

# Morning Breakout Session Details

10:15 AM to 11:15 AM

## **Josh Bellin, Jennifer Birch, and Carrie Ann DiRisio - Beyond the Pale? Satire and Young Adult Literature**

Is there a place for satire in Young Adult literature? Publishers shy away from it, bookstores don't know where to shelve it, but can teen readers profit from it? This session features a panel of YA authors and teachers who believe in the role of literary satire as a means of empowering readers to examine contemporary issues, challenge generic boundaries, and explore literary language.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, Writers, interest in Young Adult literature

## **WPA SCBWI, Marcy Canterna - Introducing WPA SCBWI Class of 2015 - 2018**

Most children think that authors only live in New York or California. Pennsylvania has a wealth of talented authors and illustrators, and we want to share their newest books with you. We will discuss each recently published book, and we will talk about the story, the author, and the illustrator. Then, we will share some suggestions of ways to include the stories in your classroom, at a variety of grade levels and in many curricular areas. Presented by the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Society for Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (WPA SCBWI).

Audience: Interest in Picture Book Literature

## **Alex Miller & Dana Farabaugh - Tech Team-Up! Bringing STEM Education & Storytelling to School and Public Libraries**

Between the US Department of Education forecasting 14% growth across all STEM occupations by 2020 and the American Library Association reporting 14 times as many "maker spaces" existed in 2016 than in 2006, it's evident that the demand for quality science, technology, engineering and math resources is not going away any time soon. Join Dana and Alex as they explore the process of selecting, funding, and implementing STEM kits and technology in school and public libraries - all while remaining true to the classic library values of literacy and storytelling. Examples from the Westmoreland Library Network Pop-Up Creation Labs will be on display.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, works with Middle Grade and Young Adult

## **Dr. Mary Beth Spore - Glory, Gerard, and Vera: Betrayed, Angry, and Disillusioned. A.S. King's Teenagers in the Age of Angst**

The teenagers in many of A.S. King's novels are angry and confused, close to giving up but propelled by some small hope of a better tomorrow. This interactive session will explore the nature of angst in these characters and how these characterizations may lead teachers and librarians and parents to consider the causes and effects of increasing in our youth. A paper will be distributed.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, interest in Middle Grade and Young Adult literature

## **Dr. Sandra Reidmiller - Genealogy: Telling Your Story**

Research has shown that children who know their heritage have higher self-esteem and do better in the classroom. Dr. Reidmiller will discuss a project she ran in her classroom which allowed students to search their genealogy. She will also talk about free resources available for anyone interested in doing a similar project with students.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, works with Middle Grade and Young Adults

# Afternoon Breakout Session Details

12:45 PM to 1:45 PM

## **Dr. Rebecca Hirsch - Creative Nonfiction and Informational Fiction Picture Books**

Creative nonfiction and informational fiction picture books read like fiction because they merge fact-based subject matter with fun, fresh, or engaging texts. These stories teach critical literacy skills, connect students to the wider world, and encourage them to become active global citizens. This presentation will reveal craft-based strategies, elements, and practices that make certain titles stand out, and will introduce a variety of engaging picture books from pre-K through middle grade.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, Writers, interest in Picture Books and Middle Grade literature

## **Marc Harshman & Anna Smucker - Inspiration, Collaboration, and Poetry: The Creation of Marc Harshman and Anna Egan Smucker's non-fiction picture book *Fallingwater: The Building of Frank Lloyd Wright's Masterpiece*.**

In this session, the authors will present a Powerpoint presentation of their book on Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic house, Fallingwater. Following a brief reading of the text, they will discuss the research done in order to write the book. Additionally, they will explore complex issues of writing collaboratively to create a text, a text that mimics in it's sparseness and poetic lines, the "lines" of what is widely regarded as the most famous house in the world.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, Writers, Interest in Picture Book and Middle Grade Literature

## **Dr. Pam Pittman & Connie Bowers - Picture Books in the Middle: Using Children's Literature to Support Middle School Literacy Learning**

Children's literature has long been used to support literacy instruction and learning in the elementary classroom. However, picture books can engage, support, and motivate middle school students as they learn concepts across the curriculum. In this session, the presenters will show you how.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, works with Middle Grade

## **Doug Rosensteel - The Road to Traditional Publishing**

This hands-on workshop walks participants through the process of becoming traditionally published. First, we will practice a method for drafting the three most important documents after your manuscript: the synopsis, the back cover copy, and the query letter. Then we will lay out a step-by-step plan for finding an agent who is right for you.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, interest in publishing

## **Stephanie Keyes - Reality Bites: Why Hope Matters More Than Ever in YA and Middle Grade**

As readers we look for characters we can identify with. We search for signs that we're choosing the right paths in our own lives. We seek out heroes among the pages of our latest read. But when it comes to today's kids, hope may just be the most valuable plot device for young readers. Join award-winning author, Stephanie Keyes, as she shares why it matters and one teachers suggestions on how to keep the candles burning inside the teens browsing the stacks.

Audience: Educators, Librarians, works with Middle Grade and Young Adults