

BENTONVILLE'S
4TH ANNUAL YOUTH LITERATURE FESTIVAL
APRIL 27 & 28, 2018



BYLF4 AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR LIST + BPL SESSIONS

Ellen Airgood grew up on a small farm, as the youngest of four children. For the last nineteen years, she has been a waitress in a Michigan town where she owns a diner with her husband. Her writing reflects her life experiences and she credits her customers for giving her practice as a storyteller. Her book, *The Education of Ivy Blake*, is featured on the Arkansas' "Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award" list. [ellenairgood.com, library.arkansas.gov]

Recommended for Grades 4 - 6

ASK THE AUTHOR

Ellen Airgood, author of *The Education of Ivy Blake*, provides an overview of her writing journey-which began in the fourth grade-and process, with a Q and A to follow.

Karen Akins writes humorous, light science fiction for young adults and the young-in-spirit. Akins' book *Loop* was an Arkansas Teen Book Award winner in 2016 and her book *Twist* was featured on the 2015 "Arkansas Gems" list. [goodreads.com, library.arkansas.gov]

Recommended for Grades 5-12

LET'S HEAR IT FOR RESEARCH: HOW TRUE FACTS INFORM FICTION

Have you ever wondered how far chickens can fly? How many versions of "The Mona Lisa" exist? Or what color a sunrise is on Mars? (Surprise, it's not what you think.) If you like oddball trivia and interesting facts, perhaps writing fiction is for you. Join local children's authors Kristin L. Gray and Karen Akins as they shows in their own work, just how fun fact-based fiction can be.

James Babb is an award-winning author and a cancer survivor. His novel, *The Devil's Backbone* was named Independent Book of the Day. If he isn't fishing, hunting or writing, he's thinking about fishing, hunting or writing. [jamesbabb.wordpress.com]

Recommended for Grades 5-6

ACTION AND ADVENTURE THROUGH HISTORICAL FICTION!

Set in rural Arkansas in the 1880s, The Devil's Backbone historical fiction series is about a young boy's adventures involving a horrible accident, bounty hunters and a fierce wild-man. But what part of the tale is fiction, and what part is true? The answers might surprise you!

Mary Casanova is an award-winning children's author of novels and picture books. Much of her work stems from her life on the Minnesota-Canadian border yet increasingly, Casanova's research takes her as far away as France and Norway. Casanova has also published books for teens, as well as several American Girl novels. [marycasanova.com]

Recommended for Grades K-6

AMERICAN GIRL GET-TOGETHER

Set in rural Arkansas in the 1880s, The Devil's Backbone historical fiction series is about a young boy's adventures involving a horrible accident, bounty hunters and a fierce wild-man. But what part of the tale is fiction, and what part is true? The answers might surprise you!

Thomas Cochran was raised in Haynesville, Louisiana, which serves as the model for the town of Oil Camp, the primary setting for his novels: *Roughnecks*, *Running the Dogs*, and *Uncle Drew and the Bat Dodger*. *Roughnecks* was a Young People's National Book Award nominee and has been called "... the best novel ever written about high school football." [School Library Journal] Mr. Cochran currently lives with his wife on some acres in rural Northwest Arkansas.

Recommended for Grades 5-12

POINT OF VIEW

Point of View Young writers interested in how a writer decides upon a point of view will find Thomas Cochran's discussion of his work helpful

Rich Davis is a professional artist, children's book artist, and drawing game inventor. He has published more than fifteen books, including the popular *Tiny the Dog* series. Rich teaches drawing instruction at schools and created *Pick and Draw*, which he developed into an activity book and game. [compiled by BPL staff]

Recommended for Grades K-6

YOU ARE CREATIVE!

Children's book illustrator, Rich Davis, will take you on a creative exploring adventure through drawing fun things with him.

Evin Demirel is a Little Rock native who is a longtime writer of Arkansas sports. He is a journalist whose work is printed in several media publications and author of *African American Athletes in Arkansas: Muhammad Ali's Tour, Black Razorbacks & Other Forgotten Stories*. [@evindemirel]

Recommended for Grades 7-12

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATHLETES IN ARKANSAS: MUHAMMAD ALI'S TOUR, BLACK RAZORBACKS + OTHER FORGOTTEN STORIES DISCUSSION

Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali and Colin Kaepernick — these athletes and more have helped changed American society in profound ways. Join sports historian Evin Demirel, a former Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reporter, for a look into sports as an agent for change nationally and in Arkansas. He will share not only stories within his book, but some of the journalistic methods used to chronicle them.

Alan Gratz was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee. He now lives with his wife Wendi and his daughter Jo in the high country of Western North Carolina, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly, reading books. [alangratz.com] Gratz's work has been included in the Bentonville Public Middle Schools' "Battle of the Books" competition in recent years.

Recommended for Grades 5-8

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

Join Alan Gratz, the New York Times bestselling author of the middle grade novels *Prisoner B-3087*, *Projekt 1065*, *Ban This Book*, *Refugee* and more, for an interactive presentation where YOU get to decide which direction the speech goes! Want to hear about his disastrous Little League adventures, or his abject failure as a youth soccer player? Want to hear about *Code of Honor*, or *The League of Seven*? It's up to you!

