

# Sessions for Grades 3-4

## 1. Hints and Tricks to Write in 3D, Not Flat

Join us in this workshop that is a little bit crazy with lots of interaction, noise, drama and fun. Learn and practice seven simple hints and tricks to make your writing come alive! We'll explore the simple tricks for settings that soar, dialogues that delight, action that amazes, characters with charisma, showing that's not slowing and telling that's compelling.

*J. Michael Blumer, Author*

## 2. Human, Alien or Monster

Using the what-where-why method, design characters for fantasy or science fiction stories and explore how creating a character can help you develop the beginning of a story. Work together to select adjectives for character description using the five senses and then develop your own characters to share with the group.

*Kathryn Sullivan, Author*

## 3. Are You Trying to be Funny?

Some people tell you, "Don't make me laugh." Not here. Please make us laugh! You are funny. Use your imagination to make others laugh.

*Al Batt, Writer, Speaker and Storyteller*

## 4. Fantastical Poetry and Where to Find It

Poems can be found everywhere. Come for a magical exploration of words and writing. You will get a chance to conjure up a poem.

*Susan Chambers, Poet*

## 5. Super Powered Character Creation

Do you love super heroes? This class involves creating your own super hero or heroine by first discussing characteristics and then drawing a super hero of your own! This class is jam-packed with a variety of super hero examples and hints for helping you create your original character.

*Scott Rolfs, Illustrator*

## 6. Soft Pastels Made Easy

In this workshop, students will be introduced to the art of hand tinting black and white photographs using soft chalk pastels. Each student will be supplied with a black and white photo. Working with soft pastels, students will add their own flavor and bring the photo to life. Each student will produce a frameable work of art.

*Terri DeGezelle, Photographer and Author*

## 7. No Question About It: Writing a Story is Simple!

If you want to be an author or if you think making up stories is hard, this class is for you! Follow a simple process that makes storytelling a snap. We will work together through a series of questions that lead to an amazing story—usually with hilarious results. Then try it on your own, or with a friend, to tell your own incredible tale!

*Ryan Jacobson, Author and Presenter*

## 8. Ojibwe Shoulder Bag Activity

Based on stories from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in central Minnesota, this session will enrich your knowledge of Ojibwe culture, history and arts both past and present. Honor the story of the artist who created your bag's pre-printed design while you use your own artistic expression to complete it. You'll leave with a unique piece of art!

*Cheryl Minnema, Artist and Author*

## 9. Patterns in Time and Space

Take a trip around the globe as you learn line and circle dances from all over the world. Some are familiar, some are a bit bizarre, but all are fun!

*Kate Stuart, Dance Instructor*

## 10. Readers Theater

Readers Theater is a form of theatrical expression where the actors "read" with expression without the requirement of memorization. All participants will be cast in a humorous show that features costumes and props that all contribute to hilarious entertainment. Come to this session prepared to be someone or something you are not!

*Melanie M. Schmidt, Mankato Community Education/Recreation*

## 11. Special Occasion Cards

Join us for a card making frenzy! Learn how to create cards for any occasion using common supplies you have at home. Patterns and ideas will be provided, but you may use your creativity to make them special!

*Marcella Eilders, Crafter*

## 12. Here Be Dragons!

Do you like stories about dragons and other mythical creatures? Unicorns, trolls, giants or things that go bump in the night? In this class, an experienced writer of fantasy stories will give you tips for creating your own original, marvelous creatures. Get a little history behind the most famous dragons and monsters and have time to create your own!

*Nicholas Ozment, Author, Presenter and Educator*

## 13. On a Roll: Great Story Starters

Using a set of story dice we will harness your creative ideas, helping them to become fully formed stories in just a few shakes of the dice.

*Jackie Jensen, Author*

## 14. Kids in the Mud

Create a small bowl out of air dry clay in this session. Choose any theme for your bowl including shapes, letters, stars and moons, swirls, leaves or nature objects... anything you can imagine! Take home your clay made creation. After three days, the clay will be dry and can be painted with any acrylic paint from your local art store.

*Tracy Calmes, Artist*

## 15. Abstract Art Game

Let's play an abstract art game! Explore the elements of art. Take turns picking challenges. You never know what will happen in an abstract art challenge. Race against the clock to complete the challenge and end up with an abstract masterpiece!

*Cassandra Labairon, Artist and Poet*

## 16. Journal with "Betsy"

Maud Hart Lovelace'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 had kept as a young girl for her resources. Learn how you can capture your memories by keeping a journal and scrapbook. Create a journal of your own to begin journaling your story.

*Betsy Tacy Society*

### 17. Creating Rural Art (Tuesday, March 7 only)

Ever wonder who those people are in the famous painting "American Gothic?" Come find out in this session! We'll learn some brief history on the artist Grant Wood. He lived just across the border in Iowa. In addition to "American Gothic," he is also famous for his rural landscape pictures. We will try our hand at some landscape pictures of our own – Grant Wood style.

*Kari Sehloff, Educator and Presenter*

### 18. YOUR Nature Story Needs to be Told! (Tuesday, March 7 only)

Do you pay attention to the furry, flying and swimming critters around you? Their stories need to be shared! Join us as we write an article together for a website, newspaper, Facebook or for your own journal. We will bring sample specimens and photos of animals and birds you've never experienced before and share about the discovery of a woolly mammoth femur right here in the Minnesota River Valley! We need your creative genius to assist us in telling their story. Come prepared for surprises!

*Barbara and Art Straub, Educators and Nature Writers*

### Ruth Berglin Memorial Scholarship

The Ruth Berglin Memorial Scholarship is available to homeschool students in grades 3-9. Ruth was a long-time presenter at the SCSC Young Writers & Artist Conference, a dedicated homeschool teacher, former public school educator, musician and published author. Her book, "Dear Big, Mean, Ugly Monster" was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award and is recommended for anyone who has ever peered nervously under the bed after dark.

To inquire about the scholarship, please contact Mary Hillmann at [mhillmann@mncsc.org](mailto:mhillmann@mncsc.org) or 952-715-8745.

### 19. Pigs & Pens Bookmaking Workshop (Tuesday, March 7 only)

Calling all enthusiastic and creative students who want to become published authors and illustrators! In this hands-on session we will work through the creative process making books. We will start with a series of drawing exercises; move into developing the story, its characters, mood, setting, etc.; and then brainstorm the story. Once we have creatively flushed out our ideas, we will break up into teams to illustrate and color the pages in the book with some fun techniques.

*Frank, Dave and Paul Kamish, Authors and Illustrators*

### 20. You are a Book Character! (Tuesday, March 7 only)

Learn how to create a character, starting with details from your own life. Your experiences can be the inspiration for amazing characters!

*Elen Bahr, Author and Presenter*

## REGISTRATION

Visit [www.mncsc.org](http://www.mncsc.org) click on "Events & Registration."

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

### Young Writers & Artists Conference Payment Coupon

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

Attending on: \_\_\_ March 7 \_\_\_ March 8      Grade Level \_\_\_(3-4) \_\_\_(5-6) \_\_\_(7-9)

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ District Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Regular Registration (Ends Feb. 24 or when sessions are full) – \$27/student

Late Registration (Feb. 25–March 3) – \$37/student (limited session availability)

Walk-in Registration (March 7 or 8) – \$37/student (limited session availability)

**Online Registration Questions/Assistance, Contact The Conference Coordinator:**

[mhillmann@mncsc.org](mailto:mhillmann@mncsc.org) or (952) 715-8745