

Cavalcade of Authors 2016



Writer's Workshops

DAVID ANDERSON:

John David Anderson is hardly ever called John David Anderson. He is called Dave by most people who know him, John by most people who don't, and Poppy by his daughter. His cat calls him yeowl and his mother calls him at least once a week. If he was a Star Wars character he would want to be a Jedi named Raith Starglider, but knows he would more likely be a used Bantha salesman named Bobba Twinklebeans. Dave believes in the power of books to enrich lives and ask (and answer) the complex questions that drive our existence...or at the very least keep readers entertained and occasionally make them laugh so hard they snarf soda through their noses. When he grows up he wants to be Indiana Jones. Till then, he wants to be a writer and a root beer connoisseur. He lives with his wife, two kids, one cat, two gerbils, and a couch in Indianapolis, Indiana.

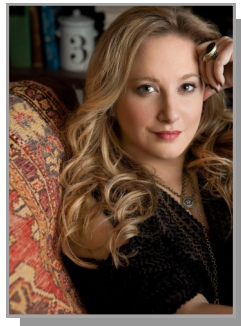


WORKING IN YOUR PAJAMAS IS AWESOME: Three to fourteen things I absolutely have to tell you about writing before I die.

Join critically-acclaimed and chronically obnoxious author John David Anderson as we venture inside of our own fevered imaginations to discover where stories come from and how they take form. We will experiment with portmanteaus, stump each other with tongue twisters, root around in our pockets for something worth writing about, denounce something, debate the delicate composition of flatulence-related humor, and come away with a renewed appreciation for Taco Bell. Be prepared to learn the dirty truth about writers and writing (we aren't as glamorous as our dust-jackets suggest...)

LEIGH BARDUGO:

Leigh Bardugo is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Six of Crows* and the *Grisha Trilogy* (*Shadow and Bone*, *Siege and Storm*, and *Ruin and Rising*). She has never had a cavity and briefly blacked out after she fell off the bleachers at a high school basketball game. She was dressed as a horse at the time. Ask her about it. She loves that. She has worked in advertising, journalism, and most recently makeup and special effects. She also used to write the scripts for movie trailers, so when you hear that guy say, "In a land without justice..." you can thank her for that. These days, she lives in Hollywood and can occasionally be heard singing with her band.



A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO FANTASY WORLD BUILDING:

What comes first in the construction of a fictional world—the characters? The map? The plot? Leigh Bardugo discusses her favorite fantasy worlds and what it takes to build a great one from politics to geography to magical systems. She will reveal some of the influences behind the world of her *New York Times* bestselling *Grisha Trilogy*, common fantasy pitfalls, and the six big misconceptions about worldbuilding that get in the way of aspiring authors.

ILSA BICK:

Alas, this is true. When Ilsa was a kid, all she wanted was to be Captain Kirk's girlfriend. Since then, she's been a lot of things—child psychiatrist, forensic psychiatrist, wannabe surgeon, film scholar, former Air Force major . . . as well as the best-selling author of dozens of award-winning stories and books, including the apocalyptic *ASHES* trilogy and *THE DARK PAS-SAGES* series, of which *White Space* was long-listed for the Stoker award. Until very recently, she lived in rural Wisconsin across from A nifty Hebrew cemetery, which was nice because the neighbors were quiet and came around for sugar only once in a blue moon. Nowadays, she is an exiled cheesehead in Alabama, lives within spitting distance of a Saturn rocket, continues to dream up dastardly ways to blow up the world—and still keeps her fingers crossed that Captain Kirk decides to beam down for a visit.



FACT IN FICTION:

Ever get kicked out of a novel because the writer didn't get her facts straight? Or do you want to set your story in the past but don't have a clue where to start? Would you like to try your hand at weird science, killer plagues, or a nifty bomb, except you're kind of worried about Homeland Security showing up at your door? Is research a chore, or do you so totally groove on reading, you put off writing? We'll talk about all this and more: how to start your research; the importance of flexibility; when it's okay to let things slide; how to choose the most important elements to give a sense of place and time—and how to keep the facts from getting in the way of your fiction. In advance of the workshop, participants will be asked to prepare a short writing sample (no more than a paragraph or two) in one of three scenarios for discussion.

