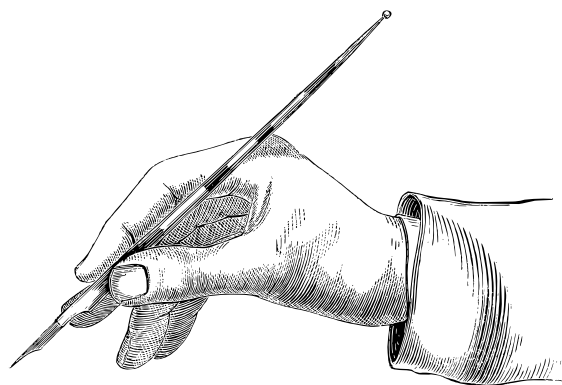


Northwest Service Cooperative

Young Authors Conference

March 6th, 2024 | For students in grades 5-8

**Northland Community and Technical College
1101 State Hwy 1, Thief River Falls, MN 56701**



2024 Young Author's Conference

March 6th, 2024 | Northland Community & Technical College

9:15am - 2:10pm

AUDIENCE: The YAC is targeted to students in grades 5-8. Each student will attend 3 breakout sessions.

COST PER STUDENT: \$35. Schools are billed after the conference for the number of students registered. School district is limited to 35 students. If there is room, more may be admitted.

LUNCH: Lunch is not provided. Participants bring their own lunch and beverage. No refrigeration is available.

ADULT/STUDENT RATIO: One chaperone is requested for every 10 students and each student must have a designated chaperone.

SUPPLIES: Students will be given a notebook & pencil. We ask that students DO NOT bring backpacks or other unnecessary things to the conference. Cell phones must be turned off during breakout sessions.

ITEMS FOR SALE: Presenters will have books for sale at the book fair. A list of books and other materials will be sent to the school contact prior to the conference.

AUTOGRAPH SESSION: Authors will be available to autograph purchased books after the last session. (Optional)

Each student will attend 3 breakout sessions. There will be NO Keynote. Instead, we have shortened the day and added time in-between sessions for students to find their session locations. An overview of sessions is included in this brochure. Following registration, a mailing will be sent to school contacts to include more details for the day, breakout session assignments for their school, student tickets for each session, chaperone, lunch instructions, and site maps.

School contacts distribute breakout session tickets to their students prior to the festival, keeping in mind a student's specific interests with an effort for each student to attend a well-balanced variety of sessions.

AGENDA

9:15 - 9:45 Registration & Check-in (Theater Entrance)

9:45 - 10:40 Breakout Session 1

10:55-11:50 Breakout Session 2

11:50 - 12:45 Lunch

12:45 - 1:40 Breakout Session 3

1:40 - 2:10 Autograph Session (Optional)

Registration deadline: Friday, February 9th, 2024



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Registration Form Link!

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How to Write a Stage Play

A stage play involves dialogue, drama, and action. Whether you choose to write a full-length play, or a short one-act piece, playwriting gives you so much creative freedom! There are a lot of different elements involved when it comes to writing a play script.

What kind of story will you tell? Who are your characters? What will they say and do? Describe the setting of the stage. Will you write a drama, a comedy, or a musical? These are all things to consider while you prepare to get inspired!

In this session, students will visualize how their play will appear on stage. They will then write a first-draft play script, developing a story, plot, and characters, along with setting the scene and bringing it all to life!

Kari Sundberg has been writing professionally for over a dozen years, and personally for much longer than that. She is the editor/writer for the Grygla Eagle Newspaper and has also done freelance writing for various publications around the state of Minnesota.

In addition to her full-time job, Kari is also a full-time student at the University of Minnesota Crookston, where she will graduate this May with her Bachelor of Science in Communications and English, along with minors in Writing and Humanities. Her favorite type of writing includes lifestyle and creative writing pieces.



Creating Your Own Wild Images



Imagine a martian teapot pouring tea for 3 young girls as they fly to the moon on the back of a great horned owl. The author will talk about her personal experiences; which she used to write Tina Christina Sestina, a Northwoods Adventure, and will encourage participants to rethink events from their lives to create their own wild images for a story.

Susan Hawkinson taught mythology during her career at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids. She is the author of Tina Christina Sestina: A Northwoods Adventure, Paddle Off the Map, and The Adventures of Annie McCallum.

