

Initiative for Young Writers



Dear Reader:

We are Flying Object, a 501(c)(3) non-profit art and publishing organization located in a historical, renovated fire station in Hadley, Massachusetts. Our mission is to provide a range of resources, opportunities, and education to writers, artists, musicians, and publishers both locally and nationwide.

We consider Flying Object to be a laboratory for creative development, production, and performance.

To date, our almost entirely volunteer-run organization has produced, hosted, and coordinated over 250 events (400+ individual artists have performed, read, lectured, or exhibited here), 24 exhibitions, and dozens of workshops. We are avid readers and writers, having published over 60 books, chapbooks, artists' books, and other works through our publishing imprint Factory Hollow Press.

“Flying Object is a unique and magical space that powerfully helps to inform our ideas, our writing, our reading. It is a laboratory. Our laboratory! And library! And listening and looking space place. It is lucky.”

— Emily Pettit, Poet & Workshop Leader

Flying Object is now expanding its horizons with the **FO Initiative for Young Writers**, a collaborative and independent Studio Workshop, dedicated to inspiring and educating Pioneer Valley youth, and serving to build a community through language arts and creative thinking.

Our interdisciplinary programming aims to provide a forum and a space for young people to engage and immerse themselves in the power of the imagination, the wonder of the word, the art of the book and letterpress, and the process of creative exploration. Through our free studio workshops, kids—both big and small—can be inspired to enjoy

and produce both collaborative and independent work, discovering new ways of bringing pen to paper, thought to passage, and innovative ideas into the world.



By implementing a curriculum that blends emerging and traditional arts with learning and service, the **FO Young Writers Studio Workshop** will work to provide a navigational flight plan and a secure launching point for creative exploration. Our commitment to expanding and deepening both understanding and expression in the language arts is founded on the belief that our youth can use their creativity as a vital tool to pursue and excel in their education, build community, and to better know themselves.

Our aim is not to bring a definitive method of teaching, nor to endorse short flights of fancy, but to inspire a life-long love of reading, writing, and creative thinking.

To ensure that all young people can participate, Flying Object has worked hard to provide programming at absolutely no cost to its participants, thanks to the time, energy, resourcefulness, and creativity



of FO volunteers, partnerships with local organizations and institutions, as well as the generosity of community members.

Who We Are: Our instructors and volunteers are made up of poets and writers, graduate, postgraduate, and undergraduate students and instructors of the creative arts; we are dedicated and passionate about sharing our life-long love of literature. We believe in the power of language and creativity to both exalt and humble us, to teach us things about courage, honesty, and the process of development.

We aim to do more than simply organize a program: we aim to create a collaborative and independent community for our youth, to inspire and engage our students to not only learn but also enjoy the art and skill of reading, writing, and creative thinking. As creative writing instructors and volunteers, we've learned that the young writers with whom we work inspire us in turn. We are the FO Initiative for Young Writers and we invite you to start learning with us.

For More Information:

For program information & enrollment please contact our Program Coordinator, **Charlene Choi: youthwriting@flying-object.org**

For partnership inquiries contact our Executive Director, **Guy Pettit: guy@flying-object.org**

For general information about Flying Object contact our Managing Director, **Karl Saffran: director@flying-object.org**

Website: **flying-object.org**

Telephone: **413-387-0063**

Address: **42 West Street, Hadley, MA 01035**

***We can be easily reached by plane, train, automobile, boat, bike, foot or our favorite, hot air balloon.