AMIE BORST:

Amie Borst once had red hair and a nose piercing, graduated from Jimmy Fallon's rival high school and sang in a garage band called Velcro Puppies. Now she drives a minivan and makes baked goods for school events. She relives her teen years through the novels she writes.



JUSTINA CHEN:

Justina Chen has lived in Seattle, Shanghai, and Sydney, which makes her worried about where she will live next: Syria, No. Sorrento, yes. She is infected with a serious case of wanderlust, and is now-not-so-secretly obsessed with French Fries, Orphan Black, Frye boots, coconut black tea, and hello, kitty. (Yes. Hello, kitty. Do not judge.)



CARL DEUKER:

Golf Story: I was the sixth man for my school golf team—the last player out. We were in a big match against our hated rival. The first five matches had ended. We won two, the bad guys won two, and one match was a draw. All the players from both team rushed back to the 18th hole to watch me and the player from the bad guys' team. We were all even with one hole to spare. My opponent stepped to the tee and hit a decent drive down the right side of the fairway. I stepped to the tee and—with my teammates counting on me-- topped a ground ball into a drainage ditch fifteen yards in front of the tee box. Shaking, I teed up a new ball. The second shot was worse than the first, not even reaching the drainage ditch. I had to go down into the muck and slop the ball out, taking a few more shots, before I even reached the fairway. Mr. Clutch.



HAPPILY NEVER AFTER AND OTHER WOES:

Happily Never After and Other Woes: You think a missing slipper and a poisoned apple are bad? Try having a cursed skeletal condition and being forced to repeat seventh grade indefinitely. Amie Borst will show you how to put a new twist on an old tale and give your readers more than just a happily ever after – they'll have a story that's to die for.

YOU HAD ME AT HALO (AND HELLO):

Crafting an attention-grabbing opening

So you want to hook your reader? Author and Former speechwriter for the President of Microsoft Xbox, justina chen will share the tips she uses to woo readers in her novels...and enthrall audiences of 40,000 people. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to craft surprising opening lines, wield magical objects, and layer in moments of truth to catch and keep reader attention.

FAST WRITING IS GOOD WRITING: *Have fun collaborating with friends on a short story*

Write a short story with your friends. Learn how fast writing can be good writing. Have fun, produce text, and see the power of a writer's group.

LORIE ANN GROVER:

When Lorie Ann Grover grew to be six feet tall, everyone knew male dancers in the ballet company would have a hard time lifting her off the floor. Instead of plies and pirouettes, she now Repulses the Monkey, becomes the White Tiger Who Plays With Tail and stands as the Immortal Fairy Who Points the Way when she practices weapons tai chi. In her Doc Martens. Sitting down to write, she commiserates with teens and laughs with babies. And vice versa.



JEFF HIRSCH:

Sure, I wrote books like *The Eleventh Plague*, *The Darkest Path* and the upcoming *Black River Falls*, but did you know that I'm also a pretty decent baker of cookies, cakes and pies? (my specialties include triple chocolate espresso cookies and peach and blueberry buckle) Or that I can escape from a straitjacket, eat fire and perform a passable human blockhead routine? How about that I spent my entire high school and college career as a big ol' theater nerd—a condition that led me to wear *Les miserables* and phantom of the opera T-shirts to class way more often than anyone considered normal? You didn't, did ya? Well, now you do.



PROSE TO POETRY: Writing in Verse

Novelist Lorie Ann Grover leads those interested in writing from their own life experiences. With young adult novels springing from her own history, she'll guide students in capturing their memories, writing in prose, and then converting the work into a verse format. No poetry experience necessary!

NO WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION YET:

This is where the workshop description will go.

COLLEEN HOUCK:

The NYT bestselling author of the Tiger's Curse series & the Reawakened series. I love books, dogs, Star Trek, chocolate, & I have a major crush on Superman.



