






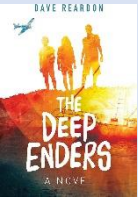

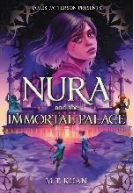
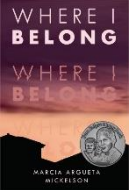



TomeCon 2024 Concurrent Session Descriptions

Presenter	Audience Grades	Session Title	Session Description	Location (see schedule for times)
<p style="text-align: center;">Bonnie Clark</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Taste Your Words: Making the world a sweeter place, one kind word at a time.</p>	<p>Bonnie will be reading her picture book: Taste Your Words & teaching kids (of all ages) the palatable power of speaking kind words in a flavorfully fun and memorable way! She will share her journey from the first book she wrote (in the 3rd grade) to becoming a published author with books centering around Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) themes. Includes an interactive “Taste Your Words Challenge” with volunteers from each session.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grand Hall 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Heidi Lang</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">2-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Turn Your Life Into a Story</p>	<p>Get ready to explore storytelling. Discover how your everyday experiences can become thrilling tales, and learn to create unforgettable characters and plots. Let Heidi guide you through this fun session where you'll unleash your creativity and become the author of your own adventures!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Olympian 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lola M. Schaefer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Voice: What Is It and How Can I Nurture It?</p>	<p>Lola will share a variety of ways that you can include voice in all forms of writing. Participants will identify passages with voice and practice adding voice to lifeless writing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grand Hall 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">McCall Hoyle</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">2-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ponies, and Puppies, and Kittens! Oh, My!</p>	<p>Join best-selling author McCall Hoyle for a discussion of why animals, especially dogs, play such an important role in children's fiction, in the real lives of children, and in the books that McCall writes, like JUST GUS and STELLA. Attendees will brainstorm animal-inspired stories of their own and leave with plenty of book recommendations that include animals in starring roles. If time allows, attendees can visit with McCall's therapy dog, Apple or watch Apple's trick dog demonstration.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grand Hall 5</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Taryn Souders</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">2-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Creation of Story</p>	<p>Join author Taryn Souders for "The Creation of Story" where she shares how to turn memories and moments into captivating tales! You will learn about her favorite childhood books, the research behind fiction writing (with a focus on arsenic history), her writing process, math mind-reading, mood boards, and more! Get ready to unleash your creativity and discover the magic of storytelling with Taryn!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Athena F</p>

Presenter	Audience Grades	Session Title	Session Description	Location (see schedule for times)
<p>Tracy Badua</p> 	2-5	<p>Love or Love to Hate: Writing Characters Readers will Relate to – or at Least Understand</p>	<p>Join us for an exciting session designed especially for beginning writers! Have you ever felt frustrated when your readers couldn't connect with your characters? You're not alone! In this session, we'll explore how to create characters that truly resonate with your audience.</p> <p>Forget about trying to make your characters perfect or universally loved. By the end of this session, you'll discover that it's not about making everyone adore your characters, but rather ensuring that readers understand them on a deeper level. Get ready to breathe life into your characters and keep your readers hooked until the very last page!</p>	Olympian 1
<p>Zach Franzen</p> 	2-5	<p>Weave Truth, Goodness, and Beauty into people-friendly culture</p>	<p>What if the primary purpose of art wasn't self-expression but hospitality? How would that change the way we work? Watch Zach demonstrate the hospitable role of art and illustration as he challenges you to speak to your audience as logical, moral, and emotional beings.</p>	Athena E
<p>Alexandra Diaz</p> 	6-12	<p>Mapping the Road with Santiago</p>	<p>In this session that is part creative writing, part choose-your-own-adventure, attendees must help Santiago safely cross the desert at la frontera and get reunited with Alegría and María Dolores. Thankfully, Princesa the invisible unicorn can help avoid the tarantulas!</p>	Athena F
<p>Caroline George</p> 	6-12	<p>Plot Like A Pro: A Creative Writing Intensive To Get You Started</p>	<p>Want to write a book? Award-winning author Caroline George offers a comprehensive guide to plotting and character development. Students will gain practical information that'll strengthen their writing and empower them to begin their own novel.</p>	Grand Hall 4

