

## Wonderful Wednesday for August 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](mailto:southern-breeze@scbwi.org).

## September Monthly Meeting



Join us on Tuesday, September 7 at 7:30 p.m. EDT / 6:30 CDT to meet author [Wendelin Van Draanen](#) and hear her insights during her 20-year career in children's literature.

Wendelin has written more than thirty novels for young readers and teens.

She is the author of the 18-book Edgar-winning Sammy Keyes series—often called “The new Nancy Drew”—and wrote *Flipped*, which was named a Top 100 Children's Novel for the 21st Century by School Library Journal and became a Warner Brothers feature film, with Rob Reiner directing.

Her other stand-alone titles include *Wild Bird*, *The Secret Life of Lincoln Jones*, *Runaway*, *Confessions of a Serial Kisser*, *Swear to Howdy*, and *The Running Dream*, which was awarded American Library Association's Schneider Family Award for its "expression of the disability experience."

Van Draanen has also created two four-book series for younger readers. The Shredderman books feature a boy who deals with a bully and received the Christopher Award for “affirming the highest values of the human spirit,” and was made into a Nickelodeon movie. The related Gecko & Sticky books, which are full of alluring alliterations that make for rousing read-alouds, are perfect for reluctant readers.

To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (**sign in to access**). A recording of Wendelin's talk will be available online after September 8, with access for one month. You can also find that link on the Members Only page.

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## Picture Book Breakdown Starts September 14th!

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How often have you read a picture book and knew it was somehow greater than the merging of words and art? If only there were other picture book writers and illustrators to talk to . . .

Well now there are.

Join other Southern Breeze writers, illustrators, and translators via Zoom for three Picture Book Breakdown sessions in September. You'll read picture books together and then really dig into the various aspects that make these books great. Facilitated by writer Taylor Girard, these sessions will be no-pressure, fun,

and informative.

So whether you're new to picture books or an old pro, Picture Book Breakdown is for you. Each session can be attended as a standalone, or come for the whole series.

**Picture Book Breakdown: September 14, 21, and 28, at 7:30 p.m. EDT / 6:30 CDT.**

To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).



## Annual Writing Contest Update!!

The top entries are now in the hands of the pro judges! Thanks to our anonymous PAL judges for reading and evaluating so many fabulous submissions! Winners announced and results returned by November 1.

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## Figure Drawing Sessions on Behance



Grab your sketchbooks and join us on Thursday Nights at 7pm EST on Behance for a Figure Drawing Session and live chat! Sessions are 1 hour. We'll go through a series of poses to practice drawing the human form.

Join the Behance Livestream on Thursdays at 7pm EDT:  
<https://www.behance.net/temikagrooms>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 7 at 7:30 p.m. EDT/ 6:30 p.m. CDT**-- Monthly Meeting with author, Wendelin Van Draanen. To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

**September 11 at 11 a.m. EDT/ 10 a.m. CDT**-- Online Critique Groups (all genres) To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

**September 13 at 7 p.m. EDT/ 6 p.m. CDT**-- Online Critique Groups (all genres) To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

**September 14 at 7:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 CDT** -- Picture Book Breakdown, a discussion group. To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

**September 15:** Last day to view the recordings from the Big Five-Oh! Conference!

**September 18 at 11 a.m. EDT/ 10 a.m. CDT**-- Online Critique Groups (all genres) To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

**September 21st at 7:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 CDT**- Picture Book Breakdown, a discussion group. To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

**September 23 at 2 p.m. EDT/ 1 CDT**-- PAL Chat

This month we'll discuss: Book trailers: How to make and share effectively and efficiently.

How do you ensure you continue to grow? Workshops/events/books/other methods?

If you're not already on PAL Coordinator Heather Montgomery's email list, drop her a note at [sipsey21@hotmail.com](mailto:sipsey21@hotmail.com) to receive the link to this and future PAL Chat meetings.

**September 27 at 7 p.m. EDT/ 6 p.m. CDT**-- Online Critique Groups (all genres) To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

September 28th at 7:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 CDT- Picture Book Breakdown, a discussion group. To join this free meeting click the link on the [Members Only page](#) on the Southern Breeze website (sign in to access).

## Pencil it In!



**October 12 at 7:30 p.m. EDT/6:30 CDT -- Monthly Meeting --All About Contests for writers and illustrators.** PAL Author, Cathy Hall and PAL Illustrator, Ashley Belote will each give a 30 minute presentation on contest opportunities! Q&A to follow.

**October 25 at 8 p.m. EDT/7 CDT-- PAL Chat**

Topics include: Stretches and exercises for writers and illustrators and how to keep the editor or agent relationship running smoothly.