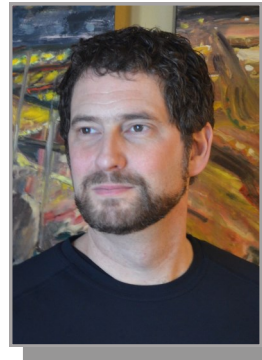
BILL KONIGSBERG:

Bill Konigsberg was born in New York City. Expectations were high based on his highly athletic birth; he stuck the landing and received a 5.8 from the Russian Judge, but he was later disqualified when it was determined he was doping. He blamed his mother, a practice that continued for more than four decades. A city boy at heart, Bill grew up unaware that chickens didn't come from the grocery store (he imagined they were created somewhere in the back). When he later found out the ugly truth, he became petrified of eggs. To this day, bill will not eat an egg. Yet somehow he's just fine eating chicken.



KENNETH OPPEL:

As a kid I was nerdy, had braces, loved and lived and breathed Star Wars for five years, then became obsessed with Dungeons and Dragons -- I painted miniatures, read Dragon magazines (sent them stories and articles they always rejected). Then I got obsessed with video games, especially Asteroids and DigDug. I just bought the DigDug app last week, but my playing is pretty rusty. I wrote my first published book in high school, and have been writing ever since. My latest books are The Boundless, and The Nest.



THE HEROES JOURNEY:

Roll the dice in a choose your own adventure type of quest where we analyze archetypes, vent on villains, and pay homage to heroes. We'll discuss how the hero's journey is used in comics, movies, books, mythology, and more! If you're a natural storyteller or just love books and reading, this workshop will inspire your creative side. But come prepared, we're going to talk about everything from Star Wars to Snow White, from Indiana Jones to The Wizard of Oz, and from Harry Potter to The Lord of the Rings, so grab some popcorn and join in the fun!

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF YOUNG ADULT DIALOGUE:

Behold, these are the seven deadly sins that will catapult your manuscript into the slush pile of oblivion for eternity. Practice not these sins, and your manuscript (and thee) shall be saved! By focusing on what makes dialogue bad, we will come up with some rules about how to write dialogue that is music to your reader's ears.

INSIDE THE NEST:

(Grades 4-8)

When a mysterious wasp queen invades Steve's dreams, offering to "fix" his sick newborn baby brother, all Steve has to do is say "yes." But "yes" is a powerful word. It is also a dangerous one. And once it is uttered, can it be taken back? Using Powerpoint and short readings, I will introduce readers to the strange ingredients that inspired my latest novel *The Nest* (October 2015, Simon and Schuster, illustrated by Jon Klassen). This novel explores disability and diversity, fears and dreams, and what ultimately makes a family. I also talk about my creative process, from brainstorming, outlining, and successive drafts to finished book .

STEVE SHEINKIN:

A former history textbook writer, I'm now trying to make amends for that crime by writing nonfiction books that kids and teens will actually want to read. Before the textbook thing, I made movies with my brother in Austin, TX (our first and only feature film, *A More Perfect Union*, sort of bombed). I've always loved writing and drawing comics (I'm better at the writing part) and have a series called *The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey*, about a crime-fighting rabbi in the Wild West. These days I'm in Saratoga Springs, NY, with my wife and two kids. In my free time – well, I don't really have any. Writing and kids, that's about it. I'm not complaining.



MEGAN SHEPHERD:

- Megan shepherd grew up surrounded by books in her parents' bookstore
- She went to prom in costa rica
- She was an extra in the hunger games movie (in the reaping scene!)
- She has a phobia of mariachis
- She might read your palm if you ask her nicely



ALAN SITOMER:

- I once ditched school to hang with some friends and had such a miserable experience with my lame-o buddies that years later I wrote it up and sold it as a short story... and it's REALLY popular!
- I chickened out on kissing the girl of my dreams in 8th grade when I had the perfect opportunity... and it still makes my stomach turn.
- I am allergic to mangoes.



WRITING THE NON-FICTION THRILLER:

Let's face it: history can be boring (I know, because I used to write textbooks, and I feel really guilty about that). But the good news is, true stories can also provide endless material for high-stakes, fast-paced thrillers. It all depends on how you organize and write your story. I'll share the step-by-step process I use to research and write my books, sharing tips and techniques I've learned from comics, movies, and fellow authors.

