



The 2022 Pre-Quill Conference

**April 23, 2022
11am - 7pm**

**Utah Museum Of Contemporary Art in
SLC, Utah**

**(Virtual access begins March 23rd, see schedule and
class list for more details)**

Our annual Pre-Quill Conference is a hybrid conference with a collection of pre-recorded presentations available for viewing for a month, and a day of live and streaming workshops and a keynote featuring K.B. Wagers on April 23, 2022.

COVID policy

Due to COVID-19, we require anyone attending in person to be fully vaccinated and wear masks while not actively eating or drinking. The live portion of the Pre-Quill Conference will be held at the Utah Museum Of Contemporary Art in SLC, Utah.

Keynote

KB Wagers

(they/them)



Sci-Fi Novelist

Writer, Fool, All-Around Weirdo

Pronouns: they/them

Twitter: @kbwagers

Instagram: @midwaybrawler

FB: @authorkbwagers

<http://www.kbwagers.com>

Out now from Orbit Books! -
THE INDRANAN WAR TRILOGY
THE FARIAN WAR TRILOGY

and from Harper Voyager -
A PALE LIGHT IN THE BLACK (A NeoG Novel)
HOLD FAST THROUGH THE FIRE (Out Now!)

Schedule

9-11am League of Utah Writers Board meeting

11-12:20 Lunch break

12:30-12:50pm Welcome Address

1:00-2:50pm A Life Before The Book Workshop with K.B. Wagers

3:00-4:50pm The Art of the Sentence and the Line: A Generative Workshop
on the Prose Poem with Paula Mendoza

5:00-6:00pm Into the Breach Keynote with K.B. Wagers

6:00-7:00pm book signing

2022 Pre-Quill Workshops



A Life Before The Book

K.B. Wagers

Author of *Hold Fast Through the Fire*



**The Art of the Sentence and the Line: A Generative
Workshop on the Prose Poem**

Paula Mendoza

Author of *Play for Time*

2022 Class List

Presentation Title	Class Track	Class Level	Description	Presenter
Infinite Worlds in Finite Time,	Craft	Intermediate	World-building is difficult. How do you know where to start, and how do you know when to stop? We'll go over a method of creating a world with a rich history you can draw upon in a way that still leaves you time to write.	John M. Olsen
Dual Wielding: Harnessing Fanfiction as a Writing Tool	Genre Specific / Ask an Expert	Beginner	At its core, fanfiction is a simple concept: the taking of an existing work and building upon it. By removing the concept of "fan" from the larger conversation, contemporary works are more known as adaptations or "tie in" media. (Think, Pride and Prejudice and Zombies or any Star Wars novel.) But the basis of the ideas of all of these is the same: I liked this thing, I want to write in this thing's universe, and I want people to see my love of the thing. (Some writers are just able to make some money while doing it.) In this presentation, we will be covering what fanfiction is and how to leverage it to improve one's writing craft.	Anna Bessesen and Shauna Brock
How to Use Art in Your Writing When You're Not an Artist	Genre Specific / Ask an Expert	Beginner	Are you looking for new methods to enrich world-building, develop characters, or control pacing? In this class we'll cover these aspects and discuss trends of art in books. Best of all, you don't need to draw straight lines, do more than stick figures, or have an artist's eye.	Michelle Henrie
Show vs. Tell	Craft	Beginner	You've heard the phrase "show don't tell" and know it is a basic concept for improving your writing. But what exactly does this buzzword mean and, more importantly, how do you figure out how to use the fundamental writing advice behind it? In this presentation you'll learn what it means to show and what it means to tell with tips on ways to spot each in your own work, how to use character point of view to 'show' more effectively, and how to make your words do more to tighten your writing.	Terra Luft
5 Comments From Feedback Groups and What They Mean	Craft	Beginner	Nervous about handing your work over to strangers? Puzzling through a marked up manuscript with notes like "Cut Adverb" and "Talking Heads?" Join this session for a run through of common critiques and what they mean. Though feedback is always subjective, learning to address common pitfalls will make your work irresistible for readers!	Heidi Voss

