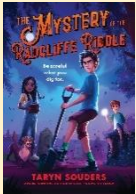
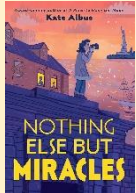

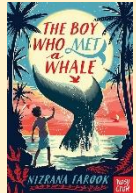
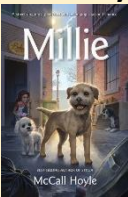
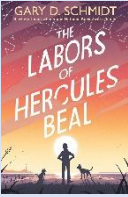


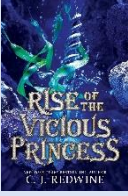

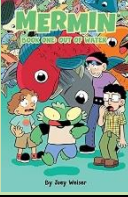


TomeCon 2025 Concurrent Session Descriptions (View [Complete Schedule](#))

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

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times	Session Title	Session Description	Location
Taryn Souders 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Putting the History in Mystery	Where do great mysteries begin? Author Taryn Souders reveals the real history behind <i>The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle</i> —from bizarre wars (like the War of Jenkins’ Ear!) to secret messages in samplers, treasure hunts, and even Colonial concrete. Get ready for a fun dive into the past, packed with adventure and hidden clues!	Athena E
Kate Albus 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Down the Rabbit Hole	The research rabbit hole is Kate's favorite place to be. Join her as she shares tips and tricks for bringing history to life in story form using books, newspapers, film, radio, historical experts, and even family history.	Athena F
Jedwin Smith 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Treasure Hunters Wanted: The Epic Hunt for the Atocha’s Lost Fortune!	For 16 years, famed treasure hunter Mel Fisher searched for the Senora de Atocha—a legendary Spanish treasure ship lost off Florida’s coast in 1622. Many thought it was just a myth. The search cost lives. But in July 1985, author Jedwin Smith was there when Fisher’s team struck gold—literally! Join Jedwin as he shares the thrilling true story of how they uncovered \$800 million in gold, silver, and emeralds from the ocean’s depths. Are you ready for an adventure?	Grand Hall 3
Josie Bailey 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Storytelling Safari: Journey to the Heart of Kenya	Embark on an exciting storytelling adventure filled with humor, movement, and imagination! In this interactive session, Josie brings stories to life with expressive voices, vibrant dialects, and colorful costumes—often reflecting her African-American roots. Inspired by the Tome Book Award title <i>The Elephant Girl</i> by James Patterson, Ellen Banda-Aaku, and Sophia Krevoy, this experience will transport you straight to an elephant preserve in Kenya. Get ready to laugh, learn, and explore the magic of storytelling!	Grand Hall 5
Nizrana Farook 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Welcome to Serendib: The World of The Boy Who Met a Whale	Serendib, the ancient name for Sri Lanka, a place of adventure and wilderness. Join Nizrana Farook, best-selling author of <i>The Girl Who Stole an Elephant</i> and <i>The Boy Who Met a Whale</i> , as she takes you on a journey through the world of her books. Featuring fun animal facts and ideas for writing your own animal tales, prepare to be inspired by the natural world and all the stories in it.	Parthenon 1

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times	Session Title	Session Description	Location
<p>McCall Hoyle</p> 	<p>Grades 2-5</p> <p>12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm</p>	<p>Beagles, and Bulldogs, and Books, Oh, My! How To Write Your Own Dog (or Pet) Story</p>	<p>Join bestselling author McCall Hoyle to learn how to use your five senses to write powerful stories, like Tome Award Nominee, <i>Millie</i>. Leave with a completed sensory chart, ideas for your own animal-themed story, a better appreciation of your four-legged friends, and play a quick round of dog breed trivia with a chance to win dog-themed prizes.</p>	<p>Parthenon 2</p>
<p>Gary D. Schmidt</p> 	<p>Grades 6-12</p> <p>9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am</p>	<p>Creating a Character from the Outside In</p>	<p>We begin making a character the same way we first meet another person: from the outside in. In this workshop, we'll figure out how understanding who are character is begins with what we see: the walk, the way she holds her hands, the way she sits, the choices she makes in speech. But that's only the beginning. Once we make decisions about those things, we can really start to understand what it is that a character wants and needs.</p>	<p>Athena E</p>
<p>Kevin Sands</p> 	<p>Grades 6-12</p> <p>9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am</p>	<p>The Art of the Con</p>	<p>Learn why the tricks and gaffs that Cal and his friends pull off in <i>Children of the Fox</i> actually work—it's all in your brain!</p>	<p>Athena F</p>
<p>Alexandra Diaz</p> 	<p>Grades 6-12</p> <p>9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am</p>	<p>Blast into the Past with Victoria and Jackie in the 1960s</p>	<p>Explore the world of the 1960s and see the U.S. with a fresh pair of eyes, and only \$5 per person in your pocket. Imagine what it would be like if your family was not a phone call or message away. This presentation will explore similarities and differences between modern times and the past, and the hardships of not being in communication with loved ones. If you're clever, maybe you can learn to write a secret message to a family member or friend that can get past nosy officials!</p>	<p>Grand Hall 3</p>
<p>C.J. Redwine</p> 	<p>Grades 6-12</p> <p>9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am</p>	<p>5 Mistakes to Avoid When Writing Your Story</p>	<p>In this workshop, "5 Mistakes to Avoid when Writing Your Story," I'll walk you through some of the most common pitfalls young writers face and how you can easily avoid them. Whether you're dreaming up your next fantasy world or writing a mystery, these tips will help make your story stronger and more exciting. Join me to get practical advice that will improve your writing, boost your confidence, and make your stories stand out!</p>	<p>Grand Hall 5</p>

