Do your students like to tell scary stories, funny stories or stories about what they did or where they have been? If they can tell a great story, they can write a great story. The presenters at the Conference for Young Writers will teach students different writing styles and techniques to help them build a great story. During these sessions, students will explore their creativity and discover how to express thoughts using the written word. Students will learn that writing can be an exciting skill to have and it can open up a lifetime of opportunities for them.

October 2020

Sessions will be available to registered participants the week of October 19-23

For all students in grades 3-12

REGISTER ON-LINE
Schools register their students individually or by classroom
Parents register students individually

www.swwc.org/yw

Registration Deadline: October 7, 2020
No Registrations accepted after the deadline

Title Sponsors
The Schwan Food Company
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SWWC Service Cooperative

Supporters
Hadley Lions Club
**General Registration**

- Available to students in grades 3-12
- REGISTER ON-LINE—by school as a class or individual students or by a parent at [www.swwc.org/yw](http://www.swwc.org/yw)

**How to Register**

- Click the “Register” button next to the appropriate event.
- When registering for sessions do not worry about the printed dates and times. Video sessions will be available to registered participants during the week of October 19-23.
- Three options for schools to register depending on number of students.
  - A teacher can register a class/group of 20-30, if taking the same three sessions as a class—Enter teacher name and contact information, then select appropriate fee and three sessions they would like to do as a class.
  - A teacher can register individual students and still get the class rate (20-30 participating students) by entering one student at a time with student name and teacher contact info. Click “Complete Registration”, then click “here” to register again (to add more students). Enter individual rate and contact Andrea for rate adjustment.
  - A teacher can register individual students (19 or less) by entering one student at a time with student name and teacher contact info. Click “Complete Registration”, then click “here” to register again (to add more students).
- Parents can register a student with student name and parent contact info. Click “Complete Registration”, then click “here” to register again (to add more students).
- We would prefer teacher or parent email and phone on registration.
- School district funding may be available to support teacher and student participation in SWWC enrichment programs through MINNESOTA GIFTED AND TALENTED REVENUE MN Statute § 126C.10 2(b).

**Payments**

- Schools can be billed after the event or we prefer one check from schools prior to event.
- Parents must make payment during registration with credit card.

**Sessions**

- All sessions are prerecorded videos. Video links will be emailed to the contact persons email listed on the registration prior to event date.
- Select three session topics in your interest area and grade level.

**Supplies**

- The registrant is responsible for the necessary supplies. Supplies are listed in this brochure per session topic.

**Registration Fees and Deadlines**

- Registration Deadline: October 7, 2020
  - $20/per student or $350 per classroom (per class size of 20-30)
- There are no adult fees for this virtual event.
- NO registrations accepted after the final deadline

**Students with Special Needs**

The SWWC Service Cooperative is dedicated to making conference activities accessible to all students. If you are in need of closed captioning, you can contact Andrea at andrea.anderson@swwc.org by September 29, 2020.

**Cancellation and Refund Policy**

- Cancellation requests must be received by final registration deadline for a refund less a $5/student service charge.
Choose sessions appropriate for students grade level 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12

### Topics for grades 3-5

1) **A Prop-Tastic Beginning**  Gr. 3-5
   Grab a prop AND your reader’s attention by beginning your story with plenty of action and movement. We will use props, along with a writing “recipe” for success, to create exciting opening scenes that will work for every fiction genre. After viewing a quick demonstration, students will look for their own props at home and test the method for themselves. *Jennifer Davidson*

   **Supplies Needed:** paper and pencil

2) **Get Out of Here! Writing Out-of-This-World Fiction**  Gr. 3-5
   A game flying on broomsticks, a world that opens up with a punch of a tree, spectacles (glasses) that let you walk into paintings. All terrific stories that can’t really happen. In this session explore “out-of-this-world” fiction and start writing your own fantasy story! *Lisa Bolt Simons*

   **Supplies Needed:** writing utensils (pencil/paper, laptop, computer, tablet)

3) **A Piece Apart: How to Splice Together A Better Story**  Gr. 3-5
   Have a bunch of story ideas and not sure where to start? Learn how real writers build stories from scratch. Get tips and techniques to make your stories stronger and better, drawing on your best ideas. We will write in class—to discover something new as you cut apart and pull together your best ideas to build a better story! *Kate St. Vincent Vogl*

