

Writing for Young Readers: Opening the Treasure Chest

CET's new MOOC, Writing for Young Readers: Opening the Treasure Chest, is live on demand on Coursera®. It is designed for aspiring authors who would like to write for children but who currently have little access to the support and expertise of established authors, editors and publishers.

Taught by established children's authors from across the Commonwealth, it is particularly cognisant of the lack of viable publishing opportunities in much of the world and the need for authors to be adept at editing and promoting their work, as well as writing great stories.

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/writing-for-children>

Instructors



David Hill is a New Zealand author and has been writing full-time since 1983. He writes for young adults and adults. His books have been translated into several different languages and published in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. His multi-award winning young adult titles include: *Fat-Four-Eyed and Useless*, *Right Where it Hurts*, *Take it Easy*, *See Ya*, *Simon*, *Coming Back*, and *My Brother's War*. He has had short stories published in a number of anthologies and magazines and has also had his work read on Radio New Zealand.



Maria Gill writes full-time in New Zealand and is a qualified teacher and journalist. For eleven years she organised a nationwide writers' group, and taught a Writing for Children paper at Massey University. Maria has written forty-four books including children's non-fiction, picture books, short stories, early readers, teaching units, and journalism articles. Five books were shortlisted in national awards, and six were Storylines Notable Books. She has been published with traditional, digital, and educational publishers, and self-publishes as well.

Guest Authors



Uma Krishnaswami is the author of over twenty books for children, from picture books (including *Out of the Way! Out of the Way!*, *The Girl of the Wish Garden*, and *Monsoon*) to novels for young readers (*The Grand Plan to Fix Everything* and *The Problem with Being Slightly Heroic*). Her chapter book, *Book Uncle and Me*, won the 2011 Scholastic Asian Book Award. Born and raised in India, Uma now teaches Writing for Children and Young Adults at Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier, Vermont, the United States.



Apirana Taylor is a Māori writer based in New Zealand. He is from the Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, and Ngāti Ruanui tribes, and also has Pākehā heritage. He is a poet, playwright, novelist, short story writer, storyteller, actor, painter, and musician. His poems and short stories are frequently studied in schools and at tertiary level and have been translated into several languages. He has been Writer in Residence at Massey and Canterbury universities, and at various New Zealand schools. He travels to schools, libraries, tertiary institutions, prisons, and festivals to read his poetry, tell his stories, and run creative writing workshops.



Finegan Kruckemeyer has had seventy-four commissioned plays performed on five continents and translated into six languages. His work has been in over seventy international festivals; six United States national tours; six United Kingdom national tours; and at the Sydney Opera House (six works), New York's New Victory Theatre (three), Dublin's Abbey Theatre, and Shanghai's Malan Flower Theatre. He has received multiple awards, including the inaugural Sidney Myer Fellowship, and has presented at conferences in nine countries, with essays published and plays studied at universities worldwide.



Tanzanian-born **Tololwa M. Mollel** is a dramatist, a storyteller, and an award-winning author of over twenty internationally published books for young readers in English and Swahili. His titles include *Kele's Secret*, *Song Bird*, *The Orphan Boy*, and *Rhinos for Lunch and Elephants for Supper*. *From Lands of the Night* is his latest book. His work has been translated into Korean, Serbian, Norwegian, Bengali, and South African languages. He has performed solo and with others in his plays, which he calls story-plays. Tololwa and his family live in Canada.



Summer Edward was born and raised in Trinidad. She completed an M.S.Ed. in Reading, Writing, Literacy at the University of Pennsylvania and founded Anansesem Caribbean children's literature e-zine. She is the recipient of multiple awards and residencies for her own writing and as an independent children's book editor she has worked with several skilled authors. Her work has appeared in literary journals in the Caribbean and internationally, and her poetry and illustration for children was anthologised in *Whaleheart: Journey into the Night with Maya Christina Gonzalez and 23 Courageous ArtistAuthors*.



Victoria M. Azaro was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and has studied and worked in many places around the world. When her first son was born, she started writing and illustrating for children. She published her first book (now a series), *Saffron*, in 2009. In 2010, *Saffron* was awarded the White Ravens award and was on the 'Storylines Notable Junior Fiction' list. Victoria now lives in Auckland with her family and spends every free minute of the day writing and illustrating.