Kristin L. Gray drinks coffee (cream, no sugar) and writes books (funny, not sad) from her home in northwest Arkansas. She loves to read, walk her dogs, and eat cake for breakfast. She will also travel any chance she gets. Kristin's fourth-grade self would never believe she has five children, two dogs, one fish, a bearded dragon and a shy gecko. *Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge* is her first novel. [kristinlgray.com]

Recommended for Grades K-6

LET'S HEAR IT FOR RESEARCH: HOW TRUE FACTS INFORM FICTION

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Ard Hoyt was born in Temple, Texas and lives in Bentonville, Arkansas. Raised on picture books, from a very early age, Ard discovered that he could go anywhere in a picture book. This freedom grew to include his own pictures. Before long, Ard discovered that with a white sheet of paper, he could change the weather. He knew that he wanted to be a children's book illustrator and dreamed of one day having a book with his name on it next to the great ones. [ardhoytbooks.com]

Recommended for Grades K-4

ARDLANDIA (A PLACE OF MAGIC AND WONDER!)

How would you like to be queen or king of the world? A world you invented that's filled with the coolest kids - all your best friends, magical talking beasts - and danger. All the ingredients you need for grand adventures!

Follow Ard Hoyt as he shows you how he created worlds of pure imagination for over 30 children's books. It is a presentation full of funny stories and loaded with amazing pictures! Right this way your highness.

Kazu Kibuishi, author and illustrator of the popular *Amulet* series, is the founder and editor of the Flight Anthologies, a critically acclaimed comics series, as well as the creator of *Daisy Cutter: The Last Train*, a winner of the YALSA Best Books for Young Adults Award. Born in Tokyo, Japan, Kazu moved to the U.S. with his mother and brother when he was a child. He graduated from Film Studios at the University of California Santa Barbara, and then moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. He currently works as a full-time comic book artist. Kazu lives with his wife in Alhambra, California. [scholastic.com]

Recommended for Grades 5-8, ESL Students and Families, and Educators

WRITING WITH PICTURES: THE AMULET SERIES

Meet Kazu Kibuishi, creator of the Amulet graphic novel series! He'll show you how he creates the characters and settings of the Amulet series, and he'll talk about the importance of perseverance and making mistakes along the way.

Watch Kazu draw and paint, and learn how his education in filmmaking prepared him for a career as a graphic novelist. He'll also give you an inside look at how he redesigned the book covers for the 15th anniversary of Harry Potter.

Session Location: Old High Middle School Auditorium

Caroline Tung Richmond is an award-winning young adult author, whose books include *The Only Thing to Fear*, *The Darkest Hour*, and *Live In Infamy* (March 2018). Caroline is also the Program Director of We Need Diverse Books, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advocates for diversity in children's publishing. In her free time she likes to read good books, dabble in graphic design, plot ways to get more stamps in her passport, and hang out with her family. [carolinetrichmond.com] Her book, *The Only Thing to Fear* is included in the 2017-2018 Bentonville Public Middle Schools' "Battle of the Books" competition.

Recommended for Grades 5-8

CHOOSE YOUR OWN TIMELINE: THE ALTERNATE HISTORY GENE

In this interactive presentation, Caroline will take the audience on a historical time warp, exploring real-life events and possible what-ifs.

Roland Smith received an old manual typewriter from his parents when he was five years old that quickly became his favorite possession. Smith's passion for writing unexpectedly led him to working with animals, including zoo and conservation work. Over the years, Smith has written numerous books for young readers, including *Jack's Run*, *Zach's Lie*, *Cryptid Hunters*, *Peak*, *Tentacles* and the *Storm Runners* series. [scholastic.com] Smith's work has been included in the Bentonville Public Middle Schools' "Battle of the Books" competition in recent years.

Recommended for Grades 5-8

WRITING WILD, WILD WRITER

Join NYT bestselling author Roland Smith as he takes you around the world doing research for his award-winning adventure novels with step-by-step instruction on how you too can write a book.

Janet Wong was born in Los Angeles, CA, the daughter of a Chinese-immigrant father and a Korean-immigrant mother. She is the author of 30 books for young people, including picture books, poetry, chapter books, the interactive *Poetry Friday Power Book* series for young writers, and *The Poetry Friday Anthology* series for teachers, librarians, and students. Janet has been honored with numerous awards, has been featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and CNN, and has read her books at the White House. [scholastic.com, Janet Wong]

Recommended for Grades K-4

THE POET AND THE POOCH: FEATURING JANET WONG AND RUFF, RUFF, READ

Janet Wong's book *Pet Crazy: A Poetry Friday Power Book* looks at many ways that pets are special to children, including a dog and rabbit that serve as reading buddies. When we give children the opportunity to read to a therapy animal, we are offering them a safe and comfortable companion for building their reading skill and confidence. Please join Janet Wong and our Ruff, Ruff, Read volunteers as we share favorite selections with our poetry-loving pooches (and a stuffed toy rabbit, too). Children of all reading levels are welcome.

A FESTIVAL OF FAMILY STORIES: CELEBRATING 'DIA' WITH JANET WONG

Recommended for Grades K-4, ESL Students and Families, and Educators

April 30th is Día, also known as Children's Day, Book Day—the perfect time for parents, grandparents, and children to share favorite poems and stories representing a wide variety of cultures. Join author Janet Wong for this early *Día* program where she will share diverse selections from *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Celebrations* and other books. Children from local elementary schools will be invited to participate onstage in this special event. Open to all.

Session Location: Old High Middle School Auditorium

Note: grade recommendations are a general guideline; most of authors/illustrators are appropriate and will adapt their presentations for various ages and grade-levels, including adults.



*BYLF is presented by the Bentonville Public Library and Bentonville Library Foundation.
Learn more at bylf.org.*