Intimacy, Consent, and Sex in Fiction	Craft	Beginner	Are you interested in writing better romantic relationships? In this session, you will learn why love, intimacy, and consent go hand in hand to build healthier, happier characters your readers will care about. People think romance and sex go together. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. In this session, you'll learn what's at the heart of a romance. We'll touch on age levels, romance subgenres, and heat levels. Then we'll discuss what makes a good sex scene and how to write one.	Rachael Bush
Fight Scenes we Love and Why they Work	Genre Specific / Ask an Expert	Beginner	Ever caught yourself praying for the main character in the middle of a fight scene? We've all seen those movie fights that make us shake our heads, but there are plenty of well crafted fight scenes from Jack Reacher to The Princess Bride. Join trained fighter and fiction author Heidi Voss in a discussion of what makes a great fight scene believable and dramatic, whether in a movie or book, and what kind of mistakes can take us out of the action.	Heidi Voss
Inclusive Language	Craft	Beginner	A study on language use and specific words to use or to avoid to make your language more inclusive--and which words to look for in any manuscript you edit. Language we have unconsciously learned from society can be ableist, sexist, racist, etc. Learn how to edit language that is mindful to those who have learning disabilities, mental illness, chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, or who are neurodivergent.	Talysa Sainz
World in a Week: How to Build a Realistic Fantasy World	Craft	Beginner	Daunted by the idea of building an entire world? Fear not! This workshop-style class will help you learn the methods behind the madness that will help you craft your fantasy world from the ground up (literally)!	Stan Johnson
Basic Story Structure	Craft	Beginner	A class on basic story structure. Let me introduce you to three acts, Freytag, Crisis and Climax. This is the form stories traditionally take and understanding it key to writing accessible fiction.	Johnny Worthen

Making Sense of Money: How to Write about Finance, Investing, Wall Street, and Even Cryptocurrencies	Practical Applications	Beginner	How should you talk about money in your writing? Too often writers, especially fiction writers, fall back on stereotypical depictions of Wall Street, wealth, finance, and all things involving money without a well-grounded, nuanced understanding. Yet issues around money may be critical to the tension, conflict, or setting of a story. (For example, the exuberant world of money-making in 1922 was crucial to F. Scott Fitzgerald's <i>The Great Gatsby</i>.) In this fast-paced presentation, we'll cover some key elements of the financial world with an eye toward writers' needs. Attendees will come away with a better sense of how to write about financial issues and situations in their stories, as well as how to research the details when it's needed.	Patrick Partridge
Care and Feeding of your Amazon Author Account	Marketing	Beginner	When should you set up an Amazon Author Account, and what is it good for? We'll go over the when, how, and why of setting up your Amazon Author account and keeping it up-to-date.	John M. Olsen
Creating Dread	Craft	Beginner	Learn how to fill your stories with dread and terror using simple techniques utilized by horror masters.	C.R. Langille
Building Your Self-Publishing Team	Publishing	Beginner	You want to self-publish, and do it right, but how do you know what to hire out and what to do yourself so that your book is the best it can be? This presentation clearly lays out the team members you'll need and where to find them. It steps you through how to hire them and what to do when it all goes wrong and gives you a clear understand of what earnings in self-publishing look like and how to make this career work best for you.	Callie Stoker
Having Fun with Poetic Forms	Poetry/Craft	Beginner	I don't know about you, but when I think of poetry, I think of Shakespeare or John Donne, or Robert Frost. But poetry can be simple. The important thing is to write it. Why? Because writing poetry helps you think about words. Their connotation and denotation. It helps you cut down to the barest sentences. And that can help you become a better writer. In addition, if you want to use poetry in your prose, you either have to find something in the public domain or write it yourself. So, learn to write and learn to write well. In this class, we are going to learn several simple poetic forms that you can use to ease in to writing poetry.	C. H. Lindsay (Charlie)

