



CCWC 2025 CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

COACHING CLASSES:

(Participants usually select a specific teacher or topic and attend that series throughout its duration.)

“What I’ve Learned” Varied Teachers

Here’s your chance to hear from people with a wide variety of experience in the business of publishing. Your hosts will offer you the wisdom they’ve gained, ending each session with a time for questions.

“Body Language 101” Tara Johnson

Understanding body language, micro-expressions, and posture is the ultimate way to “show and not tell.” Body language adds tremendous depth to dialogue, sets tone, and shows readers how a character’s emotions reflect in their behavior. This workshop will teach how to use universal body language to give characters rich emotion, as well as teach how to spot deception and bumps in verbal language that reveal inner motive. This class will also use examples from real life, including transcripts and videos from confessed serial killers and public figures.

Be prepared to delve deep into the world of dangerous personalities—like narcissism, psychopathy, emotional instability, and paranoia—to create rich, complex villains. Students will apply this information into their current WIPs and layer these techniques in an organic way.

“Crafting Life-Changing Bible Studies” Shadia Hrichi

Led by an award-winning author and Bible study teacher, this comprehensive series begins with 10 essential questions to help you discern and confirm God’s call to write life-changing Bible studies. The journey continues with practical, step-by-step guidance on how to structure compelling Bible studies that reach both the mind and the heart. Together, we’ll examine the critical components that distinguish memorable, life-changing studies from ordinary, surface-level Bible studies. Beyond content development, this course equips you with professional writing tools—including how to craft compelling chapter summaries, query letters, and book proposals specifically designed for Bible studies.

Whether you’re writing your first study or enhancing existing skills, this course combines spiritual insight with hands-on exercises to give you the confidence and competence to create Bible studies that not only convey biblical knowledge but genuinely transform lives.

Bonus Materials: Sample Query Letter • Sample Chapter Summaries • Complete Bible Study Proposal Template

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“For the Long Haul: Career Planning and Goal Setting” Sarah Sundin

Making the transition from hobby writer to professional takes more than great writing. In this circle, we'll discuss how to develop a professional mindset and habits. We'll look at career planning, goal setting, organization, and time management. And we'll share practical low-tech and high-tech tips to help you meet your goals.

“Jump Start Your Publishing Dreams” Terry Whalin

Many people have dreams and desires about getting into print but they have no idea where to begin or how to create a plan. In this workshop, Terry provides a list of key steps along with seasoned advice for any writer. Whether the writer is a beginner or a seasoned pro, this workshop is certain to stir their imagination and plans in a fresh way long after the conference.

WORKSHOPS:

Session A - Monday, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

“~~Two~~ Four Roads Diverged” Roseanna M. White

In today's publishing climate, there are so many options that sometimes a writer just doesn't know which is right for them. Vanity? Indie/self-publishing? Small press? Big publisher? As someone who has worked with all of these, I'll break down the differences, highlighting the pros and cons so that you can make the best decision for *you*.

“Troubleshooting Your Unsold Novel” Nick Harrison

For 15 years, Nick Harrison acquired and edited numerous novels for Harvest House Publishers. It always pained him when he had to say no to a promising writer. It came as no surprise that most of the novels he had to reject had common flaws—many of which were fixable. In this workshop, Nick will reveal those common flaws aspiring writers make and offer suggestions as to how to fix the ailing manuscript. Attendees are invited to bring the first page of their present novel manuscript to class.

“Ink to Impact: Amplify Your Message Through Speaking” Shadia Hrichi

Elevate your ministry by transforming your written words into powerful presentations! This dynamic workshop equips you with 10 essential tips to transform your manuscript into engaging spoken messages. Learn how to captivate audiences, amplify your message, and impact more hearts for Christ.

“Landing a Literary Agent” Karen Neumair

Get insider information on how to open the door to traditional publishing with the right representation. Senior Literary Agent Karen Neumair will answer all your questions about literary agents, including how to find the best fit for you and your unique writing aspirations.

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“The Science Behind a Broken Heart: How to Make the Third-Act Breakup Viscerally Authentic” KyLee Woodley

Do you ever read or watch a romance and stop and think, “Is he seriously that broken up about this?” or “Is she really going to eat all that ice cream because of a guy?” Maybe you remember a nasty breakup in your teen years when you felt your life had ended. Why and how does the rejection or separation from a person cast the entire world in utter despair? This class explores the body’s and mind’s physical reaction to a breakup, pinpointing specific characteristics that writers can use to make their breakups more authentic.

“Targeting Publications: *Brio* and *Focus on the Family* magazines” Sarah Brickens

The publication world is constantly changing. Learn how to target print or online publications through insights and examples from *Brio* and *Focus on the Family* magazines. Let’s study these together so you’ll have the inside scoop about what does and doesn’t work.