**October Critique Groups and other regular events TBA.**

*Looking ahead:*

**March 18, 2022**

An afternoon in-person “Sketch and Scribble” event in Birmingham. Look for more details on this informal gathering closer to time.

**March 19, 2022**

Writers and Illustrators Day, in Homewood, Alabama. Instead of our usual plethora of breakout sessions, the annual conference in 2022 will feature three simultaneous full-day intensives. It will be a chance to connect, dig in, and really hone your craft. Look for more information later this fall!



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*)

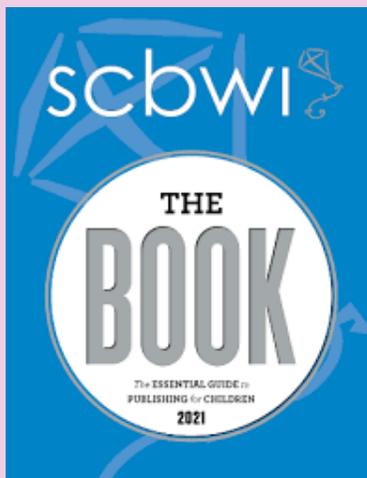
active on social media. Click the icons to join us!



## 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 [illustrator gallery](#)!



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



## Volunteers Run the Region

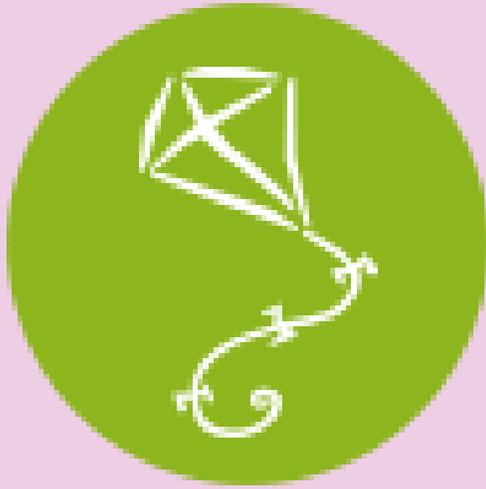
### HELP WANTED:

Kahoot! is an online trivia platform often used by schools and businesses. Are you familiar with Kahoot! and willing to help us customize this trivia game for possible use with our members? If so, please let us know at [southern-breeze@scbwi.org](mailto:southern-breeze@scbwi.org).

Are you a regular attendee at our monthly meetings? Are you willing to take notes on book titles, author and illustrator names, and links that scroll by in the chat so that those can be included in a post-meeting email? If so, we need you! Please email [southern-breeze@scbwi.org](mailto:southern-breeze@scbwi.org).

Have you self-published more

member. Find out more by browsing [individual regions' websites](#) and [here](#).



than one middle grade or young adult novel? Are you skilled at the technical aspects of preparing a manuscript and uploading it to Kindle? Or do your skills run more to understanding how to market your book online with keywords and ads? We're considering putting together one or more webinars about self-publishing novels for children. But we need some experts! So email [southern-breeze@scbwi.org](mailto:southern-breeze@scbwi.org) and tell us about your experience.

## For Published Members

Southern Breeze is 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: Locate your book(s) on [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org).

Copy the links  
Email the links in the body of an email to [southern-breeze@scbwi.org](mailto:southern-breeze@scbwi.org).

Put BOOKSHOP LINK in the memo line.

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

## Did You Know?

Southern Breeze's [Equity & Inclusion Team](#) resources page includes a wide variety of book titles, articles, and talks.

Each month this newsletter will spotlight one of these resources, so we can all learn and grow together to create literature that better serves all our children.

For September, take time to read Jess Lifschitz's thoughtful article, "[Seeing Ourselves and Seeing Others in the Pages of the Books we Read.](#)"

Southern Breeze's new Regional Equity and Inclusion Team meets monthly via zoom. If you would like 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](mailto:southern-breeze@scbwi.org).

site. We wish it could be otherwise, but the supply-line aspect of Bookshop.org is out of our control.

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**We'd love to see you on social media. In addition to our main accounts (click icons above), here are some other places you can find us:**

[Southern Breeze Blog](#)  
[Southern Breeze Facebook](#)  
[Southern Breeze Illustrators Page Facebook](#)  
[Southern Breeze Illustrators Group Facebook](#)  
[Southern Breeze Twitter](#)  
[Southern Breeze YouTube](#)  
[Southern Breeze Bookshop.org Page](#)

[SCBWI Blog](#)  
[SCBWI Facebook](#)  
[SCBWI Instagram](#)  
[SCBWI YouTube](#)  
[SCBWI Twitter](#)

*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*