Cover Letter Basics - Crucial Content	Practical Applications	Beginner	Basic formatting and content for cover letters. What to say, how to say it, and common mistakes to avoid.	Amira Shea
Indie Publishing 101	Publishing	Beginner	Independent publishing is one of many ways to get your story out there, but how can you get started self-publishing your work? League of Utah Writers 2021 Writer of the Year Caryn Larrinaga de-mystifies the ins and outs of publishing ebooks, paperbacks, and audiobooks for profit.	Caryn Larrinaga
Developing a Writing Group from Principles Learned from the Inklings	Practical Applications	Beginner	The Inklings was a writing group that included C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, along with other prolific writers. Along with the novels many of us are familiar with, their shared space created many other works of many different types. Along with the amount of finished material they created, the Inklings also stayed together as a writing group for almost 20 years. We will explore some of the lessons of how the Inklings were so successful using the basis of the book Bandersnatch: C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and the Creative Collaboration of the Inklings by Diana Pavlac Glyer.	Daniel Yocom
Write Captivating Prose With Clearer Sentences	Craft	Beginner	Want your readers staying up all night with a flashlight to finish your book? Help your readers fly through your prose by improving the clarity of your sentences and flow of ideas. Heidi Voss will discuss some pointers from "Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace" that will help you smooth out your conceptual wrinkles. Tips from this presentation will help not only with your latest WIP, but in business, talking to your friends, and any other places you use sentences.	Heidi Voss
How Personality Type Impacts Your Character	Craft	Intermediate	Want to know how to torture your character? Well, the WORST thing that could happen to a character really depends on personality type. For instance, yellows hate isolation, but reds hate failure. Learn what makes your characters their happiest, angriest, saddest, and more irritated versions of themselves.	Amy Michelle Carpenter
Creating a Language	Practical Applications	Intermediate	Creating a new language isn't just assigning random vocabulary to the words you'll use in your manuscript. Your language needs the right sounds, cases, conjugations, sentence structure, idioms, history, decay, and functionality. The language also needs to be appropriate for the culture, geography, and history of your people. Whether you need only a few sentences or an entire dictionary, learn how to create a believable language for your world and how to keep track of it.	Talysa Sainz

Mastering the Art of Networking in the Writing Community	Practical Applications	Beginner	Love it or hate it, Networking is a key piece to unlocking insights, establishing connections with organizations, and creating invaluable relationships. Let's be honest, most people really dislike this part of professional growth, but it doesn't have to be painful or forced. Come learn how to position yourself, when to connect, and how to appropriately use those amazing connections.	Jared Quan
Science in Speculative Fiction	Craft	Beginner	Science fiction hinges on interesting science. Being good at it means having a decent grasp of current real-world science and how to tease it out for your stories. We'll talk about ways to find story nuggets in modern science and strategies for making sure you get it right.	Cassidy Ward
Investing in Romance: How to Create a Relationship that Compounds	Genre Specific / Ask an Expert	Beginner	Hone your romance writing skills and discover how to build a solid relationship between your characters that your readers can root for. Taught by Haley Cavanagh, who also writes award-winning, best-selling romance as Roxanne D. Howard.	Haley Cavanagh
Writer's Block Myth & Wakening Your Creativity	Publishing	Intermediate	Writer's Block is a myth. Muse is a myth. Writing is a craft. You can learn a few tricks and turn your inner critic into a friend. Step into your fears every day.	Inna Lyon
Writing Short Stories	Craft	Beginner	Writing short fiction is the perfect way to feel the shape of a story in a more contained format. You'll learn about the pieces that make up good short stories and how to write your own.	Cassidy Ward
Freelancing 101	Craft	Beginner	For writers looking to build a career (or even a side hustle) freelancing for online outlets. We'll talk about building a portfolio, networking, finding a niche, and getting paid.	Cassidy Ward
Fantasy Writing Requires Research!	Craft	Beginner	In fantasy world creation, the right details can make the difference between the average and the extraordinary. Learn what questions you should be answering about your characters, setting, and culture to help guide your research.	Jodi L. Milner
Writing Great Dialogue	Craft	Beginner	Dialogue is one of the most challenging and nuanced skills a writer can learn. Award-winning author and screenwriter Bryan Young teaches you how to craft great dialogue that helps your story and rewards your reader rather than drag it down and exhaust them.	Bryan Young
The Secret Novelist: 44 Resources for Your Writing Journey	Craft	Intermediate	A glimpse into more than 44 tools and resources in six topical areas novice and intermediate authors can use in their writing journey. These include researching, writing, editing, and writing software. This is not a "how-to" class, but a journey of discovery to find the best writing resources to save you time and money in your writing quest.	Howard Collett

