

Melissa Hart, Author

School & Library Visits

INSPIRING YOUNG READERS
AND WRITERS WITH DYNAMIC
MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

Assembly Presentation

From Cat Poems and Sea Vampires to Award-Winning Books

When author Melissa Hart was 10 years old, her journalist mother sat her down at the electric typewriter and said, “I want you to write a story and send it to a magazine.” That experience ignited her passion for writing and publishing.

Melissa shares her journey with students—a lively adventure that takes her from interviewing a sea vampire as a teen freelancer to accepting an Oregon Spirit Award for her debut middle-grade novel, *Avenging the Owl*.

Readers and writers will find inspiration in Melissa’s witty recollections of a high school reporting internship which required her to take a bus—or her bicycle—all over Los Angeles. They’ll learn about how one member of her family told her she’d never make it as a writer, and how she struggled in six years of college to prove him wrong.

Melissa shares candid stories of her life as a professional author, along with tips on what aspiring writers can do now to hone their craft and pursue publication.



Writing Workshop

Join professional author and freelance writer Melissa Hart for a workshop which guides participants from writing prompt to polished draft.

Students will learn how to craft compelling first paragraphs and powerful conclusions. They’ll consider the importance of sensory details in a piece of creative writing, and how to use figurative language and humor to boost reader appreciation of their work.

Following a guided creative assignment, Melissa offers aspiring writers a wealth of information on how and where to start publishing, whether you’re eight or 98!

Skype Conversation

What does a professional author’s life look like? Why is it critical to find your “power time” as a writer? How do writers handle criticism of their work? Where do they get ideas, how do they avoid writers’ block, and why do so many writers love cats?

HOW MUCH DOES AN AUTHOR VISIT COST?

Please let Melissa know what's financially feasible for your organization. Local public libraries may be able to help schools with costs.

She is available to do four presentations a day plus lunch with students and/or teachers and a book-signing hour if that's of interest to your group.

As a long-time teacher and writer of children's textbooks, Melissa makes sure presentations compliment the Common Core Standards. She adapts presentations/workshops for grade level.

She's also happy to adapt her presentations to reinforce particular skills and concepts you've been covering in your own classroom.

Homeschooling and scouting groups are most welcome; let her know what particular creative writing curriculum you'd like her to cover.

SELLING BOOKS AT YOUR SCHOOL OR LIBRARY

Melissa would love to sign copies of *Avenging the Owl* for students while she's at your school or library. The book is available in paperback after 2/20/18. Please feel free to order them in advance of her visit. You can either ask your local bookstore to order and sell them, or you can order directly from her publisher, Sky Pony, at 212/643-6816.

LIBRARY LOVE

Please encourage your school or city library to order copies of *Avenging the Owl*. Melissa will bring fun owl-facts bookmarks to autograph, as well, so that every student gets to take home something from her presentation.

THE WRITER MAGAZINE

As a contributing editor at *The Writer Magazine*, Melissa is happy to bring complimentary copies for workshop participants grades 6 and up.

ABOUT MELISSA HART

Melissa Hart is the author of the middle-grade novel *Avenging the Owl* (Sky Pony, 2016), the adult memoir *Wild Within: How Rescuing Owls Inspired a Family* (Lyons, 2015) and the YA memoir *Gringa: A Contradictory Girlhood* (Seal, 2009).

Her essays have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Woman's Day*, *Education Week*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Rumpus*, *The Advocate*, *Horizon Air Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, and numerous other publications.

She teaches nonfiction writing for the B.A./M.F.A. programs at Southern New Hampshire University. Melissa lives in Eugene, Oregon, with her husband, their 11-year old daughter, three cats, a trio of chickens, and one patient terrier.

