

Summer 2025 Children's Literature and Illustration Graduate Program Workshops



Artwork from *Merbaby's Lullaby*, written by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Elizabeth Dulemba. (Little Simon, 2019)

The Margins Matter: Reading Peritext Critically

MAY 7-21, 2025

Online synchronous and
asynchronous



INSTRUCTOR:

Sarah Jackson, Ph.D.,
assistant professor of early,
middle, and elementary
education



INSTRUCTOR:

Rebekah Degener, Ph.D.,
assistant professor of
elementary and literacy
education

Bootcamp for your Book

ONCE A WEEK DURING THE
MONTH OF JULY

Online synchronous



INSTRUCTOR:

Dhonielle Clayton, bestselling
author, president/founder of
Cake Creative and Electric
Postcard Entertainment

Advanced Picture Book Writing

JULY 7-11, 2025

In person



INSTRUCTOR:

Julie Hedlund, children's
book author and founder
of the 12x12 Picture Book
Writing Challenge



Learn more about the children's
literature and illustration program
at Hollins.

See back for workshop descriptions →

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THE MARGINS MATTER: READING PERITEXT CRITICALLY

MAY 7-14, 2025

This 20-hour workshop is designed for anyone who teaches, makes, publishes, or analyzes books for children and young adults. If you have spent any amount of time with books for children and young adults, you have undoubtedly paid some attention to the books' peritext. *Peritext* refers to the elements that surround the main text of a book, such as covers, endpapers, title pages, and author/illustrator notes. Increasingly, creators of books for young people are relying on these spaces in the margins to provide additional information about the narrative, including essential cultural and historical context. However, readers are not always prepared to give peritext the attention it deserves. Whether you're looking to publish, create, teach, or study children's books, you will leave the workshop with a deeper understanding of how to leverage *all* components of a book to create more engaging and meaningful reading experiences for young people.

BOOTCAMP FOR YOUR BOOK

ONCE A WEEK DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 2025

Finished a first draft? Or have a solid chunk of a novel? Now what? The best writers are really revisers. Join this intensive to find the right ingredients to transform your rough pages into a compelling book for young people. Writing demands complex characters, high stakes, a layered world, and research. In this workshop, the emphasis will be on the building blocks of craft: the one-line pitch, voice and character, worldbuilding, plot and pace, and revision.

ADVANCED PICTURE BOOK WRITING

JULY 7-11, 2025

Just because picture books are short doesn't mean they're simple. Lift the lid on the underlying layers that take a picture book from good to great in this weeklong workshop.

QUESTIONS? Contact Elizabeth Dulemba, Ph.D., director of graduate studies in children's literature and illustration at (540) 362-6024 or dulembaeo@hollins.edu.

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