





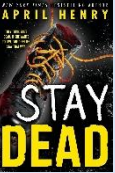


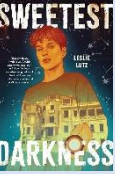
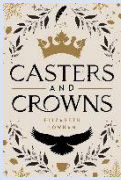
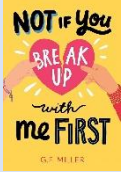





TomeCon 2026 Concurrent Session Descriptions (View [Complete Schedule](#))

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

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times	Session Title	Session Description	Location
Lynne Kelly 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Plotting with Character	All stories have obstacles, but every character responds differently to those obstacles. Whether you like to plan your whole book before you start writing or figure it out as you go, the characters you create determine how your story unfolds. In this session we'll work on developing characters that drive the plot, and plot points that reveal who our characters are.	Athena E
Allie Millington 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Tapping into Imagination, a Typewriter Workshop	In this session, we'll discuss how to find your unique voice as a storyteller, and how to build imaginative yet relatable characters that help share those stories. Students will get the opportunity to test out their ideas on actual typewriters.	Athena F
Stephen Bramucci 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Write What You Know but Make Up Stuff, too!	Award-winning author Steve Bramucci shares how real-life experiences influenced all three of his novels, particularly his recent book, "Race for the Ruby Turtle." But rather than putting life experiences into the book verbatim, he shares with young authors how to remix their lived experiences and turn them into something thrilling and cohesive.	Grand Hall 3
Tracy Badua 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Superstitions and Storytelling	This session dives into how perceive and define superstitions, their global origins, and how they ramp up the stakes not only in our everyday lives but also in fiction. As an in-session activity, attendees will either dream up a new superstition or build out the backstory of one they already know; we'll share with the group, who'll guess whether it's an existing superstition or one created at TomeCon!	Grand Hall 5
McCall Hoyle 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Dogs! And Cats! And Mules! Oh My!	Return to the world of Stella, Just Gus, and Millie with bestselling author McCall Hoyle to discuss why animals rule the world of children's books. Learn why McCall's main characters are mostly dogs. Watch videos of her dogs in action. Get a sneak peek of the dog and breed that will star in McCall's upcoming release, submit names for animals in McCall's next book, and possibly take home a dog-themed prize. Attendees will leave feeling inspired to read animal books, hug their own pets, and write an animal story of their own.	Olympia 1

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times	Session Title	Session Description	Location
Jenni Walsh 	Grades 2-5 12:15pm 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Books & Bingo	What does it really take to write and publish a book? Through a lively game of bingo, author Jenni L. Walsh shares the real milestones of her writing life—from rejection and revision and everything in between. Each square sparks a quick, candid story, offering insight, encouragement, and a behind-the-scenes look at the journey to Operation: Happy. Play along, learn something new, and win prizes inspired by the book.	Olympia 2
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

Presenter	Audience Grades & Times		Session Title	Session Description	Location
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
Hall County Library System 	Grades 2-5 12:30 pm+ 1:15 pm 2:15pm	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 and 12:30pm: 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 2-5* 1:15 pm 2:15pm	Grades 6-12 9:15 am 10:15 am 11:15 am	Drawing Monsters with Joey Weiser <i>*Not offered to Grades 2-5 at 12:15pm</i>	Joey Weiser discusses the process of creating fictional creatures and worlds, using examples from his graphic novels, including his latest book The Littlest Fighter! Weiser will draw some examples and use audience suggestions to create a new creature from scratch!	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	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

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	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 2-5: 11-3pm 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.	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>Vendors, Raffle Baskets, & Tome Merchandise</p> <p><i>Get your Tome t-shirts, stickers, and more!</i></p> <p>Purchases of less than \$5 are cash only. Processing fee added for credit card transactions.</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 • 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