

Young Writers & Artists Conference

March 6, 2012 – Grades 3-6

March 7, 2012 – Grades 3-9

Sponsored by:



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**Featuring
Keynote Presentations**

by:

Jonathan Friesen

&

Peter Bloedel



Hosted by:



www.blc.edu

In partnership with:



www.betsy-tacysociety.org



This activity is made possible by a grant provided by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Conference Schedule

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.	Check-in/Book Fair (Sports & Fitness Center)
9 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.	Keynote Presentation <i>Grades 3-6: Peter Bloedel (Sports & Fitness Center)</i> <i>Grades 7-9: Jonathan Friesen (Meyer Hall 101)</i>
9:50 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Session I
10:55 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Session II
11:50 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.	Lunch/Book Fair (Sports & Fitness Center)
12:35 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Session III

Sessions are handicap accessible—please indicate any special requirements.



Don't Forget:

- **REGISTER** – Registration is online only. Visit www.mnscsc.org and click on the “Events & Registration” button on the left side of the page.
- **CHAPERONES** – Schools or parents/guardians must provide their own chaperones. All chaperones participate free of charge, but must register online.
- **LUNCH** – Food and beverage will not be available. Students and chaperones should provide their own lunch and beverage.
- **BOOK FAIR** – A book fair will be available in the Sports & Fitness Center, courtesy of The Book Shelf. It will feature books from some of the conference presenters, as well as other popular titles. This is an incredible opportunity for students to get their books signed by authors they meet, either during lunch or in their sessions. Payment with cash, by check or credit card will be accepted. An ID is required for credit card and check purchases. Please do not send a blank check with students. Allow additional time for credit card payment processing.



Please Note:

- Sessions fill up fast, so register early to reserve a seat in your favorite sessions.
- Students in grades 3-6 may attend on either March 6 or March 7. Choose the day that works best for you or your group. If you are attending with your school, make sure you know for which day your school has decided to register. Please select session numbers from your grade range, noting some sessions span multiple grades. Not all sessions are offered each day. Sessions for grades 7-9 are only available on March 7.
- If Mankato Area Public Schools (District 77) are closed due to inclement weather, that conference day will be held on March 8. Watch major networks for school closings.
- As a participant at the Young Writers & Artists Conference, you grant SCSC permission to publish your photo and/or name for promotional purposes.
- No refunds will be issued for absence on the day of the conference. Cancellations must be made 3 days prior to the event to receive a refund or a replacement may attend in your place. Online payments incur a service charge in the event of a refund.

Online Registration Questions/Assistance:
Students@mnscsc.org

Conference Coordinator:
Mary Hillmann - mhillmann@mnscsc.org or
(952) 715-8745

Keynote Presentations

Grades 3-6:

Peter Bloedel presents “Ask the ‘Dumb Question!’”

Sometimes the way to get the most interesting ideas is by learning how to ask the most interesting questions. So often we stop our brain too soon from doing the work it really wants to do. We're afraid to ask the “dumb question.” Theatre professor and performer, Peter Bloedel will discuss the importance of asking impractical questions, how to use these questions as creative stepping-stones, and how to take play seriously. Sometimes the “dumb question” can open up a whole undiscovered universe and set the artist on a path of true originality.

Peter Bloedel is a juggler/magician/singer/songwriter/writer, and long-time member of the eclectic acoustic folk band “The Divers.” When Peter isn't out performing for the masses, he can be found teaching Theatre Arts at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato Minnesota, where he is a theatre director and playwright. He is the originator of Bethany's annual vaudeville revue, “Theatre Physics,” a perennial hit in Mankato, with a following that grows larger every year.

Peter is the author of a number of plays, which together have had over 1200 performances worldwide.

Grades 7-9:

Jonathan Friesen presents “Set Each Other Free”

Hear the amazing personal story of Jonathan Friesen, award winning Young Adult author. Tourette's Syndrome and Epilepsy filled his teen years with ostracism and despair. A creative kid, Jonathan watched his writing gifts fall into disuse ... until an unexpected visit turned Jonathan's life around, and allowed him to chase his dreams. Learn the liberating questions that we all need answered, and the powerful result when we decide to set each other free.

Jonathan Friesen is an award winning author, international speaker and youth writing coach. To learn more about Jonathan, visit <http://www.jonathanfriesen.com>.

Grades 3-4

1. Plum-Crazy Poetry

Do you like poetry? Have you ever wondered what makes poetry different than other things? Relax - poetry can be fun! Join us as we explore and introduce ourselves to poetry and the power of words, working with free verse, Haiku, rhyming, shape and more! Create and read your poems during class, and take them home to show your families!