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times		Session Title	Session Description	Location
Roland Smith 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am		Wild Writing	NYT Bestselling author Roland Smith believes that anyone can write a book if they are willing to spend the time. Join him as he takes you around the world researching his books – from Mt. Everest (Peak) in Tibet to the Pamir Mountains in Afghanistan (The Edge), to the savannahs of Kenya (Thunder Cave) and the jungles of the Republic of the Congo (Cryptid Hunters). Learn about sea otter rescue, Sasquatch, and wolf reintroduction. He will show the step by step process he uses to write his award-winning books.	Parthenon 1
Amanda McCrina 	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am		Writing Difficult History For (and About) Teens	Historical fiction often deals with some of the darkest moments of our history—and in real life, teens and young adults often played central roles. This session discusses why it's important to have historical fiction for and about teens that deals with difficult topics, and how to present that difficult material in a way appropriate for a teen readership. It also highlights some surprising stories of young people shaping history. References my books <i>TRAITOR</i> and <i>THE SILENT UNSEEN</i> .	Parthenon 2
Hall County Library Services	Grades 2-5 12:30 pm+ 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am+	Gameshow Fun: The Wheel of TomeCon Fortune and Feud Is Right! <i>* 11:15am and 12:30pm: Shortened session to 30 minutes (pair with visiting the one of our drop-in offerings)</i>	Come on down for Season 2 of our mixed-up mashup of gameshow fun with new team challenges, trivia, a prize wheel and even Plinko! Survey says...you don't want to miss out!	Grand Hall 1
Joey Weiser 	Grades 2-5* 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	How to Create a Graphic Novel <i>*Not offered to Grades 2-5 at 12:15pm</i>	Eisner Award-nominated author Joey Weiser takes you step-by-step through his process of writing and drawing a graphic novel! Followed by a short drawing demonstration.	Grand Hall 4
Nick Mask 	Grades 2-5* 12:15pm		Tails and Tales with Nick Mask and Waffles the Cat <i>*Session only offered at 12:15pm</i> Visit Nick all day in the Atrium Vendor Area	Join author and illustrator Nick Mask as he shares the story behind his beloved character, Waffles the Adventure Cat. Learn about his creative process, from developing characters to illustrating and bringing his picture books to life.	Grand Hall 4
Kathy Church	Grades 2-5 12:15 pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Grades 6-12^ 9:15 am 10:15 am	A Deep Dive Into Georgia's Snakes <i>^Not offered to Grades 6-12 at 11:15 am</i>	Can snakes swim? What happens to them in the rain? Take a deep dive with Kathy Church from Georgia's Department of Natural Resources to uncover the secrets of Georgia's snakes! With live animals and cool displays, you'll explore how these slithery creatures adapt to water—and why learning about them is just like reading a great story full of twists and surprises. Get ready to jump in!	Grand Hall 2

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times	Session Title	Session Description	Location
Tome Team	<i>Drop In</i> Grades 2-5: 12-3pm Grades 6-12: 9am-12pm	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.	Athena B
Marta Chapman Memorial Foundation	<i>Drop In</i> Grades 2-5: 11-3pm Grades 6-12: 9am-1pm All Grades: 3:00-4:45pm	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 dive into a world of imagination and leave with your very own literary-inspired masterpiece!	Athena C & D
The Storybook Market	<i>Shopping</i> All Grades 8:30 AM – 4:45 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 24-25 & 25-26 Tome Book Award winners! Grab your favorites and get them signed during the afternoon author signing sessions. Dive in and discover your next great read!	Athena A
Chick-fil-a Plus Pop Up	<i>Shopping</i> All Grades 8:30 AM – 4:45 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 menu items. Cash & Card Accepted.	Athena Lobby (<i>top of the escalators</i>)
Tome Merch & Bookish Vendors	<i>Shopping</i> All Grades 8:30 AM – 4:45 PM	Shopping	<p>Vendors, Raffle Baskets, & Tome Merchandise</p> <p><i>Get your Tome t-shirts, signing posters, stickers, and more!</i></p> <p>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 \$3 = Dive In 2025 Signing Poster + 1 ticket 2:45 PM - LAST Chance to Enter Raffle Basket Drawings in Atrium. 3:45 PM - Winners Posted at tomesociety.org/tomecon-qr 4:00 PM – 5:00 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 5 PM. 	Atrium