The Benefit of Writing Exercises	Craft	Beginner	Come prepared to workshop a few writing exercises designed to start up your creativity or help fill-in the gaps within storytelling and character development.	Candace J. Thomas
Editing and Revision	Craft	Intermediate	Award-winning author Bryan Young goes through tips and tricks to revise your manuscript so you don't feel bad sending it out.	Bryan Young
Arranging the right words: Poetry	Poetry	Beginner	This class teaches how to look at things from a poetic eye and ear and putting down those words to stimulate the emotions from laughter to sorrow and horror to amazement and fear to love. We'll study how to build a poem from first draft to final perfection.	Jef R Huntsman
Navigating a Path to Find Your Work/Life Balance	Practical Applications	Beginner	There is no one size fits all solution to establish your perfect work/life balance. However, there are tools and tips to help you navigate your own personal set of situations to establish the everchanging perfect work/life balance. I have gone from no kids to five kids, with a range from various medical needs to autistic diagnosis, and balanced that while serving on five non-profit boards and working two jobs at the same time.	Jared Quan
How to Speak Editor	Craft	Beginner	Editing can be an expensive investment. This presentation will go through the editing funnel, the kinds of editors and the different levels of editing. How to find an editor and build a trusting relationship with them, and how to spot an editor that won't be right for you or your work.	Callie Stoker
Essentials to Writing from Your Family History	Craft	Beginner	Discover how interesting your family is and how you can apply that to your writing. Come learn the essentials to developing a process to getting into that rich history. As an interview with StoryCorps, as the League of Utah Writers Historian and as a professional Lyft Driver, I have learned how to find those deeper details, and I share them with you. Discover why you should use the things you have learned to create richer and deeper writing in your works.	Jared Quan
Choose your own adventure: Publishing paths, and red flags to watch for	Publishing	Beginner	You've finished writing a book. Now what? Explore your options in traditional and non-traditional publishing, and how to steer clear of red flags along the way.	Christina Allen
Choosing the Right POV	Craft	Intermediate	The same story can be told from a dozen different perspectives, but which one is the right one? Award-winning author Bryan Young shows you how to evaluate your story to pick your POV character with purpose.	Bryan Young

Query Letters: Keeping It Simple	Publishing	Intermediate	Have you ever struggled with writing a query letter? Have you longed for a better way of getting attention for your book? This class will focus on a proven method to write a query letter to start getting more manuscript requests, which may then turn into representation requests and contract offers.	Brandon J Greer
Elder Futhark Runes & Their Meanings	Practical Applications	Beginner	Learn about the oldest form of the runic alphabet! Comprising of 24 different runes, you will learn the history, meanings, and applications to include bind runes and divination.	Cody Reed Langille
Creating Pathos	Craft	Beginner	Making your readers care about your words is one of the most powerful tools in a writer's toolbox. Learn subtle word art to help elevate the emotion in your sentences.	Candace J. Thomas
Mixed-genre Critique Groups: Yes You Can!	Craft	Beginner	When it comes to critique groups, the conventional wisdom is to find critique partners that write in the same genre as you. The women of the Beta Fish Tank Critique Group disagree. Come learn what works and doesn't work in a mixed-genre critique group. Also, sit-in for a live critique session.	SARAH ALVA
A Whole New World	Craft	Beginner	Calling all fantasy lovers! How do you build a world? Where do you start? What details are fluff and which are fascinating? In this class, we'll explore the basics of worldbuilding in a way that's easy to implement right away.	Sammie Trinidad
The Secrets of Pre-Writing	Craft	Beginner	Understanding pre-writing as part of your writing process might happen in a spreadsheet or in your imagination, but it is part of every writer's story creation. We will explore different kinds of pre-writing for plotters and pantsers and discover that we all have the same goals, just different paths that lead us there.	Callie Stoker
Lessons Learned: How I Got Published and What I Learned Along the Way	Publishing	Beginner	Are you new to writing? Not sure what's in store for you? In this session, we'll discuss reasons to persevere, how to improve your writing, when to edit, when to query, and how to publish. Everything you need to know to keep writing!	Rachael Bush