THE MAGIC OF RETELLINGS:

Learn how to put a fresh spin on a classic novel, fairy tale, or myth to create a unique story that only you can tell. author Megan Shepherd, whose "Madman's Daughter" series draws its inspiration from Frankenstein, Jekyll & Hyde, and the island of dr. moreau, will discuss the various types of retellings and help you avoid common pitfalls.

WRITERS ON WRITING: How the Professional Process is Much like the Student Process... just with More Process :-)

When award-winning authors illuminate the similarities between student writing and professional writing it often awakens a host of insights for young people. Join Alan Sitomer as he goes behind the scenes to reveal insights, challenges, wisdom and tips about his own process which has resulted in 19 books published with such luminary houses like Disney, Scholastic, Penguin Random House, and more.

TUI SUTHERLAND:

Tui T. Sutherland is a night owl who does most of her writing between 11pm and 4am. She was born in Venezuela and grew up in Paraguay, where at various times her family hosted three snuggly dogs, a villainous kitten, two monkeys with nefarious plans, and a bathtub full of piglets. Now she lives in Boston with one snuggly dog, a not-at-all-villainous husband, two little boys with *extremely* nefarious plans, and a bathtub full of pirate ducks. She was a two-day champion on *Jeopardy!*, she once jumped out of a plane in New Zealand, and her favorite authors include Diana Wynne Jones, Roald Dahl, Rainbow Rowell, and Grace Lin. She likes to write about dragons, teenagers, teenage dragons, bad-tempered unicorns, prophecies, true love, stomping all over prophecies, stomping all over true love and then picking it up and squashing it back into shape, superpowers, loyalty, characters who save the day without complaining about it all the time, puppies, characters who are basically talking puppies, books and reading and characters who love books, and characters who talk A LOT.



DAN WELLS:

When Dan was 5 years old he got autographs from both Darth Vader and Mr. Rogers. He owns more than 350 board games. He has visited sixteen different countries, and lived in three. He was diagnosed with hypochondria as a child, but it's mostly gone now. He memorizes poetry for fun. He will eat pretty much anything at least once. He collects ugly ties. He is terrified of needles, mediocrity, and senile dementia. When he dies, his wife has specific instructions to play Michael Jackson's "Don't Stop 'til You Get Enough" at his funeral.



NEUROTIC WEREWOLF CHEF WITH A HEART OF GOLD: Making your characters awesome

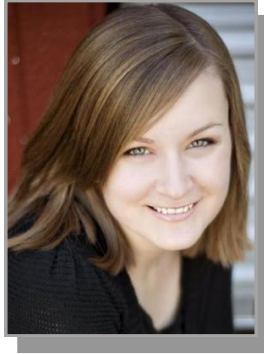
A six-year-old military genius. A shy college freshman with a secret life as a fanfiction writer. A dragon whose talons burn everything she touches. Great stories start with fascinating characters—but where do great characters come from? In this workshop, bestselling author Tui Sutherland will talk about storytelling through character development, and then we'll do some character-building exercises to create exciting protagonists, sidekicks, and villains who can inspire whole stories of their own.

NO WORKSHOP TITLE YET:

Dan will teach an interactive class about plot and story structure, and it will be AMAZING!

KIERSTEN WHITE:

You are probably taller than Kiersten White. Don't be too proud—it's not very difficult to be taller than her. Still, she's written nine novels, is a New York Times bestselling author, and is a lot older than you are. So being taller than her is a little bit cool, and you can totally brag to your friends about it if you want to. She doesn't mind.

**PLOT LIKE A VILLAIN:**

In this devious workshop, learn to think like a villain when it comes to crafting a story. We'll start with “what's the worst possible thing that could happen?” and then...make it even worse. Because you always suspected the best plotlines are designed to break hearts and ruin lives, didn't you? Come with me as I break down the step-by-step process of being the evil mastermind of an underhanded (book) plot.