

Want to write a children's book?

Writing for Young People
A five-week course with Kita Mitchell



Learn how to plot a children's novel over five consecutive weeks

Award winning children's author Kita Mitchell will lead a series of fun, friendly and informative classes that will unlock your imagination and help you write the book you've always wanted to write.

Wednesday evenings at Westridge Studio commencing 9th November
7.15 - 9.30

**For further information or to express your interest, please email
kitamitchellbooks@yahoo.com**

Tutor profile

Kita Mitchell worked in children's television before gaining an MA in Writing for Young People and becoming a children's author. Published by Hachette and Scholastic, her work includes the multi award-winning *Grandma Dangerous* series. Her latest novel, *Don't tell Mum I made a Mammoth*, was a Scholastic book of the month and selected for the 2022 WHSmith's children's book chart. Kita writes for a number of magazines and contributes to educational websites as well as lecturing in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. She lives in Oxfordshire with four daughters and a hamster.

www.kitamitchell.com

Writing for Young People

Learn how to find inspiration, invent characters, and plot a children's novel over five consecutive weeks

Award winning children's author **Kita Mitchell** will lead a series of fun, friendly and informative classes that will unlock your creativity and help you write the book you've always wanted to write.

Whether it's exploring an initial idea or finishing off something you've already begun, this highly practical course will include writing exercises and one-to-one tutorials with Kita, as well as group sharing and feedback.

By the end of the programme, you'll have written lots. You'll also know where to take your writing next and how to get published.

This course is for...

Writers of all experience levels who are interested in writing for children and want to get published.

Anyone already working on a children's book as well as anyone looking for the push they need to get started.

All levels of experience are welcome. 8 places available.

£150

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Writing for Young People

Course Content

Week 1: Developing ideas

Whether you are already working on your children's story or have no idea where to start, this session will help you develop stand-out ideas. We'll talk about current children's literature and its themes, and you'll learn how to source inspiration from both familiar and unexpected places. We consider what makes a great opening to a story and how to hook a reader from your very first line.

Week 2: Finding your voice

In this session we'll discuss the importance of 'voice' in story and help you develop your own unique writing style. We'll try out different points of view and decide which one works best in the context of the stories we want to tell.

Week 3: Character and creation of place

Characters are a key plot driver in any narrative. They accompany the reader on their journey and need to be fully rounded, engaging, and nuanced. We explore what makes a great character and how we might start writing one or two of our own.

The setting is the background against which 'story' is written and played out. It is the place where our characters live and breathe, and it influences every event.

In this session we'll learn how to world-build as well as develop strong and memorable characters that fully engage your reader.

Week 4: Plot and narrative

Strong characters and ideas need a compelling story arc. In this session, we'll look at how to develop and plot a story that will captivate your readers from the first page to the last.

Dialogue helps to develop our characters, give them voice, and move our plot forward. We'll find out how to make speech convincing and distinctive.

Week 5: Drafting and editing. Thinking about your synopsis, writing your pitch and getting published

No first draft is ever perfect. Feedback from others and your tutor can go a long way in helping you work out the tricky bits in your story or give life to a two-dimensional character. We'll look at ways to rewrite and edit your story to bring out its strengths before giving some thought to the one-page synopsis.

Kita will provide advice on how to keep writing, as well as tips on what to do next and how to get published.