   **Supplies Needed:** A few sheets of paper, pen or pencil (whatever you prefer writing with), scissors, and a small bag (paper or Ziploc)

### Topics for grades 3-5 and 6-8

4) **Freaky Fast Fractured Fairy Tale Fun!**  Gr. 3-5 and 6-8
   You know the big bad wolf got the raw end of the deal in the original story, right? And what about that poor witch in Hansel and Gretel or the ugly stepsisters? You’ll put your conniving and silly ideas together and create the "true" story of your favorite fairy tale. And those costume pieces you collected? I’ll reveal their use when you see me! Hint: you'll be writing a little and acting a LOT! *Mary Bleckwehl*

   **Supplies Needed:** Paper, pencil and a runaway imagination! If possible: At least 3 sets of clothing/props - the more strange, the better! Example: 3 items for head (such as hat, wig, helmet), 3 items for body (dance costume, vampire cape, dad's high school letter jacket), 3 costume extras (goony sunglasses, plastic sword, cell phone, package of cookies. Whoops, that's 4!) If you have a sibling or two who wants to join you on this one, do it!

5) **The List Poem: An Easy How-To for Writing**  Gr. 3-5 and 6-8
   In this class we’ll make lists and transform them into poems. We’ll make observations about everyday life—learning how the most simple objects, arranged with intention, can demonstrate intelligence and artistry. Poetry doesn’t have to be a struggle, it can be playful and fun. *Lauren Carlson*

   **Supplies Needed:** Pen and paper
6) How to Build a Super, Silly, Stupendous Story in Five Simple Steps  
Gr. 3-5 and 6-8
What’s the hardest part of writing a story? If you think it’s coming up with a good idea, you’re not alone! Award-winning author Ryan Jacobson is here to help. Ryan has been building story ideas for more than 20 years, and he has developed a fun, simple way to turn almost anything into a thrilling adventure—washing dishes, cleaning your bedroom, even doing math homework! Join Ryan, and discover five simple steps to building unlimited story ideas—often with hilarious results.
*Ryan Jacobson

Supplies Needed: Paper and pencil

7) How to Write a News Story in 30 minutes  
Gr. 3-5 and 6-8
News happens every day. Getting the video and facts right while working against a deadline are the challenges of the business. We will show you how to take what you are seeing and hearing and turn it into a story that’s ready for the 10:00 news.
*John Lauritsen

Supplies Needed: Paper and pencil

8) The Power of the Hook  
Gr. 3-5 and 6-8
The "Power of the Hook" is designed to teach you how to get catch your readers' attention. You will be given story topics to create a hook for. Multiple genres and story ideas will be developed. Why do you want to keep reading some books while others lose your interest? The reason; they lack the power of the hook. *Chris Olson

Supplies Needed: Paper and pencil or pen

Topics for grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12

9) Choose Your Own Writing Adventure!  
Gr. 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12
Do you love interactive “Choose Your Path” books? Have you ever wondered how authors write them? Award-winning author Ryan Jacobson shows you his secrets, tips, and tricks for creating interactive fiction! The session begins with a brief introduction to the genre, and then Ryan delves into his process for writing “Choose Your Path” books. (It’s not as difficult as you might think.) *Ryan Jacobson

Supplies Needed: Pencil and paper

Topics for grades 6-8

10) Becoming a Mystery Writer  
Gr. 6-8
Solving a mystery can be a challenge, but when you create the perfect crime and brilliant characters to tell the story, nothing is impossible! In this class, we’ll discuss setting the scene of the crime, creating sly and unforgettable characters, and introducing obstacles only the cleverest sleuth can overcome. The criminal won’t stand a chance! *Jennifer Davidson

Supplies Needed: paper and pencil

11) Creating Phantasmic Worlds  
Gr. 6-8
Create a world your readers can dive into! Learn about world-building tips and techniques to craft a believable, unique setting for your characters, no matter the genre. *El Holly

