.m. First Pages – Alexandra Penfold

Continuation of First Pages Session

3-5 p.m. Write/Sleep/Break/Walk

5-6 p.m. Supper

7-9 p.m. Write with Scene and Voice – Darcy Pattison

Examples of scene and voice coming together in a novel. Writing exercises and discussion to take your own writing to the next level.

SUNDAY

8-9 a.m. Breakfast

9-10 a.m. Open Mike/Q&A

10-11:30 a.m. What Your Editor Wants You to Know About Marketing and Publicity – Alexandra Penfold.

Author websites, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, school visits, book signings, and community outreach. What works and what doesn't, and how to make the most out of your time to get your book out there.



AR-SCBWI Fall Retreat REGISTRATION FORM

September 25-27, 2009

AR-SCBWI FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Roommate _____ Special Dietary Needs _____

Open to all writers, but suggested for published writers or those working seriously toward publication.

Registration fee: SCBWI members \$270. Includes private rooms with shared bath, meals, snacks and all sessions.

Semi-private rooms with shared bath are available if you would like to room with a friend. Accommodations are retreat-like with no phone or television in rooms. Television and phone service are available in the lounge area.

Write check to: Arkansas SCBWI.

Send to: Arkansas SCBWI Fall Retreat, P.O. Box 94109, North Little Rock, AR 72190

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. A deposit of \$150 will hold your place in this retreat.

The balance is due August 1. No refunds after August 1. If minimum enrollment is not reached by August 1, we reserve the right to cancel the retreat. If the retreat is full, would you like your name placed on a waiting list? yes [] no []