

Wonderful Wednesday for April 2021

Welcome Breezers!

This monthly newsletter is from SCBWI Southern Breeze, the region encompassing Alabama, Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle. As a member of SCBWI, you are automatically also a member of the region where you live.

The regional level runs on volunteers, including the editors of this newsletter. If you have questions, ideas, or would like to help, please email southern-breeze@scbwi.org.

New! Equity & Inclusion Team Announces Critique Opportunity

We have exciting news! [Saba Sulaiman](#), agent with Talcott Notch Literary, has generously agreed to do three critiques for our region, with the goal of helping to "level an uneven playing field and support the writers whose voices we as an industry need the most to hear and uplift."

April 16-May 3, [Southern Breeze's Equity & Inclusion Team](#) will be accepting submissions for this incredible opportunity.

Who May Apply?

Writers in the Southern Breeze region, who belong to underrepresented groups. You do not have to be a member of SCBWI to apply for these critiques (spread the word!)

[Formatting instructions](#) & [submission guidelines](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10, 3 p.m. EDT/2 CDT: [The Dynamics of Science and Nature Writing for Fiction and Nonfiction](#) Join authors Claire Datnow and Heather Montgomery as they discuss how powerful storytelling techniques are the keys to touching our audiences'/readers' hearts, to ignite their imagination, and to inspire them to build a bridge to tomorrow. (Free, registration required)

April 11, 2 p.m. EDT/1 CDT: [Illustrator's Playdate](#) - Grab your art materials and log in to zoom as we have an Illustrator Play Date! Creating can be a lonely endeavor, but there is a community here to support you. Go to the

Members Only Page and sign in to get the zoom link.

April 17, 11 a.m. EDT/10 CDT: Critique Fest continues with a bonus webinar [Nonfiction 101: Answers to All Your Questions](#) with Melissa Stewart. You may also register for this as a standalone webinar if you are not a part of Critique Fest.

April 19, 2 p.m. EDT/1 CDT: PAL Members Online Chat. Discussion topics will be (1) Newsletters and (2) Finding a good publisher match. If you are familiar with Book Riot and willing to give the group an informal tour, please contact PAL Coordinator Heather Montgomery. Also email Heather at sipse21@hotmail.com for the meeting links.

April 24, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. EDT/9 a.m. - 5 p.m. CDT: [Illustration Masterclass](#)
Join Kyle T. Webster as he explains tricks and shortcuts you can use to create color harmony in your illustrations. Then we'll meet Jessica Saint Jean, agent with Jill Grinberg Literary Management as she shares how to prepare your portfolio to query agents for representation. Then stick around to learn what agents pay attention to when they browse websites and social media looking for children's book illustrators. There will be an online review of websites/social media of a few participants and many examples of how to create a successful online presence. Remember, registration for this fabulous day that's all about illustration ends April 23 so there's still time to sign up!

April 25: Deadline for your book to be included in this quarter's Book Launch Video, [Complete this form](#) to receive instructions.

Pencil It In!

May 11, 7:30 p.m. Eastern/ 6:30 Central: Southern Breeze will be holding NEW Monthly Meetings! These meetings will feature different presentations as well as networking time, to keep you motivated and move your career forward!

Online Critique Groups for SCBWI members in the Southern Breeze region are held several times each month. See upcoming dates and access the Zoom links [here](#). *(sign in to your SCBWI account for access)*

The Southern Breeze region is active on social media. Click the icons to join us!



Southern Breeze Illustrators

Be sure to check out our "[Illustrator's Lounge](#)" and join the Southern Breeze Illustrator [Facebook Group](#).

Also be sure to check out our



SCBWI international events:

[SCBWI Celebrates Own Voices Series](#): Quarterly panels with authors and illustrators discuss the process of creating protagonists outside the dominant culture.

Celebrating Asian Voices, to be presented May 20, 4 p.m. EDT/ 3 p.m. CDT

New digital workshops from SCBWI will begin on May 11. They're not on the SCBWI website yet, but were announced in the April Insight newsletter. Everything from craft to social media, so check [SCBWI.org](#) closer to time (free, registration required)

Save the Date! Celebrate 50 years of SCBWI at the **online summer conference** July 30,31, and August 1 2021.



