

A WRITER'S LIFE FOR ME (AND YOU)

SECONDARY YEARS 7-10

About the event

Internationally acclaimed and *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Other Side of the Sky*, **Amie Kaufman** has made a career out of writing, which makes her the perfect go-to for anyone interested in pursuing the writer's life themselves.

From her start in fan fiction to creating her own epic worlds, from the day-to-day realities to where she finds her inspiration, join Kaufman as she shares her hard-earned insights into the writer's life and how to make it work for you.

Dream and choose

Amie has co-authored many books. On choosing a collaborator, Amie says:

Do they listen when you talk? Do they love your writing as much as you love their writing and do they get excited when you improve on one of their ideas? Do you get excited when they improve on one of yours? You're looking for someone who likes building a playground together and then playing in it.

If you could co-author a book, who would you choose and why? (Not friends). Think about the authors of different books you read or experts in different fields such as astronauts, marine biologists or artificial intelligence!

Research: setting

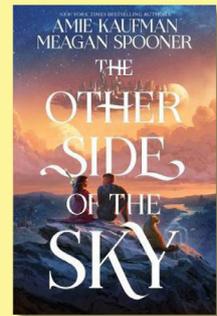
Setting grounds the reader in a particular time or place. Amie spent time in Iceland on a research trip for her writing. In Amie's podcast, 'Four Ways to Visualise Setting', she suggests ways to research setting. These include:

1. Look for documentaries, look for TV shows or movies set in the sort of place you're writing about, and study the background rather than the plot. Look at the trees, the architecture, the weather. Jump on Pinterest and gather a collection of images of the sorts of locations to be found in your story—taking a moment to look at them can really ground you in your setting before each writing session, helping you re-enter the world of your story and include details of your setting.

2. Make your own map. You don't have to spend endless hours sketching it to perfection, it's just often helpful to know that there are mountains just outside the city, or which part of your village is along the river, or what's next door to the school. That can shape the sorts of things the characters see, hear, smell, and experience.



Amie Kaufman



KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

Learning areas: English, science, digital technologies

Capabilities: critical and creative thinking, ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, personal and social

Discuss

Middle-grade (writing) is about saving the world. YA (writing) is about saving yourself. – Amie Kaufman, *Words and Nerds Podcast*

About the author

Amie Kaufman is a *New York Times*, *USA Today* and internationally bestselling author of science fiction and fantasy, including *Illuminae*, *Aurora Rising* and *The Other Side of the Sky*. Her multi-award-winning books have been published in 28 languages and are in development for film and TV.