

LAURIE CALKHOVEN

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WORKSHOPS FOR WRITERS

Inner Lives: Using Meditation to Dig Deep into Character

This meditation workshop focuses on creating and bringing characters to life. Using relaxation and guided meditation, writers are able to breathe life into their characters and make all kinds of exciting discoveries about who they are and what they want. Meditations are followed by writing periods and opportunities to share work. The focus is on exploring new territory with your characters and your story.

Available as a 50-minute, two-hour, half-day, or full-day workshop.

Meditations for Writers and Illustrators

Whether you're brainstorming new ideas, searching for the heart of your story, trying to conjure up a scene, revising a manuscript, or just getting to know your characters, meditation can help. Various meditation and visualization techniques are taught, followed by writing and drawing sessions. Writers and illustrators report a richer, deeper connection to their stories and to their characters following this workshop.

Available as a 50-minute, two-hour, half-day, or full-day workshop.

Scene Structure: Key Elements in the Building Blocks of Your Story

The scene is the basic building block of any story. Great scenes hook readers (not to mention agents and editors), but what makes a great scene? This workshop delves into the key elements that go into writing great scenes—stage setup, characters and their motives, large and small actions, dialogue, and point of view—and talks about how to make them all work together to build to an exciting scene climax. Examples are drawn from popular works of contemporary middle grade and YA fiction.

Available as a 50-minute lecture and as a two-hour session with writing exercises.

Digging Deeper: Using Subtext to Add Depth to Your Stories

Subtext, the true meaning simmering underneath the surface, adds depth and layers of meaning to our stories. Often what's missing in the text is the most important part—the motives, thoughts, emotions, and human truths that resonate with multiple meanings. Using examples from multiple popular works of fiction, we'll look at the many ways to use subtext to add meaning beneath the words.

Available as a 50-minute lecture or a two-hour workshop with writing exercises.

Plot Points and Key Scenes: Using Screenwriting Techniques to Plot Your Novel

Drawing on the teachings of screenwriting gurus like Robert McKee and Sid Field, this workshop unravels the mysteries of the standard three-act dramatic structure employed by Hollywood's best screenwriters.

From inciting incidents and plot points to the final twist in the climax, I draw on my own novels and popular books and movies as examples, including *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Hunger Games*, *Toy Story* and *E.T.* to outline the classic plot structure that keeps readers turning the pages.

Available as a 50-minute lecture.

Quitting Your Day Job: Making a Living as a Freelance Writer

From ghostwriting to media tie-ins and series nonfiction, having “your” book published isn't the only way to make a living as a children's author. In this workshop I share my techniques for networking and getting hired in the sometimes rocky world of freelance writing. I talk about the various kinds of freelance work available to children's book writers (including work-for-hire, ghostwriting, educational publishing, and book doctoring), as well as my methods for networking, winning jobs, and keeping my clients happy.

Available as a 50-minute lecture.

About Me

I am the author of nearly 50 books for young readers. Currently I'm writing for American Girl's *Innerstar University* and *History's Mysteries* series along with historical action/adventure novels for my own series with Penguin, *Boys of Wartime*. I've also ghostwritten popular fantasy and mystery novels. My most recent work of nonfiction is *I Grew Up to be President*. I am a frequent lecturer and workshop presenter at regional SCBWI conferences, including NJ SCBWI, NE SCBWI, and RACWI