Online resources

[SCBWI.org](#) has a wealth of resources online including: THE BOOK (articles and lists for all



Volunteers Run the Region

Southern Breeze's new Regional Equity and Inclusion Team has begun meeting. If you would like

things kid lit), podcasts, webinars, and international conference information. There are also archives of the Bulletin and INSIGHT, the SCBWI newsletters.

[Southern Breeze](#) also has a website, with local information, links to [online critique groups](#) (sign in to access), [information about upcoming events](#), and a terrific [new blog site](#).

Other SCBWI regions worldwide, also offer online programming, available to any SCBWI member. Find out more by browsing [individual regions' websites](#) and [here](#).

to join this group in developing inclusion initiatives to help Southern Breeze reach more of the children's creators in our diverse region, please let us know at southern-breeze@scbwi.org.

We'd like to recognize our members' successes with a dedicated newsletter twice a year (June and December), but we need a volunteer to gather the kudos, compile the list, and draft this newsletter. If this is something you could do, please complete [this short form](#).

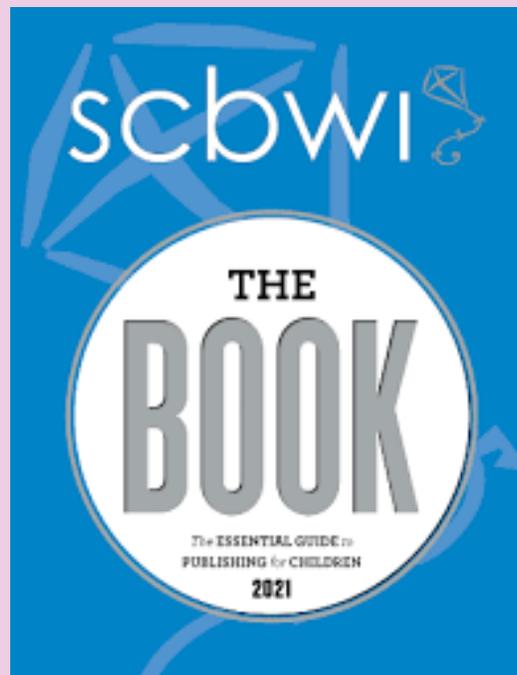
Thank you for being a vital part of the Southern Breeze Team!

[Southern Breeze](#) is now a [Bookshop.org](#) affiliate!

In this online era, Bookshop.org has provided a way for us to help each other promote our books, as well as provide sales to independent bookstores.

If you would like your book(s) included, follow the below instructions:

1. Locate your book(s) on [Bookshop.org](#).
2. Copy the links
3. Email the links in the body of an email to southern-breeze@scbwi.org. (Please put **BOOKSHOP LINK** in the memo line.)



The 2021 edition of [THE BOOK](#) is available for download at [SCBWI.org](#). Log in to access. This comprehensive publication contains new and essential articles such as:

- maximizing social media
- creating book trailers
- best practices in independent publishing, and grassroots promotion
- up-to-the-minute Market Survey, which includes a comprehensive house by house listing of editors, art directors, and key personnel.

Please note that if your book is not available on Bookshop.org there is no way for Southern Breeze to manually add it to the site. We wish it could be otherwise, but the supply-line aspect of Bookshop.org is out of our control.

Other directories include The International Market Survey, The Book Reviewers Directory, The Agents Directory, and a unique feature called Edited By, in which editors have been personally surveyed to provide a history of their recent acquisitions.

Key resources include an annotated bibliography of essential reference books for any aspiring children's book author or illustrator, as well as a current listing of bloggers, reviewers, grants, and awards.

All the best in your creative endeavors!

Your regional team,

Sharon Pegram and Lisa Lowe Stauffer, Co-Regional Advisors

TeMika Grooms, Illustrator Coordinator

Allen Wells and Melissa Miles, Co-Assistant Regional Advisors

