



# 2011 Shabo Award for Children's Picture Book Writers

## Guidelines

### THE AWARD PROGRAM

The goal of the program is to help emerging children's picture book writers develop "nearly there" manuscripts into publishable pieces. To be eligible, applicants may not have already published a children's picture book. Up to eight writers will be chosen to participate in a day-long master class, with a follow-up session to polish their manuscripts.

The Shabo Award was established in 2005 by Loft student Bridget Levin to celebrate the publication of her first book for children and to express her gratitude to the Loft for its role in the book's development. "I think it's so important to give back," says Bridget Levin. The name of the award was inspired by her childhood imaginary playmate, Shabo. "I was the fifth of eight children, and I needed a creative ally to navigate the currents of a big Irish Catholic family." As she grew in her writing life, Shabo became a conduit for childhood memories: a muse. And now, Levin hopes, Shabo will serve as an inspiring symbol for other children's writers.

### JUDGE AND MENTOR

Laura Purdie Salas will serve as the mentor for the program. She will review all applications to the program and will select up to eight writers with whom she will work.

Laura Purdie Salas started out writing for adults, but teaching 8th-grade English renewed her love for kids' books. Over the past 11 years, she has written more than 80 poetry, nonfiction, and fiction books. Picture books are her favorite form, and poetry is her first love. *Stampede! Poems to Celebrate the Wild Side of School* (Clarion, 2009) was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award and an Honor Book for the 2010 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People. Laura enjoys working with writers (both adults and kids) and presents at writing conferences, through online courses, at the Loft, and at area elementary schools and young author conferences. Visit her web site at [laurasalas.com](http://laurasalas.com).





## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Submit two anonymous copies of an original, unpublished picture book text. The manuscript should be one that needs some improvement to be published and will be the manuscript discussed during the master class. Manuscripts should be double spaced in 12-point type with one-inch margins on all sides. Your name must not appear on the manuscript.
2. Include an anonymous cover letter indicating your concerns and goals for the manuscript you submit. You might address problems you feel the manuscript has that you are not sure how to fix; comments from editors who liked the manuscript but thought it lacked something; goals you have for publishing your work; etc.
3. Please include an anonymous statement of your experience with writers' groups, writing classes in children's literature, other educational background or training.

## FEE

A \$30 application fee (\$25 for Loft members) payable to The Loft Literary Center is due with your entry.

## SEND APPLICATIONS TO:

Shabo Award  
The Loft Literary Center  
1011 Washington Avenue South  
Suite 200  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

## DEADLINE AND IMPORTANT DATES

The postmark deadline for submissions is Friday, July 1, 2011.

Winners will be notified by phone by August 26, 2011.

The master class with Laura Purdie Salas will be Saturday, October 22, 2011, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Participants should also be available the evening of Friday, October 21, for a social event.

## ELIGIBILITY

Writers who have received the Shabo Award in 2009 or 2010 are not eligible to apply.

There are no residency requirements for the Shabo Award; however, there is no stipend to defray travel expenses. If selected, participants are responsible for making and paying for their own transportation and lodging, if applicable.

Staff and board members of the Loft are not eligible to apply.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Program Director Jerod Santek at [jsantek@loft.org](mailto:jsantek@loft.org) or 612-215-2586.