The Power of Choice in Your Creative Life	Practical Applications	Beginner	We've all heard the list of what it takes to be a successful writer. But we all know it's not as simple as good ol' blood, sweat, and tears. Life throws us for a loop, time sets limitations we don't want to accept, and our vision and goals shift along the way. For these reasons and more, the age-old practice of a blind achievement-at-all-cost-based success works against more than for us. What if I told you that what will really propel you toward success (and infinitely boost your happiness along the way) is acknowledging the power of—and making—choices? Leave the guilt trips and frustration behind and join a recovering achievement-obsessed to-do-list junkie for a discussion about how to tap into the all-affecting power of our own choice that will fast-track us into—and beyond—the kind of success we dream of.	Mandy Ballard
The Muddled Middle	Craft	Intermediate	It's the hardest part. You know the beginning, it flowed like water, you know the end, it'll be breathtaking, now you just have to write the connecting bit, the eighty percent between the two,. No problem, but your Muse is on vacation, another project beckons and there's little enthusiasm for the next chapter. Could this be writer's block? This is the muddled middle. Class will explore this terrible phenomenon and offer concrete tools to overcome it and return the writer to the rails.	Johnny Worthen
Short Story Prep and Submission	Publishing	Beginner	Short Story Prep and Submission: I wrote something. Now what? Learn about using the tools of the trade, the basics of critique and editing, and how to make a good impression on those who will see and evaluate your short stories.	John M. Olsen

2022 Pre-Quill Faculty

Amira Shea

Amira Shea is a Certified Professional Resume Writer and owner of Paradise Writing, LLC. She has over 20 years of experience in creative, corporate, and academic environments. Personally, she writes creative non-fiction, flash fiction, essays, poetry, and children's books. She believes representation matters and black people, specifically black women and girls, contain multitudes. She is adamant that the diaspora is recognized for more than their trauma and that black women deserve unfettered, unburdened, unregulated happiness and to live their best lives without permission. She holds an MFA in creative writing, non-fiction, and a Bachelor's in Chinese.

Teaching

Cover Letter Basics - Crucial Content

Amy Michelle Carpenter

Michelle Carpenter is the owner of Monster Ivy, a publishing house devoted to creating "Edgy, Clean" fiction. She is also an award winning, bestselling author of YA fiction.

Teaching

How Personality Type Impacts Your Character

Anna Bessesen

Anna Bessesen is an award-winning queer and nonbinary author that specializes in transformative fiction. They have been writing for over 20 years and a member of fan communities for just as long. They have published over 1.4 million words of fanfiction on AO3. Previously the Secretary for the League of Utah Writers, they now spend their time enjoying the perks of being a member of three different chapters of the League. When not writing, Anna does their best to teach math to high schoolers.

Teaching

Dual Wielding: Harnessing Fanfiction as a Writing Tool

Brandon J Greer

Brandon J Greer is the author of Query Letters Made Simple, a book that breaks down the process of writing a query letter. Through this process, he has received two book contracts personally and those he has helped have received over 30 manuscript requests and contract offers for publication. He hosts The Write Adventure podcast where he discusses the journey of a struggling writer.

Teaching

Query Letters: Keeping It Simple

Bryan Young

Bryan Young works across many different media. His work as a writer and producer has been called "filmmaking gold" by The New York Times. He's also published comic books with Slave Labor Graphics and Image Comics. He's been a regular contributor for the Huffington Post, StarWars.com, Star Wars Insider magazine, SYFY, /Film, and was the founder and editor in chief of the geek news and review site Big Shiny Robot! He co-authored Robotech: The Macross Saga RPG in 2019 and in 2020 he wrote a novel in the BattleTech Universe called Honor's Gauntlet. Follow him on Twitter @swankmotron.

