



TomeCon 2026 6-12 Concurrent Session Descriptions ([View Complete Schedule](#))

Unless otherwise noted, all concurrent sessions are 45-minutes in duration.

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times	Session Title	Session Description	Location
April Henry 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	How I Quit My Day Job and Became a Killer and Thief: and How You Can Too	New York Times bestselling author April Henry talks about a look at how authors get their ideas and shape them into stories; how tenacity is as vital as talent; how to take an idea and turn it into a story; how to start a story; the importance of re-writing and editing; and the fun of research—including lots of real-life adventures: being “kidnapped” in an urban escape and evasion class, attending the Writers Police Academy, and taking part in the FBI Citizen’s Academy.	Athena E
Jennifer A. Nielsen 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Creating Villains You’ll Love to Hate (The Art of Creating Great Villains Worthy of your Rising Heros)	A great villain is more than an evil opponent to your hero. In their world, they are the true hero, and a great villain makes an even better story.	Athena F
Julie Wright 	Grades 6-12 ⁼ 9:15 am 10:15 am	Frankenstein: The Nuts and Bolts to Becoming a Better Writer ⁼ <i>Not offered to Grades 6-12 at 11:15 am</i>	This basic nuts and bolts class will help new writers take all the different parts of writing so they can reach that moment where they cry out into the night, “It’s alive!” or maybe they will cry out “The end!” Both options are exciting proof of creation. We will discuss Dialogue, Voice, POV, Setting, and the Creator (that would be you).	Athena G
Leslie Lutz 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Creating Secondary Characters for your Story	You’ve got your hero, and you’ve got your villain, but what about the rest of the cast? Your secondary characters are vital to your hero’s journey (What would Percy Jackson do without Annabeth and Grover? Who would Sherlock Holmes be without his best friend Watson?) In this hands on workshop, learn how to create secondary characters that bring out the best (and the worst) in your main character.	Grand Hall 3
Elizabeth Lowham 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	What I Wish I'd Known as a Teenage Author	When Elizabeth Lowham was fifteen years old, she attended a writing conference for teens, hoping to learn more about how to write a book and maybe—someday—even get it published. It was a long journey from that first conference to getting her first book published, and in this presentation, Elizabeth will share five things she learned during her journey that can help other young writers carve their own path to publication.	Grand Hall 5
G.F. Miller 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Love, Laughter, & Happily Ever After	Rom-com friends, we have sooo much to talk about! Have you discovered the thrill of the kick-and-squeal? Are you and your book boyfriend getting serious? Or maybe you wonder what, exactly, makes rom-coms so very unputdownable. Whatever, just get here. We’ll dish about characters, tropes, plot, and the stories that make us swoon and laugh and cringe and cry.	Olympia 1
Frank L. Cole 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Exercising Your Imagination through Storytelling	Want to write your own story but you don't know how to even start? Chances are you already have all the tools you need. We'll talk about the four basic steps of getting started through Character and Conflict Creation and how to pull from your own personal experiences to really bring out the humor and fun in your story.	Olympia 2

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Hall County Library System 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am ⁺	Game Show Challenge: The Wheel of Jeopardy Fortune and Friendly Feud Is Right! <i>+ 11:15am: Shortened session to 30 minutes (pair with visiting the one of our drop-in offerings)</i>	Season three of our mixed-up game show drops today with hands-on team challenges, trivia, a prize wheel and more! Survey says...you don't want to miss out!	Grand Hall 1
Joey Weiser 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Drawing Monsters with Joey Weiser	Joey Weiser discusses the process of creating fictional creatures and worlds, using examples from his graphic novels, including his latest book <i>The Littlest Fighter!</i> Weiser will draw some examples and use audience suggestions to create a new creature from scratch!	Grand Hall 4
Kathy Church	Grades 6-12 [^] 9:15 am 10:15 am	Embracing Ectotherms [^] <i>Not offered to Grades 6-12 at 11:15 am</i>	Should we actually Embrace Ectotherms? Probably not, but join Kathy Church of Ga DNR and her slithery, cold-blooded friends to find out why or why not.	Athena C
Tome Team	<i>Drop In</i> Grades 6-12: 9am-12pm	Minute to Win It	Journey into a literary showdown where quick wits and book smarts meet in speedy "minute to win it" challenges! Lively session packed with Tome Book Award themed tasks, puzzles, and quizzes. Whether you're stacking book towers or unscrambling words, every second matters as you vie for victory against the clock.	Grand Hall 2
Marta Chapman Memorial Foundation	<i>Drop In</i> Grades 6-12: 9am-1pm All Grades: 3:00-4:00pm	Make & Take: Book Inspired Crafts	Join us for "Make & Take: Book Inspired Crafts," sponsored by the Marta Chapman Memorial Foundation . Attendees can unleash their creativity by crafting fun projects inspired by their favorite books! Whether you're a book lover or a crafting enthusiast, this hands-on session offers a unique opportunity to bring stories to life through art. Get ready to embrace a world of imagination and leave with your very own literary-inspired masterpiece!	Athena A & B
The Storybook Market	<i>Shopping</i> All Grades 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	The Official TomeCon Book Fair	Brought to you by The Storybook Market , the TomeCon Book Fair features all titles from your TomeCon author presenters plus the 25-26 & 26-27 Tome Book Award winners! Grab your favorites and get them signed during the afternoon author signing sessions. Embrace the journey and discover your next great read!	Athena D
Chick-fil-a Plus Pop Up	<i>Shopping</i> All Grades 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Snack Stand + Meal Options in Venue	Snacks available for purchase all day (coffee, chips, candy bars, drinks) and Chick-fil-a breakfast and lunch (including vegetarian) menu items. Cash & Card Accepted. Only credit/debit card accepted.	Athena Lobby (<i>top of the escalators</i>)
Tome Merch & Bookish Vendors	<i>Shopping</i> All Grades 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Shopping	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vendors, Raffle Baskets, & Tome Merchandise</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Get your Tome t-shirts, stickers, and more!</i></p> Purchases of less than \$5 are cash only. Processing fee added for credit card transactions. <p style="text-align: center;">Raffle Basket:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM – 2:45 PM – Raffle Basket Entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ \$1 = 1 ticket OR \$5 = 7 tickets • 2:45 PM - LAST Chance to Enter Raffle Basket Drawings in Atrium. • 3:45 PM - Winners Posted at tomesociety.org/tomecon-qr • 3:45 PM – 4:30 PM - Basket winners can pick up from the Tome Merch table. (Students should be accompanied by an adult (adviser/parent) to pick up their winning basket). All Baskets must be picked up by 4:30 PM. 	Atrium