



New York
Public
Library

Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman
Center for Scholars and Writers

The Cullman Center Institute for Teachers 2010 Summer Seminars for Middle and High School Teachers

July 12 – 16

Reality Is a Friend: Approaches to Writing Literary Nonfiction

Taught by *New Yorker* writer and author Ian Frazier

July 26 – 30

Imaginary Worlds: A Creative Writing Workshop

Taught by novelist and short-story writer Karen Russell

August 2 – 6

The Harlem Renaissance

Taught by Columbia University professor Robert G. O'Meally

*“... at the Cullman Center, I have been **nourished intellectually** by the **challenging coursework, socially** by the **amazing company**, and **physically** by all the **delicious food**. It's been like a **spa for my brain and my soul**, and I thank you so much for this **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity**.”*

—Rachel Bello, Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction, Brooklyn, NY

Now in its seventh year, the Summer Seminars program at the Cullman Center Institute for Teachers offers educators the chance to spend a week enriching their understanding of history, literature, creative writing, and research in one of the world's great libraries.

The Cullman Center Institute for Teachers, located in The New York Public Library's landmark building on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, is the setting for a series of stimulating, informal daily seminars led by some of the world's finest writers, literary critics, and historians. Participants will learn how to use the extraordinary resources of the Library and be given time to do their own writing and research.

Amenities provided for Seminar participants include:

- **A \$300 stipend**
- **All required books and course materials**
- **A private office with networked computer**
- **Excellent breakfasts and lunches**

The Cullman Center Summer Seminars are limited to 14 participants each. Middle and high school English teachers, history teachers, librarians, and administrators are invited to apply; priority will be given to New York City public school teachers.

THE 2010 SUMMER SEMINARS

July 12 – 16

REALITY IS A FRIEND: APPROACHES TO WRITING LITERARY NONFICTION

Instructor: Ian Frazier

This writing workshop will examine various genres to gain a wide view of nonfiction's possibilities. We will compare Charles Dickens's nonfiction work *American Notes to A Christmas Carol*; we will study the metaphysical themes in Joseph Mitchell's essays; and we will look at Walter Lord's *A Night to Remember*, about the *Titanic*, alongside newspaper accounts of the ship's sinking and Thomas Hardy's poem about the event, "The Convergence of the Twain." Participants will work on their own nonfiction pieces, set in New York locales of their choosing.

IAN FRAZIER, currently a Fellow at the Cullman Center, is a writer and humorist for *The New Yorker* and the author of many books, including *Great Plains* and *On the Rez*.

July 26 – 30

IMAGINARY WORLDS: A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Instructor: Karen Russell

Each workshop participant will build a colorful, imaginary world from the ground up, populate it with local citizenry, rigorously invent its history, conventions, and vernacular—and then develop a story out of that rich web of material. Short fiction by Franz Kafka, Italo Calvino, Junot Díaz, Flannery O'Connor, and others will be examined, and inspiration for writing exercises will come from the Library's primary source material such as maps, photographs, diaries, and letters.

KAREN RUSSELL's stories have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Granta*. A current Cullman Center Fellow, Russell is the author of the short-story collection *St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves*. Her novel, *Swamplandia!*, will be published by Knopf.

August 2 – 6

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Instructor: Robert G. O'Meally

This seminar will explore the Harlem Renaissance's achievements in literature, music, and painting. We will read literary works by Zora Neale Hurston, Jean Toomer, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Langston Hughes, and discuss how the literature connects to music by Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Bessie Smith, as well as to paintings by Aaron Douglas, Jacob Lawrence, and Romare Bearden. Throughout, we will ask: When, where, and what was the Harlem Renaissance? What were its politics? What is its legacy?

ROBERT G. O'MEALLY, a former Cullman Center Fellow, teaches English at Columbia University, where he founded the Center for Jazz Studies. His books include *The Craft of Ralph Ellison*; *Lady Day: The Many Faces of Billie Holiday*; and *The Jazz Singers*.



Applications will be available online in January 2010 at:
www.nypl.org/cullmanteachers

The application deadline is March 22, 2010.

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