Supplies Needed: Pen or pencil and lined notebook paper

12) Get Real: Writing Realistic Fiction  
Gr. 6-8
Finding a caged tiger, growing a pumpkin over 1,000 pounds, fighting a disease. These stories can really happen. In this session check out realistic fiction. Explore essential pieces of a novel and then write your realistic story! *Lisa Bolt Simons

Supplies Needed: writing utensils (pencil/paper, laptop, computer, tablet)
13) **Doodle-Diddlee-Design an Ad**  
Gr. 6-8 and 9-12  
Super Bowl ads catch our interest and Shark Tank inventions inspire, but you can up the game with your own creativity! Our world is a visual one but words matter too when it comes to "selling". You'll create a 60 second ad for a product or service—preferably a new invention! You can draw it, sing it, or read it. *Mary Bleckwehl

**Supplies Needed:** Your imagination! And paper (legal size or 11 x 17 poster size if possible) or if you have a white board or easel/paper, that works. Tools to draw with: colored markers, crayons, or colored pencils; white board markers if you're going that route.

14) **Publish and Sell Your Own Book—for FREE!**  
Gr. 6-8 and 9-12  
In this information-packed session, Ryan shows you how to publish, promote, and (hopefully) sell your own book on Amazon without ever needing to spend a penny! Ryan Jacobson, an Award-winning author, who has written more than 50 books has been a self-publisher for 15 years. He worked at a nationally renowned publishing company for 12 years, and now co-owns his own publishing company. In short, he knows the book industry inside and out. When he first started, publishing a book cost thousands of dollars—but times have changed. Come ready to learn; there’s a lot of information to share. *Ryan Jacobson*

**Supplies Needed:** Pencil and paper

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**Topics for grades 9-12**

15) **Make’em Sweat!**  
Gr. 9-12

After a warm up game of waste-basket ball to trash worn out words, you'll move on to the next sport of list-making (okay, maybe that’s not an official sport but it builds writing muscles, trust me). Then you'll do 5 minute speed writing workouts using your scariest-ever experience/fear and stuff you find in your (or your brother's) junk drawer. The point is to write short scenes that propel a character through suspense-filled experiences so they sweat with tension. Speaking of sweat! In between writing workouts, you'll be moving more than your pencil to get the creativity flowing. *Mary Bleckwehl*

**Supplies Needed:** Notebook or 6 sheets of paper, pencil or pen, wastebasket, recyclable paper to wad up (ie newspaper, junk mail), access to a junk drawer. Wear your workout clothes!

16) **Plotting with Post-its**  
Gr. 9-12

We all love Post-it Notes! They mostly help us remember things, but they can also be used to create a new story plot. In this class, we’ll discuss what every plot needs, how to carry action from scene to scene, and why it’s important to increase the tension from beginning to end. We’ll then explore writing down scenes or actions on Post-it Notes and moving them around to generate an outline. *Jennifer Davidson*

**Supplies Needed:** paper, pencil, post-it notes or notecards

17) **Creating Phantasmic Worlds**  
Gr. 9-12

Create a world your readers can dive into! Learn about world-building tips and techniques to craft a believable, unique setting for your characters, no matter the genre. *El Holly*

**Supplies Needed:** Pen or pencil and lined notebook paper

18) **Lying without Being Grounded: Writing Fiction**  
Gr. 9-12

What?! Lying?? But this is exactly what you need to do in order to convince readers you’re telling the truth! With various activities, you’ll practice writing fiction, using both realistic “lies” and fantastic or out-of-this-world “lies.” *Lisa Bolt Simons*

**Supplies Needed:** writing utensils (pencil/paper, laptop, computer, tablet)

19) **Scavenger Stories: Writing Nonfiction**  
Gr. 9-12

We’ll begin this session by finding some items in your home. Then we’ll narrow down the items. You’ll focus on writing about one or two of them, using specific, emotional, and sensory details to bring your nonfiction to life. *Lisa Bolt Simons*

**Supplies Needed:** writing utensils (pencil/paper, laptop, computer, tablet)
Changes Needed?

Please notify us of any changes in your email or if you need to be removed from our contact list.
Contact Andrea at 507-537-2257 or andrea.anderson@swwc.org