Unlock the Creative Strengths Within You



In this session, kids will get to do hands on activities to help them see the unique and creative abilities they each have within themselves. Working to unlock the power to be confident in who they are and step into their strengths while also learning to work through their weaknesses.

Nashville Recording Artist **Saphire Brown** has been in the music industry since she was young. She is passionate about the arts and loves helping others unlock their creativity. She recently released a new EP "Breakthrough" and is available on all your favorite music streaming platforms.

Writing a Movie Scene

In this session you will discuss what a screenplay looks like. You'll look at some film clips to see some techniques and guidelines and then the fun will begin! Plus, write a movie scene together and act it out!

Bly Pope earned his undergraduate degree from Stanford University and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota. He is a professional artist with a movie script that has been optioned by a Hollywood agent. He has written four original screenplays with his brother Rowan Pope.



Digging for Diamonds (The Art of the Interview)

Whether researching for a book or newspaper article, or preparing for a live radio interview or recorded podcast, Roxane Salonen sets out daily on a "Diamond-digging" quest. In this session, she'll share her tried and true tips for unearthing jewels that make a story sparkle, and reveal some of her best and worst interview experiences. Students will learn the art of the interview, including some top-secret dos and don'ts. Are you ready to dig in?!

Roxane B. Salonen, author, radio host, and journalist, recently started a podcast: *Matters of Soul Importance*. In her regular work, she writes about faith for *The Forum* newspaper and other publications. She and her husband, Troy, have five mostly-grown children, two cats and a dog, and live in Fargo, ND where the winter snow at night sometimes sparkles like diamonds.

Peace Garden Passage

A portrait of petals featuring the work of author Roxane B. Salonen



Beyond the Blank Page

Come explore ways to write without the need to come up with any words. That's right, no blank pages here! We will explore blackout poetry and collage poetry, and participants will leave with insights on how to experiment and overcome any writer's block.

Stephanie Olson is currently the English teacher for grades 7-12 at Goodridge Public School. She earned her Writing MFA from Hamline University and has served on several literary editorial boards, including *Water~Stone Review* and *Red Bird Chapbooks*. Her work has appeared in a handful of publications, most recently with *Tiny Seed Journal*. She lives the rural life with her family, dogs, and cat, and she hopes you try writing at least one thing down today.

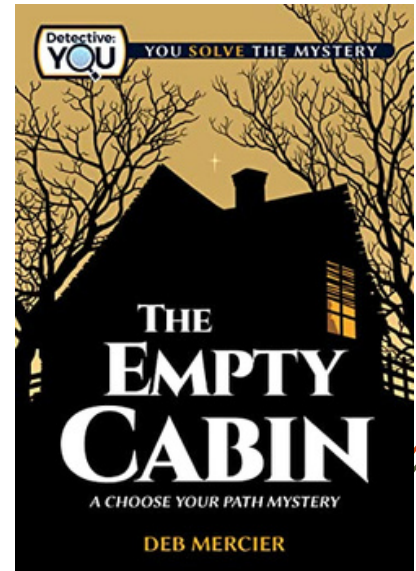
Sometimes (A Seed)
-- Poem in *Tiny Seed Journal*



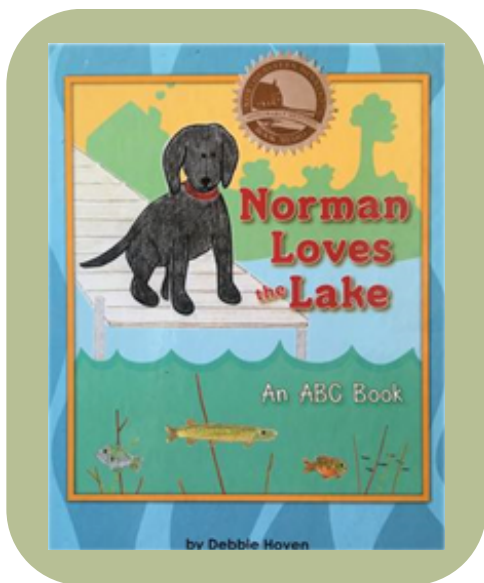
Choose Your Path

Have you ever wondered how to build a Choose Your Path book? These adventures put you in the driver's seat... but beware... not every choice is a wise one! Join Deb for a hands-on session of storytelling, adventure building, and quite possibly some serious silliness.