Ben Tecken: Poet and Author

2. K.T. is a Character

K.T. is a stubborn, independent and smart seven year old, and even though she doesn't plan to get into trouble, she does - big time. K.T. loves adventure and she needs your help planning her next trip. Listen to her stories, learn how to describe her home, family and personality, and then write your own K.T. story.

Bev Jackson Cotter: Author, Storyteller, Artist and Columnist

3. Sniff...Squeeze...Gulp! Writing Stories That Sizzle

What do gummy worms have to do with writing good stories? Find out in this session where you'll use your five senses to write a story that "shows" rather than "tells" readers what's going on. Bring your appetite for sour worms, your imagination, and your favorite pen or pencil!

Julie Bowe: Author

4. Human, Alien or Monster

Using the What-Where-Why method, you will design characters for your choice of fantasy or science fiction stories and explore (in groups or individually) how creating a character can develop the beginnings of a story. In the "What" section, you will use your five senses to work together to select adjectives for character descriptions and then develop their own characters to share with the group.

Kathryn Sullivan: Author and Distance Learning Librarian, Winona State University

5. Card Making

This session will give you the opportunity to express your creativity through hand made and pop up style cards. We will use a variety of art and craft supplies to create unique cards for all occasions.

Marcella Eilders: Crafter

6. Storytelling, an Old World Art

Experiment with storytelling and listen to Marie share favorite stories from around the world. You will learn how to organize a story, develop characters and tell a story. We will do some creative dramatics!

Marie Krefl: Speech and Theater Educator, Play Director, and Storyteller

7. Patterns in Time and Space: Folkdances from Around the World

Perhaps creative blocks have you stumped, possibly you have had more than enough of sitting, or maybe you just can't stop dancing! Let folkdances from around the world lift your spirit and nourish your creative self. (Only line and circle dances will be included--no partners needed.)

Kate Stuart: Dance Instructor

Grades 3-4 (continued)

8. **Make Me Laugh**

Make me laugh by using your imagination to turn cartoons into funny things. We will have fun being funny writers.

Al Batt: Writer, Speaker and Storyteller

9. **Digging for Story Bones**

Sometimes starting a story is the hardest part. This session is designed to help you with that. Beginning with a scavenger hunt that uses a variety of familiar books, this session looks at common skeletons of stories. Then you get to put the bones of a story together to make a story skeleton of your own.

Ruth Berglin: Author and Educator

10. **Creating Comics**

Do you like to draw as well as tell stories? Then come learn about graphic novels, where words and art join forces to tell a story. You'll learn the steps involved in creating a graphic novel by looking at samples from published books as well as practice drawing sequential art.

Blake Hoena: Author

11. **The True Story Of The Three Little Pigs**

Reader's Theater is an opportunity for you to explore some basic concepts of performance through hands on instruction. Using entertaining scripts you will perform characters extending the use of your voice, body and facial expressions. Come to class ready to be someone or something you are NOT!

Melanie Schmidt: Mankato Community Education/Recreation Program Supervisor

12. **The "Secret Formula" of Storytelling**

What's the "worst" thing you have to do each day? Washing dishes? Folding laundry? Crawling out of bed?! With the secret formula of storytelling, you can turn just about anything into a thrilling adventure. Ryan Jacobson presents step-by-step instructions detailing the structure that almost every book and movie follows. Then we will put the formula to the test, creating a brand new story.

Ryan Jacobson: Author

13. **Draw From Your Wild Side**

Unleash your creativity by drawing a character based on an existing animal and/or human by morphing it into something wild! During this class we will have a tutorial to warm up our imagination and then create your own character and finish the art by inking and coloring it with markers.

Scott Rolfs: Illustrator and Cartoonist

14. **Journal Making with Betsy & Tacy**

Maud Hart Loveace's childhood memories became the basis for the beloved Betsy-Tacy books. When writing the books as an adult, she used the journals, diaries and scrapbooks that she kept as a young girl for her resource. We are all writing our life story everyday. Learn how you can capture your memories by keeping a scrapbook or journal.

Betsy Tacy Society

Grades 5-6

15. **Creative Wordplay**

Every writer needs tools for their creative toolbox. In this session, theatre professor and performer Peter Bloedel explores, trigger-words, malapropisms, rhymes, puns, metaphors and more in order to get students thinking about the creative power of words.

Peter Bloedel: Theater Professor, Bethany Lutheran College and Performer

16. **Professor Origami Does Awesome and Aw(e)ful Things with Paper**

Professor Origami will show everyone how to make Flapping Birds, Pern Dragons, Dinosaurs, or whatever other awful paper beasts we have time for. In class, we will work together to fold colorful squares of paper into awesome animals, helping each other as needed. Everyone will take home at least one piece of original origami that you made yourself, together with the knowledge of how to make them at home, as well as another origami animal made by Professor Origami.