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<p>Dave Reardon</p> 	6-12	<p>Outback Tales & Urban Legends ... how everyone can be a great storyteller!</p>	<p>Some of the most incredible stories are right there in front of us, just waiting to be told. Yet many young people stop writing because they feel that they don't have anything to say. In this session, I'll be encouraging students to become great storytellers. We'll go through practical ideas on finding inspiration, developing a story, crafting multi-layered characters and enjoying the tension! I'll share how my time as a journalist in the Australian outback, a youth worker with Indigenous teens and finally as a full-time YouTuber, all led to an adventure that eventually became a best selling novel.</p>	Athena E
<p>H.J. Nelson</p> 	6-12	<p>Worldbuilding: Details and Devices to Make your World Shine</p>	<p>Good writing, short or long, requires building an authentic and vibrant world--but that doesn't mean it has to take years! In this session I will detail several different quick and easy devices to create a vivid world that lends to the story instead of distracting from it. Each device will include examples from popular YA literature, as well as a chance for students to try for themselves, share within a small group, and ask questions.</p>	Olympian 2
<p>M.T. Khan</p> 	6-12	<p>Education as an Escape</p>	<p>Journey with M.T. Khan, author of "Nura and the Immortal Palace to learn about how education is used as a means of escape for underprivileged children worldwide. In this lesson, we focus on mica mining, where child labourers work in dangerous conditions to put food on their family's table.</p>	Olympian 1
<p>Marcia Argueta Mickelson</p> 	6-12	<p>Writing to Belong</p>	<p>Embark on a journey through the writing process, exploring how it can foster a sense of belonging. Drawing from her book "Where I Belong," Mickelson will share insights into her own writing journey and inspire young writers to find their voice and place in the world through storytelling. Don't miss this empowering session on the transformative power of writing!</p>	Grand Hall 2

Presenter	Audience Grades	Session Title	Session Description	Location (see schedule for times)
Tommy Greenwald 	6-12	Unmasking the Reading Enemy: Adventures of Fiction!	Join bestselling sports fiction writer Tommy Greenwald on an exciting journey through his writing career and discover why he's passionate about turning reluctant readers into semi-reluctant ones! In this session, Tommy will share his personal writing journey and reveal how he transforms kids who view reading as the enemy into adventurous semi-reluctant readers. Get ready to uncover the secrets to making reading fun and captivating for all!	Grand Hall 5
Hall County Library Services	2-5 & 6-12	Gameshow Fun: The Wheel of TomeCon Feud and Fortune Is Right!	Come on down for a mixed-up mashup of gameshow fun with team challenges, trivia, a prize wheel and even Plinko! Survey says...you don't want to miss out!	Grand Hall 1
Joey Weiser	2-5 & 6-12	How To Create A Graphic Novel	Award-winning cartoonist Joey Weiser (DRAGON RACER, GHOST HOG, MERMIN) takes you through his process of creating a graphic novel! Using examples from his own work, he will show how he comes up with ideas, writes stories, and draws comic book pages.	Athena G
Kathy Church	2-5 & 6-12	Brave Brumators: The sneaky snakes of Georgia	Visit with Wildlife Interpretive Specialist Kathy Church, of the Ga Department of Natural Resources, to learn how snakes survive the winter; not by hibernating, but bravely brumating. Encounter live, native snakes and unravel the narrative of their resilience, discovering how these remarkable reptiles embody the spirit of being "Brave on Purpose." Through engaging storytelling and interactive learning, uncover the tales of these sneaky serpents as they navigate the challenges of the cold season, ultimately thriving in the warmth of spring and summer. Join us for an unforgettable journey into the courageous hearts of Georgia's snakes.	Athena D
	2-5 & 6-12	Minute to Win It	Dive into a literary showdown where quick wits and book smarts meet in speedy "minute to win it" challenges! Lively session packed with book-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 3

Presenter	Audience Grades	Session Title	Session Description	Location <i>(see schedule for times)</i>
	2-5 & 6-12	Make & Take: Book Inspired Crafts	Join us for "Make & Take: Book Inspired Crafts," where 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 dive into a world of imagination and leave with your very own literary-inspired masterpiece!	Athena A & B & C