Deb Mercier lives in greater Minnesota with her husband, dogs, and outdoor critter friends. She is an award-winning journalist, technical writer, and author of books for young writers. When she's not working on a book project, you can find Deb wandering the trails, saving turtles from roadways, and playing flute with Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra.



Keep Your Light On and Write

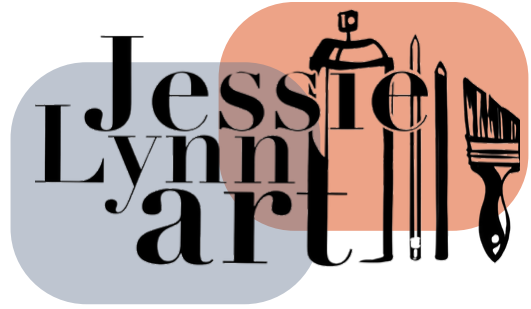


How do authors come up with their ideas? In this session, students will explore their imaginations, as they come up with a character for their own children's book. Debbie will also share how a storyboard layout is important to how a book is put together, as well as the steps to self-publishing. Get ready to draw and create in this fun presentation!

Debbie Hoven After 40 years of encouraging her students to use their imaginations, retired preschool and kindergarten teacher, Debbie Hoven, followed her own advice. Her books "Light Up the Year", "Light up the States" and "Norman Loves the Lake", feature colorful pictures and whimsical prose. Debbie enjoys lake living in beautiful Alexandria, MN with her husband Brad.

Digital Illustration

Learn digital illustration techniques and character design with illustrator Jessica Lundeen. Jessica has illustrated 8 children's books. Her current work includes Dally the Distracted Cattle Dog series written by Stephanie Jorgenson.

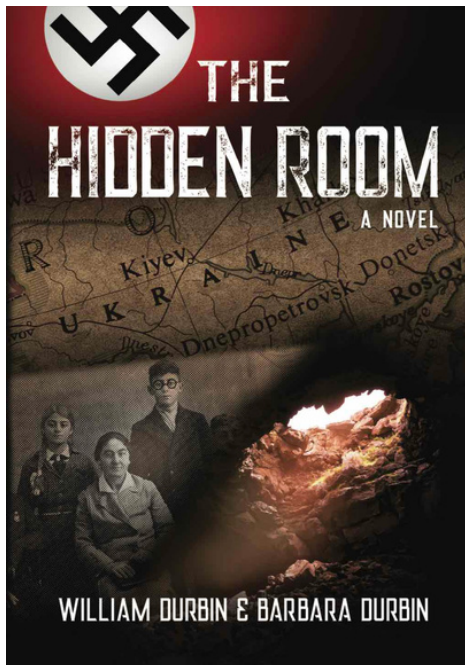


Jessica Lundeen has illustrated children's books, designed business logos, painted baja cars, murals, pet portraits and many other art pieces. Over the past 5 years she has worked with two writers to illustrate 8 children's books. Her current work includes her illustrations in Dally the Distracted Cattle Dog series, written by Stephanie Jorgenson.



Flash Fiction or the Short, Short Story

Have you heard of flash fiction, micro-fiction, or the vignette? No matter what name you give to the short, short story, it is a challenging form with a rich literary tradition. In this session, we'll study examples of famous short, short stories, and students will have an opportunity to compose at least two stories of their own. Experience the amazing things you can accomplish using fifty words or less.

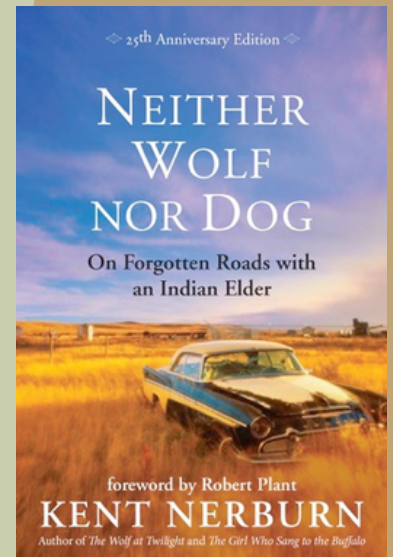


William Durbin lives on Lake Vermilion at the edge of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness. A winner of the Great Lakes Book Award and a two-time winner of the Minnesota Book award, he has published fourteen novels for young readers, including, The Broken Blade, Wintering, Blackwater Ben, Song of Sampo Lake, The Darkest Evening, Dead Man's Rapids, The Journal of Otto Peltonen, and The Hidden Room. For more information visit his website at williamdurbin.com.

