



## Learning Sessions

### **How to Create a Great Character - Led by Chris Rylander (Recommended for All Ages)**

Characters are vital to stories. But even more than that, great characters are one of the main reasons people fall in love with books and stories. Join Chris Rylander as he shares his top secret tips for creating memorable and fun characters. They're simpler than you think, literally anyone can do it! He'll also tell a few zany and wild real life stories that helped inspire some of the memorable characters from his own books. There's also a 3% chance he'll wrestle a grizzly bear! Don't miss out.

### **Write On! - Led by Heather Scott (Recommended for All Ages)**

Do you write daily? Do you have so many ideas flowing in your head and need direction? Do you have writer's block? Do you like to think outside the box and alter directions? Then this is the session for you! Spend time with HMS Language Arts teacher Mrs. Scott and jump into the fun and fascinating world of writing prompts. Which ones are for you? Participants will have the opportunity to consider different writing prompts, respond to them, and share their work! All ages welcome! Come ready to think, write, and share!

### **Keeping A Writers Notebook - Led by Cheryl Esparza (Recommended for 6th, 7th, 8th and Parents.)**

Writers are just like anyone else, except for one thing. While other people have thoughts and feelings, notice the shape of clouds or a smell, they don't do anything about it. Writers, however, feel the need to write down these thoughts, feelings, images, sensations, and opinions. Writers need a place to record these reactions. Ralph Fletcher believes that is what a writer's notebook is for. He says, "A writer's notebook gives you a place to live like a writer, not just in school during writing time, but wherever you are, at any time of day."

### **Congratulations! It's a Writer! Now What? - Led by Amy Ostrowski (Recommended for Parents)**

You've got a writer! You're excited. Your heart swells with pride. But...you feel like a brand new parent when it comes to helping your son or daughter explore his or her writing interests. In this session we'll focus on strategies and tips to help motivate your child to celebrate the process, not just the product. In addition, we'll talk about ways to keep your child excited about writing outside of the classroom.

### **Graphic Novel Brainstorming - Led by Andrew Kudelka (Recommended for All Ages)**

Are you a fan of comics? Do you enjoy the harmony of words & pictures? Interested in creating something of your own but don't know where to begin? Join Comic Art Creator & Instructor Mr. Andrew Kudelka for a brief breakdown of comic history, the creation process, and a quick brainstorm session to discover the wonderful world of visual storytelling. Genres can range from Superheroes, Fantasy, Horror, and Sci-Fi to Auto-Biographical, Historical, Political, and Educational. Mix, twist, and shape genres. Nothing is limited, everything permitted!

### **How to Get Published - Led by Jennifer Waldvogel (Recommended for All Ages)**

Are you ready for the world to read your finished work? Do you imagine a day when your name sits on the cover of a book for readers to purchase? Find out how to write a query letter and search for a literary agent. Dive into the world of self-publishing by learning about cover design, editing, interior design, and promoting yourself online. Walk away with tips you can use tomorrow!

### **Writing Realistic Fiction - Led by Jean Monat/Louise Perkowski (Recommended for 3rd, 4th and Parents)**

Join your peers to think, plan and grow your own realistic fiction story. Please come ready with a personal narrative of something that has actually happened to you as well as a name for your character. We will write up a storm!