Bill Cosgrove: Retired Professor Emeritus of English, Performer

17. **The Write Stuff: Your Best Guide to Writing Life**

Do you love telling the kind of stories that keep your friends on the edge of their sleeping bags? Or maybe you've written one you're dying to share, but you don't know if it's any good? Maybe you're not sure which part of your story to tell—or maybe you've got so many stories in your head it's hard to get them all down on the page. If you wonder how writers like Rick Riordan, JK Rowling, or Suzanne Collins decide what to write, this class is for you. With this class, you'll learn how to strengthen your story—and you'll learn how to best show what matters in your writing.

Kate St. Vincent Vogl: Creative Writing Teacher and Author

18. **Drawing Adventure: Harold and the Purple Crayon Meets Spiderman**

Our class will be exploring drawing techniques that will lead us to expressive and unusual characters. Then our imaginations will lead our characters on an adventure.

Kim Bovee: Artist and Teacher

19. **Diary Drawing**

When given a date either from the past or in the future, be ready to calculate your age and write a fictitious personal diary entry. You will create a time travel diary entry with the support and feedback of a writers' group.

Mary Z. McGrath, Ph.D.: Speaker and Author

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Melanie Schmidt: Mankato Community Education/Recreation Program Supervisor

21. **Poets, Puppies, Kittens, Rollerblades and Funny Hats**

Come learn how to write a poem and find out how all these things can be a part of the process!

Susan S. Chambers: Poet-in-the-Schools, Nationally Recognized Poet

Grades 5-6 (Continued)

22. **Developing Fantasy Characters**

Character Development has been a really fun, well received class for several years, and this time we will take character development to a whole new world and focus on designing and developing fantasy characters! Victoria will talk about how she designs her own characters and give you tips on how to build your own! Bring your imagination!

Victoria Tecken: Author, Speaker

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Betsy Tacy Society

26. **The Glory of Nature's Story! (March 7 Only)**

What do you notice in nature? What's the story which nature is just waiting to tell you? In this session we'll spark your curiosity and ask important questions. Then we'll tap into your observation skills and imagination as you become nature's storyteller.

Michelle Burns: Life And Business Coach

27. **"I Cannot Hang Men for Votes:" Bishop Whipple Meets with President Lincoln**

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the US-Dakota War that took place right here in Mankato, on December 26, 1862. Why did Abraham Lincoln intervene on behalf of the Dakota, a decision that cost him politically, at a time when he could least afford to lose loyal support in his prosecution of the American Civil War? The answer lies in a conversation he had with Bishop Henry Whipple. Hear a reenactment of the conversation held between the two men to show the power of language - both written and oral in the art of persuasion. You will then have the opportunity to write your own persuasive letter to the "president" on a topic of interest to you (prompts will be provided). We will share our arguments with the class.

Bryce Stenzel: Educator, Author, Historian, Costumed Historical Interpreter

Lucas Youngerberg, Student Actor

Grades 5-6 (Continued)

28. Patterns in Time and Space: Folkdances from Around the World

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Kate Stuart: Dance Instructor

29. Beautiful Watercolor Made Easy

Learn the tricks of watercolor through a hands-on session with water color pencils. This medium allows the young artist to develop drawing, shading and painting skills.

Margie Kiefer: Artists and Illustrator

30. Have You Ever Seen 45 Tons of Potatoes?

In 1850, my grandfather was five years old when he came to America on a sailing ship. His family left Ireland because of the potato famine. Today, I purchased 45 tons of potatoes to feed to the herd of cattle on the family farm my grandfather bought in 1876. Listen to Michael, an amazing storyteller, weave words into amazing visuals.

Michael Cotter: Author, Storyteller, Farmer, Radio Show Host

31. Travel Writing: Cool Words for Cool Places

Talented travel writers can turn ordinary places into interesting destinations. They open the way to discoveries. Learn the techniques of making cool word choices, critical editing and the fun of re-working sentences. Come prepared to write about your town, a favorite vacation spot or a make-believe place.

Michaelene Zawistowski: Educator, Travel Writer

32. Hone Your Acting Skills!

The craft of acting will be taught through the implementation of theatre games in a supportive and fun atmosphere. Improvisation prepares actors for future scripted roles. This class comes without the pressure of an audience so whether you have been in many shows or just want to give theatre a try, this is the class for you!

