

Seeds of Inspiration: WIK 2026 Conference

Friday Afternoon Intensives

Mar 27, 2026

12:30 PM - 04:00 PM (CST)

Homewood Public Library, Homewood, AL

In-depth intensives for writers and illustrators

Picture Book Intensive with Agent Rachel Orr

LOCATION: Round Aud

Novel Intensive with Editor Matt Phipps

LOCATION: Room 102

Illustrator Intensive with Sasha Illingworth

LOCATION: Room 116

Book Signing and Portfolio Showcase

Mar 27, 2026

04:45 PM - 05:45 PM (CST)

Homewood Public Library Main Auditorium

Friday Night Kidlit Trivia

Mar 27, 2026

07:45 PM - 09:00 PM (CST)

Annual Kidlit Trivia Competition

Aloft Hotel Tactic Meeting Room, Homewood, AL

WIK Conference Registration

Mar 28, 2026

09:00 AM - 09:15 AM (CST)

Homewood Public Library, Homewood, AL

Grab your name tag, introduce yourself, and get ready for a full day of honing your craft.

Morning Keynote with Award-Winning Author Randi Pink

Mar 28, 2026

09:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CST)

Main Library Auditorium

Session One

10:10 AM - 11:00 AM (CST)

What a Character! Crafting Strong Characters (Rachel Orr)

LOCATION: Auditorium

Getting to Yes: Why Editors Say No (Matt Phipps)

LOCATION: Round Aud

How a Picture Book is Made (Shulokhana Khan)

LOCATION: Room 102

From Doodles to Deals (Sasha Illingworth)

LOCATION: Room 116

Marketing Your Published Books (TK Read)

LOCATION: Room 109

Session Two

11:10 AM - 12:00 PM (CST)

Beginnings and Endings (Rachel Orr)

LOCATION: Auditorium

Write Back! Defying Book Bans (Randi Pink)

LOCATION: Round Aud

How to Keep Readers Turning the Page (Shulokhana Khan)

LOCATION: Room 102

From Pitch to Published (Sasha Illingworth)

LOCATION: Room 116

Author Visit Business 101 (Shanda McCloskey)

LOCATION: Room 109

Lunch

Mar 28, 2026

12:00 PM - 01:30 PM (CST)

Grab lunch at one of Homewood's nearby restaurants, or bring a sack lunch from home.

Session Three

01:30 PM - 02:20 PM (CST)

First Pages Panel for Picture Books

LOCATION: Auditorium

First Pages Panel for MG and YA Novels

LOCATION: Round Aud

Illustrator Quickfire

LOCATION: Room 116

Session Four

02:30 PM - 03:20 PM (CST)

Character Lab: Building Believable Characters (Randi Pink)

LOCATION: Auditorium

Are We There Yet? Looking at Different Publishing Timelines, From Submission to On-Sale (Matt Phipps)

LOCATION: Round Aud

Putting Together a Graphic Novel Pitch Packet (Shanda McCloskey)

LOCATION: Room 116

Self-Publishing Doesn't Mean You Do It Yourself (Sonja McGiboney)

LOCATION: Room 109

Afternoon Keynote with Award-Winning Illustrator Shanda McCloskey

03:30 PM - 04:00 PM (CST)

LOCATION: Auditorium

Informal Critiques

Mar 28, 2026

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM (CST)

Homewood Public Library

Bring some pages or artwork to share informally with a group of other conference attendees. Prepare to give and receive constructive feedback.

Book Dummy Critique Roundtable

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM (CST)

Please Note: This takes place simultaneously with the Informal Critiques.

Book Dummy Critique Roundtable with Associate Creative Director Sasha Illingworth

LOCATION: Room 116

Pitch Critique Roundtables

04:30 PM - 05:30 PM (CST)

Please Note: These take place simultaneously with the Informal Critiques.

Roundtable with Agent Rachel Orr

LOCATION: Auditorium

Roundtable with Editor Matt Phipps

LOCATION: Round Aud

Roundtable with Editor Shulokhana Khan

LOCATION: Room 102