



# "In Search of Voice" Writing Workshop

with Kim T. Griswell  
Saturday, January 30th, 10-3pm \$50

(brown bag lunch)

As an editor, I read hundreds of manuscript submissions every month. The one thing I look for--and the thing I most seldom see--is writing with "voice". Voice makes a work deep and real and unique enough to stand out from the competition. Unfortunately, few writers take time to discover and develop an authentic voice before submitting.

It often takes years for a writer to find his or her authentic voice. Many things hold writers back: mimicking popular styles or favorite authors, writing stories with the marketplace in mind, lack of confidence, and fear of revealing too much. Our greatest writers write from their guts, from their own truths. They dig deep until they reach a vein within themselves that is pure gold. They tell the stories that only they can tell, as only they can tell them. Together, we'll explore books that have "voice" and develop a definition of this often misunderstood term. Then we'll move on to activities and writing exercises, writers will learn how to break through to their authentic voices and discover the stories that are theirs to tell.

**Sample activities and writing exercises:**

- § Reveling in the realm of the senses
- § Mind-mapping your "homeland"
- § Exploring (and exploiting) the voices in your head

**Writing from the Shadow**

**Things I Must Not Write About**

Whether you're writing for publication and want to catch an editor's eye or writing for self-expression or personal growth, this workshop will help you write stronger, deeper, better.

**Kim T. Griswell** is a senior editor for Highlights, Inc. and works with the Highlights Foundation and Boyds Mills Press. She served as the coordinating editor of *Highlights* for six years and *Highlights High Five* for a year. Her work in the children's literature field has spanned the worlds of publishing and teaching, leading her to positions as senior editor of *Bookbag* magazine, book development manager for The Mailbox Book Company, a university and community college instructor, and a teacher with the Institute of Children's Literature. She holds master's degrees in teaching writing and in literature from Humboldt State University. She has taught writing workshops across the country on such topics as Focusing Nonfiction, Mystery Writing, Creating a Sense of Place, Writing for Children's Magazines, Nature as Muse, and The Hero's Journey. A prolific writer and committed editor, Kim has published more than two hundred short stories, articles, and columns. Her books include *Carnivorous Plants*, *Nonfiction Reading Practice (Grade 3)*, and many stories in the four-book series, *Short Short Stories for Reading Aloud*. In 2008, Kim was awarded a two-month writing residency at the Sitka Center for Arts and Ecology in Oregon. [www.kimgriswell.com](http://www.kimgriswell.com).