You Are a Writer and Have a Story to Tell

Our life is a story and we are always telling it, to our friends, to our family, to ourselves. We just don't always write it down. In this session we will look at different ways to tell our stories and tricks that will help us make that story interesting. Come prepared to write, not just to listen.

Kent Nerburn is the author of 17 books on spirituality, the power of the land, and the bridge between Native and non-Native cultures. He is a two time winner of the Minnesota' Book award and has spoken around the country and in Europe about the lessons Native America has to offer for modern life. His book, *Neither Wolf nor Dog*, was made into a successful independent film and was chosen as the One Book South Dakota selection to be read all across the state in 2019. He lived for 25 years in northwestern Minnesota working as a sculptor and a writer and teaching on the Red Lake reservation, and looks upon this corner of Minnesota as his spiritual home.



The Wild Animal Adventure

Bob will tell you his wild animal adventure. The students will create their own wild animal adventure story! This will include rescuing the animal, learning to talk with the animal, and other adventures along the way. The focus will be on good details and interesting twists.

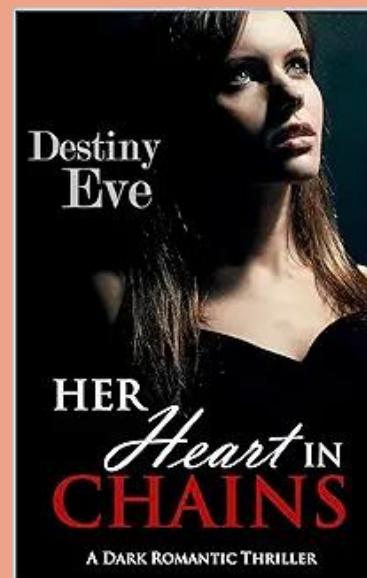
Bob Gasch has been telling stories in schools, libraries and for special events for over thirty-four years. His presentations help people become more aware of and interested in history.



Creating Compelling Characters

What do Harry Potter, Katniss Everdeen, and Percy Jackson have in common? They're all great characters! Part of the reason these stories are so popular is because of the incredible characters the authors created. In this session, you will learn how to create your own characters, what makes them tick, why their goals are important, and how they can grow throughout your story.

Destiny Eve is an adult fiction author and poet with two self-published books: *Her Heart in Chains* and *Evoke*. She has been writing since childhood, dabbling in several styles including nonfiction, short stories, flash fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and blogging. In addition to her self-published works, her writing has appeared in magazines, newspapers, and apps. Her short story *Aliandra*, will be published in an anthology coming out in late March. She currently resides in Northwest Minnesota with her husband and three children.



Register by Friday, February 9th, 2024

**Permission is granted to the NW Service Cooperative to photograph student(s) and to use the photograph in print, broadcast, video, Web, Public Service Announcement, media release or relating marketing and communications materials. The image will be used to communicate the programs of the NW Service Cooperative. (No individual names will be printed.) If there are students who can not be photographed, please let us know and we will make sure they are not in any pictures.

Schools will be billed after the Young Author's Conference for the number of students registered to attend.

Register by Friday, February 9th, 2024 Mercedes Coan, Student Program Coordinator
mcoan@nwservice.org OR 218-689-6355 Fax: 218-681-0915

**Scan here to
sign up for
this years
conference!**



2024 Young Author's Conference

Registration Form

March 6, 2024 | 9:15 am - 2:10 pm

**Northland Community & Technical College,
Thief River Falls, MN 56701**

Cost: 35.00/Student

**The Young Author's Conference is a program of
the Northwest Service Cooperative**

114 West 1st Street, Thief River Falls, MN 56701

www.nw-service.k12.mn.us

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