



# TEEN Writer!™

“Write something to let the world know you were here. - Bill Wayman”



We honor the people  
who inspire us  
every day.

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**UPMC**  
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

ONE DAY YOU WILL TELL YOUR STORY OF HOW YOU'VE  
OVERCOME WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NOW, AND IT  
WILL BE PART OF SOMEONE ELSE'S SURVIVAL GUIDE.

## ★ Message from the Program Director ★

★ People ask me all the time what campers should expect if they attend the Teen Writer camp. Is it about formulas for plot development... guidelines for dialogue... tips for characterization... rules of grammar? ★

Well, sure, I guess it's about those things. I'd say, though, that what's really unique to this camp is how we go about learning those things. What sets Teen Writer camp apart from a literary fiction classroom at school, or a writing tutorial students can find online or in a trade magazine, is best summed up by this quote:

*"We should always endeavor to wonder at the permanent thing,  
not the mere exception. We should be startled by the sun,  
not by the eclipse. We should wonder less at the earthquake,  
and wonder more at the earth." - GK Chesterton*

In order to write realistic and compelling fiction, writers must include realistic and compelling details. The fiction must be so finely crafted that it transports the reader to another world.

In this Teen Writer camp, we learn about filling our fiction with realistic and compelling details by going out into the world on Writers' Field Trips, to observe and appreciate the world and its people for all of their glories, all of their flaws, all of their eccentricities, and challenges, and beauty. ★

In short, we learn to wonder less at the earthquake, and wonder more at the earth. ★

The magic of well-written fiction happens at a molecular level. Writers can learn the rules of grammar, but must open themselves up to experiencing and wondering at the world around them before they can hope to capture and convey those emotions and sensory details on the confines of a typed page. Fiction becomes "fantastic" when a writer is fully living. And so I invite you, this year's Teen Writers, to indulge your sense of wonder about the vibrant and imperfect and wonderful world around you. ★

When done mindfully, "writing" and "living" are pretty darn similar adventures!

All my best wishes -

*Gina Catanzarite*

Gina Catanzarite, Director/Instructor  
Teen Writer! Program







# 2021 TEEN WRITERS!

## Six-Word Autobiographies



Addison

"Defined by the stories I keep."



Audrey

"Scared of falling but jumping anyway."



Carola

"Found my passion expressing myself musically."



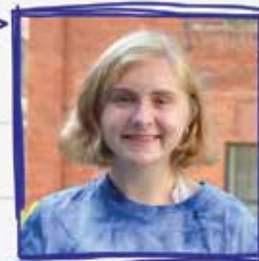
Emma

"Finding pieces of me inside stories."



Havana

"Found in the depths of work."



Kabir

"Staring blankly at the white paper."



Maggie

"Searching for the story in everything."



Michelle

"Small-town girl in a big world."



Orli

"Two faces for two different worlds."







"DON'T TELL ME THE MOON IS SHINING.  
SHOW ME THE GLINT OF LIGHT ON BROKEN GLASS."  
- ANTON CHEKHOV

## BOOKS TO READ BEFORE YOU DIE:

Looking for a great book? Suggestions from our teen writers!

ORLI: Any book with "Hercule Poirot" by Agatha Christie

KABIR: "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien

EMMA: "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen

HAVANA: "Sad Perfect" by Stephanie Elliot

MICHELLE: Any (good) poetry book. I like "Pillow Talks"  
by Courtney Peppernell



AUDREY: "Infinite Noise" by Lauren Shippen

CAROLA: Harry Potter series, specifically "Harry Potter  
and the Chamber of Secrets" by J.K. Rowling

ADDISON: "Echo" by Pam Muñoz Ryan

MAGGIE: "Dewey the Small-Town Library Cat who Touched  
the World" by Vicki Myron



"The  IDEA is to WRITE it so that  
people hear it and it slides through the  
brain and goes straight to the  HEART."

{Maya Angelou}





Teen Writers with reporter and influencer Celina Pompeani on the set of @Walkathome!



"EVERYONE walks past a thousand story ideas every day. The GOOD WRITERS are the ones who see five or six of them. MOST PEOPLE DON'T SEE ANY."



{Orson Scott}



★ ★ ★  
A PROFESSIONAL WRITER is an amateur who didn't quit. - Richard Bach



Do not wait for a poem;  
a poem is too fast for  
you. Do not wait for the  
poem; run with the poem  
and then write the poem."

- Juan Felipe Herrera







A WORD AFTER A WORD  
AFTER A WORD IS POWER.

-MARGARET ATWOOD



CREATIVE Writer  
Vs. CRITICAL Writer



"No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise  
for the writer, no surprise for the reader." > Robert Frost







## Camp Leadership Team



**GINA CATANZARITE** (Director/Instructor) is an award-winning television producer, writer, and educator who has worked both nationally and locally in her fields since 1987. Currently, Catanzarite operates her company, Arania Productions, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She counts 17 Emmy awards, 43 Emmy nominations, a Matrix award, 2 Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters Awards, 8 Telly Awards, 3 Golden Quill Awards, an Ohio Associated Press MEA award, an Ohio Society of Professional Journalists award, and a screenwriting grant from the Theatre Association of Pennsylvania, among her many professional honors. She was recognized with a Carnegie Science Award as the 2018 Science Communicator of the Year; and she has served on the Board of Governors for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences since 2019, and was named an Officer of the NATAS Board in 2021.

Catanzarite holds a Masters degree for Journalism Educators from Kent State University, where she graduated summa cum laude and also was the recipient of the 2014 James Sutherland Endowed Scholarship for outstanding graduate students. Her area of academic specialty is the social role and ethical responsibilities of mass media. She has taught as an Associate Professor in the School of Communication at Point Park University since 2006. Catanzarite is a 1987 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, with degrees in Non-Fiction Writing, Film Theory, and a certificate in American Sign Language for the Deaf.

**VIRGINIA (GIN) GARNER** (Teaching Assistant) is an aspiring journalist and writer from Annapolis, MD. She is currently studying at Point Park University, earning her bachelor's degree in journalism along with a minor in accounting. Besides writing, Gin is a dancer and enjoys music, fashion and makeup.



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## LUMINARI™

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**Core Values:** We value knowledge, education and open-mindedness. We advocate that our actions be guided by compassion and kindness toward each other.

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# UNWRITTEN

by Natasha Bedingfield, Danielle Brisebois and Wayne Rodriguez

I am unwritten, can't read my mind, I'm undefined  
I'm just beginning, the pen's in my hand, ending unplanned

Staring at the blank page before you  
Open up the dirty window  
Let the sun illuminate the words that you could not find

Reaching for something in the distance

So close you can almost taste it

Release your inhibitions

Feel the rain on your skin

No one else can feel it for you

Only you can let it in

No one else, no one else

Can speak the words on your lips

Drench yourself in words unspoken

Live your life with arms wide open

Today is where your book begins

The rest is still unwritten

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"Everything you ever  
wanted is on the  
other side of fear."



Breathe in  
the world and  
exhale a  
story.



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