St. Peter Area Children's Theatre (SPACT)

33. What Do You See?

In this workshop, you will be introduced to the art of coloring photographs using soft pastels. You will be supplied with a photo and work with soft pastels to add your own flavor and bring the photo to life. You will produce a frameable work of art to take home.

Terri DeGezelle: Author, Photographer

Grades 5-6 (Continued)

34. **Lights! Camera! Action! (March 6 Only)**

Join us to produce a live television news broadcast in the Bethany production studio. You will write short news stories and record the broadcast, operating all studio equipment, including cameras, lighting, teleprompters and a video switcher. You will also be the on camera talent reading the news stories and experience working with the “green” screen to do a weather forecast as part of the show. **Please note, this session fills fast and space is limited.*

Christopher Johnson and Phil Weis: Bethany Lutheran College

35. **Of Owls, Mice and Everything Nice (March 7 Only)**

After examining bird and mammal specimens and photos, help us develop stories using your ideas and expressive language to catch the interest of young website browsers. Your creativity will be used on an actual website entitled “Henderson Feathers.” This session is full of exciting experiences for the young nature writer.

Art & Barb Straub: Retired Educators, Environmentalists, Nature Writers

36. **Extreme Sports**

Whether it be skiing down Mount Everest, challenging bulls in the rodeo or sky surfing we will learn the craft of writing sports nonfiction. Bring your writing pad as we challenge ourselves to make up a new extreme sport.

Patrick Ryan: Author and Screenwriter

Grades 7-9 - March 7 ONLY

37. **Gutsy Writing-Pumping Your Words Full of Emotion**

Blah, blah, blah—three words we DON'T want our readers to use in describing our writing. We want our pieces to sizzle, to crackle with tension and emotion. But how do we accomplish that? Come learn how to pump your writing full of feeling. Discover strategies that can turn ordinary passages into gripping moments ... moments that will keep your readers turning pages and begging for more.

Jonathan Friesen: Author

38. **So You've Got This Crazy Idea...? How to Dream Big**

Start small and bring your creativity into the world and before the public. You will be introduced to a range of hands-on activities for outfoxing creative blocks. Topics will include: Slaying the Dragon of Perfectionism, Re-Seeing: The Delights of Revision, and Enjoying the Spotlight: Sharing Your Work with the World. Artists in all disciplines encounter these challenges, and you will be encouraged to share how you yourself have wrestled or danced with these issues. As discussions take place, you will be able to explore a wooden finger labyrinth, create and embellish their own two-dimensional, paper labyrinths, and view some of Leslie's work.

Leslie Schultz: Artist and Photographer

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40. **Create a Character-One, Two, Three!**

If you are interested in writing fiction, you know characters are the backbones of stories – they are the people who make the action happen. But do you know what makes your characters tick? Do you know their history, or their likes and dislikes? Come and learn how to create realistic, multi-dimensional characters. You'll learn how to get into a character's mind in three easy steps – and have fun doing it!

Kirstin Cronn-Mills: Author and Educator and Lillian Lamoreux: English Major

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Young Writers & Artists Conference Payment Coupon

Please write: YWAC and the student's name on your check. Attach this payment coupon to receive proper credit.

Attending on: ___ March 6 ___ March 7 ___ With my school ___ As an individual

Name of Student _____

School Name _____ District Name _____

Grade Level ___ (3-4) ___ (5-6) ___ (7-9) School Contact _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State ___ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Send payment coupon and check payable to SCSC:

South Central Service Cooperative

Attn: Mary Hillmann

2075 Lookout Drive

North Mankato, MN 56003

Registration Fee (By Feb. 24) - \$25/student

Late Registration (Feb. 25 - March 3) - \$30/student (limited session availability)

Walk-in Registration (March 6 or 7) - \$30/student (limited session availability)



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Students and chaperones must register online: www.mnscsc.org.

Click "EVENTS & REGISTRATION"

Students: Select "Young Writers & Artists STUDENT Registration"

Chaperones: Select "Young Writers & Artists CHAPERONE Registration"

Online payment option when you register.

The planning form below will help you to list your session choices before going online to register. If you do not see your session listed online, it is full. Please choose another session. Be sure to keep your e-mail confirmation listing your conference schedule. If you experience any problems with registration or do not receive a registration confirmation within 24 hours of registration, please email students@mnscsc.org. Please note that many yahoo email accounts will consider our confirmation email spam. Please add mhillmann@mnscsc.org to our safe senders list.

Online Registration Planning Form

****This is not a valid registration. Online registration is required****

1st choice session _____

2nd choice session _____

3rd choice session _____

4th choice session _____

5th choice session _____

SCSC reserves the right to add/change classes or substitute presenters as necessary.