

Low-Residency MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults faculty information:

Lisa Jahn-Clough

www.lisajahnclough.com

Biography:

BA Hampshire College, MFA Emerson College

I was writer-in-residence at Emerson College from 1996-2002 and have also taught at Simmons College, Vermont College, and The Maine College of Art.

So far I've written and illustrated a dozen picture and two YA novels. Some of my picture books have been anthologized for schools, and have won things like Parents Choice Awards, Child Magazine Best Book, and the Bank Street Award. *Me, Penelope* was a notable in *Entertainment Weekly*. Early in my career I ran my own small publishing company called Arm-In-Arm Press, which put out gift books, cards, and calendars. I am from Maine and currently live in Portland with my partner (also an author/illustrator) and our two mutts. However we are all moving to Savannah, GA soon.

I Am Happy to Work with Students in the Following Genres/Areas:

Fiction in any form -- picture book, middle-grade, or YA.

Other Things to Know About Me as an Advisor:

I am all about plot, character, and meaning. I emphasize finding a solid story line and emotional depth. I encourage brevity and precision in language, no matter the length.

My response style is to ask a lot of questions. These are intended to get the writer to think about choices and approach writing in a new way. I make notations of things that work so that the writer can understand what she is doing best and can go on to do more of it. I question what is not clear and will give possible solutions or suggestions if I have any.

Revision is crucial. I expect my students to work hard, to take risks, to read voraciously, and to be open to new ideas and suggestions. I may give monthly writing exercises as needed, and will certainly recommend books to read.

Packets can be sent via email. I will print it out, make written comments and send it back via snail mail. I write a detailed response letter and email that back usually within two days after receiving the packet. My hand-written notes and the letter combine to give fairly thorough feedback. I also ask for a mid-semester phone conference.

Books of Mine I Recommend That You Read:

novels: *Me, Penelope*, *Country Girl/City Girl*

picture books: *Alicia Has a Bad Day*, *My Friend and I*, *Missing Molly*, *On the Hill*, *Little Dog*, or any others you want.