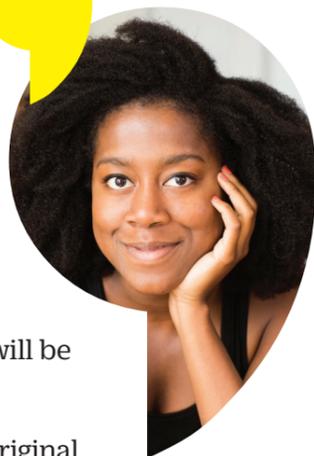


# Meet the Authors

**Tomi Adeyemi** is a Nigerian-American writer and creative writing coach. After graduating from Harvard University with an honours degree in English literature, she received a fellowship that allowed her to study West African mythology, religion, and culture in Salvador, Brazil. Her first novel is the *#1 New York Times* bestseller *Children of Blood and Bone*, the first title in her Legacy of Orisha trilogy. Its sequel, *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*, will be released in March 2019. Tomi lives in California. [tomiadeyemi.com](http://tomiadeyemi.com)



**Will Kostakis** is a writer of all things, from celebrity news stories that score cease and desist letters, to tweets for professional wrestlers. He's best known for his award-winning YA novels, *The Sidekicks* and *The First Third*. His first fantasy novel *Monuments* releases in spring 2019. [willkostakis.com](http://willkostakis.com)



**Ambelin Kwaymullina** is an Aboriginal writer and illustrator who comes from the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. She is the author and illustrator of a number of award-winning picture books as well as a YA dystopian series *The Tribe*. Ambelin is a prolific commentator on diversity in children's literature and a law academic at the University of Western Australia. Ambelin's latest book, written with Ezekiel Kwaymullina, is *Catching Teller Crow*. [ambelin-kwaymullina.com.au](http://ambelin-kwaymullina.com.au)



**Neal Shusterman** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 30 award-winning books for children, teens and adults, including *The Unwind* Dystology, *The Skinjacker* trilogy, *Downsiders*, and *Challenger Deep*, which won the National Book Award. As a screen and TV writer, Neal has written for the *Goosebumps* and *Animorphs* TV series and wrote the Disney Channel Original Movie *Pixel Perfect*. His latest novel is *Dry* and the third book in his Arc of a Scythe series, *The Toll*, will be released in 2019. Neal lives in California. [storyman.com](http://storyman.com)



## Booking

Secondary School Days tickets go on sale on 24 October 2018. Booking forms are included in this mail pack.

An online booking form and printable PDFs can be found at [swf.org.au](http://swf.org.au)

For more information or if you have any questions contact: [ticketing@swf.org.au](mailto:ticketing@swf.org.au) | (02) 9256 4200

[swf.org.au/schoolsprogram](http://swf.org.au/schoolsprogram)

Disclaimer: Details in this brochure are correct at time of publication. Sydney Writers' Festival reserves the right to add, withdraw, or substitute artists, and to vary the program should the need arise. Please note that a waiting list is kept for booked out School Days events.

# Secondary

# School Days

# 2019



SYDNEY  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL

# Welcome to Secondary School Days

The Secondary School Days program is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet some of the world's most exciting authors, thinkers and storytellers, discover new voices, have a book autographed, and be inspired by the world of literature and ideas.

These hugely popular sessions feature local and international YA authors in interactive sessions that encourage students to consider new ideas and grow their enjoyment of books and reading. During each session, writers and illustrators perform from their work, talk about their craft and take questions from the audience.

## Dates and Venues

- Wednesday 1 May:** Carriageworks,  
245 Wilson Street, Eveleigh
- Thursday 2 May:** Riverside Theatres,  
Cnr Church and Market Streets,  
Parramatta
- Friday 3 May:** The Concourse, Chatswood,  
409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

## Sessions

Please arrive at 9.30am for a 10am start.

### 10am Stories to Shred Your Head

The prolific **Neal Shusterman** (*The Unwind Dystology*, *Dry*, *Scythe*) hosts an interactive session full of practical advice and insider know-how. Neal breaks down the stories behind his stories and reveals his writing process, how he gets his ideas and what every writer should do to make their stories even better.

### 10.45am How to Change the World

Aboriginal storyteller **Ambelin Kwaymullina** is a passionate advocate for bringing underrepresented voices to the fore — and has done so brilliantly in her own writing, including her YA dystopian series, *The Tribe*. Join Ambelin for a discussion of speculative fiction and the radical power of stories to build empathy, battle injustice and change the world.

### 11.30am Lunch Break and Book Signings

With Neal Shusterman and Ambelin Kwaymullina  
(Students are recommended to bring their own lunch.)

### 12.30pm So you Want to be a Writer...

**Tomi Adeyemi** (*Children of Blood and Bone*) reveals her journey to becoming a *New York Times* bestselling author — and guides you down your own path to figuring out what kind of stories you want to write. Learn how to find inspiration, get your ideas down on the page, and set and achieve your writing goals.

### 1.15pm The Perks of Being Honest

From growing up in a close-knit Greek family to grieving a close friend's sudden death in high school, **Will Kostakis'** life has always echoed in his work. He believes that honest writing is the best writing, even if it's often scary, and has risks and sometimes consequences. In this enlightening session, Will reveals all the bad stuff that can happen when you write honestly, all in a bid to convince you to do it anyway.

### 2pm Finish and Book Signings

With Tomi Adeyemi and Will Kostakis

Core Funders



Principal Partner

