

Thurber House Residency in Children's Literature Fact Sheet

Qualifications: Candidates must have at least one children's book published by a major publishing house, but no more than three, one new children's book in contract, and demonstrate an ability and enthusiasm for working with children in educational settings.

Program: This is a 4-week residency during June, July, or August 2010. The specific time period is negotiated with the selected author. During the stay, the resident will teach writing-based activities to middle grade children for eight to ten hours per week in a variety of community settings, including the Thurber Summer Writing Camp.

Past Thurber Residents: Deborah Wiles (2001), Kathryn Hewitt (02), Natasha Tarpley (03), Laurie Miller Hornik (04), Shelley Pearsall (05), Sam Swope (06), Lisa Yee (07), Alan Silberberg (08), and Hope Anita Smith (09).

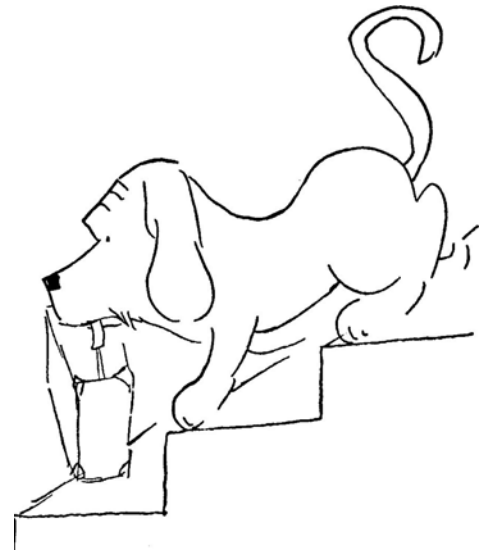
Stipend: \$4,000

Housing: A roomy, furnished apartment is provided on the third floor of the restored Thurber House. It consists of a living room, two bedrooms, a kitchenette, and a bath. Located on a quaint street of restored homes, Thurber House is in the downtown Columbus district. The Columbus Museum of Art, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, and the Topiary Gardens are all within walking distance. All utilities except telephone and cable are included. Internet access is available. Furnishings include all basic household items. No allowance is offered for travel or moving expenses; employment benefits are not provided.

Application Process: Writers interested in the residency should fill out the Application form and send it along with a letter of interest, a curriculum vita, and a copy of their recent book to:

Children's Writer in Residence Program
Thurber House
77 Jefferson Avenue
Columbus, OH 43215

Deadline for receipt of application materials is December 11, 2009. Since the residency includes teaching aspects, evidence addressing this skill is encouraged in the materials. A discussion of works-in-progress is also recommended. The advisory committee will carefully consider each application, and those who are not selected for further review will be notified as early as possible. After interviewing select candidates, a decision will be announced by early March 2010.



Past Residents' Comments:

"All authors should have a secluded place for writing at the top of a winding stairway, watched over by writers! Being a Children's Writer-In-Residence in the Thurber House... gave me the time, the quiet, and the creative space to work on my writing. The house itself is full of wonderful stories — ghostly and otherwise — and although I had come to Thurber House with a novel-in-progress, I also left with many ideas and inspirations for the future. I will miss the lovely rooftop views, the quiet space at the top of the house, and the painting of James Thurber looking over my shoulder as I worked."

Shelley Pearsall, '05 Resident

"It's rare and wonderful for a writer to be given the chance to get away from the real world and do nothing but write, and for this I am grateful to the Thurber House and the kind women who looked after me during my stay there. But I also appreciated how the Thurber House residency put me in touch with the young writers of the summer writing camp and especially with the wonderful children at the homeless shelter. It was inspiring and humbling to work with kids who -- despite the heartbreaking difficulties of their lives -- were so eager to have their imaginations set on fire."

Sam Swope, '06 Resident

"To have lived and worked in James Thurber's house is beyond words. Being tucked away on the third floor, in the comfort of my own apartment, was a liberating and exhilarating experience. And the luxury of time is a memory I will always cherish. But just as much, was the feeling of welcome I received from the Thurber staff, the community, and especially the young authors I met."

Lisa Yee, '07 Resident

"There are few experiences I can really point to as "game changers" in my life. (Yes - switching schools in 4th grade where from Day One I was called "Plumpso" still sticks in my mind.) But my 4 weeks this past summer as the Children's Author in Residence was and always will be a moment in time that gave me so much more than I could possibly give back in return."

Alan Silberberg, '08 Resident

"Being the Writer-in-Residence at Thurber House was an amazing experience. The opportunity to work on my manuscript without the bustle and constant interruptions of everyday life was invaluable, but the true gift was the opportunity to work with children. I was inspired by their dedication and passion. I would bring them various poetry workshops and they were always excited to rise to the challenge. The poems they created moved me."

Hope Anita Smith, '09 Resident

Thurber House: In addition to his plays, magazine pieces, short stories, and cartoons, James Thurber wrote six books for children, including the 1943 Caldecott winner, *Many Moons*. Since 1984, Thurber House has been an active literary arts center housed in the nineteenth century home where Thurber lived while he attended Ohio State University in Columbus Ohio. Our popular Evenings With Authors and Literary Picnic series feature a yearlong calendar of readings by national and local authors; while our children's Writing Academy and Summer Writing Camp afford children the supportive, creative environment they need to develop as young authors. The Thurber Country Bookstore carries all of Thurber's books as well as note cards, T-Shirts, and other Thurber gift items. For further information, visit our web site at www.thurberhouse.org.