

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

Novel Intensive with Editor Matt Phipps

Illustrator Intensive with Sasha Illingworth

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