Session B - Monday, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

“What Are You Looking At? A Fun-filled Tour of the Cover Design Process” Roseanna M. White

As an author, I have worked with four different houses, and as a cover designer, I’ve taken what I’ve learned and applied it to my own business. This class is a fun behind-the-scenes look at the cover creation process, whether you’re going indie or working with a traditional house.

“Princess Short Story Challenge: How to Write a Short Story Romance That Will Knock Glass Slippers Off” KyLee Woodley

Jerry Jenkins and James Scott Bell both claim authors have been using short story to hone their craft and get their feet wet for generations. Why is the short story such a powerful tool?

This class explores the importance of short stories to hone your craft and pursue publication using a fun motif of princess/royalty. You will learn two easy-to-understand plots for short stories, engage in a brainstorming session, and finally choose where to submit your story from a list of magazines and periodicals. Apart from education, this class is just plain fun! Open to all levels of writers, it is an opportunity to take risks and grow.

At the end of the class, we look at how to submit a Princess Moment (short story) to Whitefire’s White Crown imprint.

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“Fiction Bootcamp” Sarah Sundin

Drop and give me ten! Ten basics for fiction writing, that is. We'll look at common issues seen in first novels from dialogue to point-of-view to setting up a scene. We'll learn some fiction lingo and outline the steps to publication. Prepare to sweat—and learn.

“The Weight of the First Page” Linda Glaz

Your first page introduces your writing. Make it pop so that the reader wants more.

“How to Write Feature Profile Articles” Sarah Brickens

Every person has a story—your job is to bring it to life on the page. In this class you'll learn how to craft compelling feature profile articles that highlight real people in powerful ways. We'll cover everything from preparing for interviews and asking meaningful questions to crafting narratives that connects with readers. Whether you're profiling a classmate, community leader, or rising star, you'll leave with the tools to write stories that inform, inspire and stay with your audience.

Session C - Tuesday, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

“Media Ready” Roseanna M. White

Authors are often called upon to be guests on podcasts, radio shows, and even television . . . but how can we make sure we're the sort of guests hosts will want to invite back again and again? These tips will ensure you're ready for either mic or camera!

“Finding Ways to Build Your Platform Before You're Published” KyLee Woodley

We are told that we must have a platform to land a contract/agent, but how do you reach readers before you are published? This class focuses on different ways to reach future readers, connect with authors of your genre, and create content that will last.

“Deep POV” Linda Glaz

Learn the basics of writing utilizing deep point of view. After this class, you'll want to use deep POV and will definitely want to learn more.

“Writing Against the Wall” Jane Daly

Every writer, no matter their experience or skill level, will encounter the dreaded writer's block at some point in their writing journey. But fear not, for this workshop will provide you with invaluable tools and techniques to conquer this obstacle and keep your creative juices flowing. Get ready to break through that seemingly impenetrable wall and unlock your full writing potential!

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“Storytelling Techniques from Disney and Pixar” Karen Barnett

The screenwriters at Disney and Pixar are master storytellers. By studying these movies, we'll identify some of the top fiction techniques that every novelist needs in their toolbox. Learn about the power of character desire, the significance of the disappearing moms, tickety-ticking time clocks, the black moment, and more—all while humming some great tunes.

Session D - Tuesday, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

“Writing and Acting: They’re Almost Twins” Linda Glaz

Once you grasp the concept of what an actor does to create his/her character, you'll also—with class practice—understand how to write your novels with more complex reality. Let's have fun physically “going through the motions” so our characters will run deep and wide.

“How to Do It All” Roseanna M. White

As someone who wears a lot of hats, I frequently get asked how I balance everything. This class will take a heartfelt look at time management, prioritizing, and respecting the dream.

“What Magazine Editors Wish You Knew” Sherri Langton

What really goes on behind a magazine editor's desk? Why do editors revise your manuscript? Where do freelancers fail and where do they succeed? We'll answer these questions and more as well as cover changes in the world of publishing.

“So You Want to Write a Children’s Book” Karen Neumair

How hard could it be? It turns out there are several parameters you need to know before you start that children's manuscript. Join Senior Literary Agent Karen Neumair as she unpacks the ins and outs of writing board books and picture books for young readers.

“How to Write Faster” Jane Daly

Every writer grapples with the daunting task of reaching a daily word count and crafting captivating prose that will leave readers encouraged. This workshop will equip you with valuable techniques to increase your writing speed without sacrificing quality. Whether you're a meticulous planner or an impulsive pantsier, this workshop is designed for all styles and approaches.

“The Power of Story” Debbie Alsdorf

Story is important not just in fiction but in nonfiction, too. This workshop will include the why and the how of using story to bring life to your written words. In addition, it will include how to tell your hard story in a way that glorifies God and encourages the reader.