Teaching

Writing Great Dialogue, Choosing the Right POV, Editing and Revision

C. H. Lindsay (Charlie)

C. H. Lindsay

Charlie is an award-winning poet & writer, book lover, and housewife - not necessarily in that order. She spent thirty years as an event planner, helping organize and run science fiction, fantasy, and horror conventions, and a decade acting in community theatre. Now she prefers to stay at home with her family and write fantasy and dark fantasy. She's a member of SFWA, HWA, SFPA, and LUW. Mostly blind, she lives in Utah with her seeing-eye husband's youngest son, and at least one cat. She publishes her father's True Crime (and other authors) under Carlisle Legacy Books, LLC.

Teaching

Having Fun with Poetic Forms

C.R. Langille

C.R. Langille spent many a Saturday afternoon watching monster movies with their mother. It wasn't long before they started crafting nightmares to share with their readers. They are a retired, disabled veteran with a deep love for weird and creepy tales. This prompted them to form Timber Ghost Press in January of 2021. They are an affiliate member of the Horror Writer's Association, a member of the League of Utah Writers, and they received their MFA: Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University.

Teaching

Creating Dread, Elder Futhark Runes & Their Meanings

Callie Stoker

Callie Stoker is an editor with over fifteen years of experience and a knack for knowing what makes a story shine. Her business, The Manuscript Dr, specializes in supporting writers and teaching them skills to improve their craft. Callie has two children on the Autism Spectrum and is a champion for spreading awareness and acceptance for those with disabilities. She has a theater and costuming background with a love for cosplay and is an artist with over twenty years as a calligrapher. She is a member of the Editorial Freelancers Association, the Horror Writers Association, and The League of Utah Writers.

Teaching

The Secrets of Pre-Writing, How to Speak Editor, Building Your Self-Publishing Team

Candace J. Thomas

Candace Thomas is a writer, author, poet, scientist, and imagination activist. She sees the world through poetic eyes and sometimes, it becomes a real problem.

Teaching

Creating Pathos, The Benefit of Writing Exercises

Caryn Larrinaga

Caryn Larrinaga is a Basque-American mystery and horror writer. She has won multiple awards for her work, including the League of Utah Writers Silver Quill and the Cat Writers Association Muse Medallion. In 2021, she was named Writer of the Year by the League of Utah Writers. Caryn lives in Utah with her husband and their clowder of cats. She is an active member of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, the Horror Writers Association, the Cat Writers Association, and the League of Utah Writers. Visit www.carynlarrinaga.com for free stories and true tales of haunted places.

Teaching

Indie Publishing 101

Cassidy Ward

Cassidy Ward a writer specializing in science, short stories, and freelancing. He's written for SYFY, StarTrek.com, Observer, The Daily Beast, Slashgear, and more. His debut novella, Ravel, is available now. You can find his shortest writings, by virtue of character limits, on Twitter.

Teaching

Writing Short Stories, Science in Speculative Fiction, Freelancing 101

Christina Allen

Christina Allen (publishing as C.W. Allen) is a Midwestern transplant to Utah's West Desert, where she serves as the League of Utah Writers newsletter editor and president of the West Desert Wordsmiths chapter. She writes fantasy novels for tweens, picture books for children, and short stories and poems for former children. She is also a frequent guest presenter at writing conferences and club meetings, which helps her procrastinate knuckling down to any actual writing. Her debut novel Relatively Normal Secrets was released in 2021. Keep up with her latest projects at cwallenbooks.com.

Teaching

Choose your own adventure: Publishing paths, and red flags to watch for

Daniel Yocom

Daniel Yocom writes about geeky things because people always say to write what you know. His love of the geeky, nerdy community dates to the 1960s through games, books, movies, and stranger things better shared in small groups. He's written hundreds of articles about these topics for his own blog, other websites, and magazines after conducting extensive research. He also has short stories published and is working on a novel. Research includes attending conventions, sharing on panels and presentations, and road-tripping with his wife. Join him at www.guildmastergaming.com.

Teaching

Developing a Writing Group from Principles Learned from the Inklings

Haley Cavanagh

Haley Cavanagh is a military veteran, wife, and mother. She was awarded the LUW 2020 Silver Quill Award for Retaliation, the second novel in her Oceanstone Initiative sci-fi series. Her eight popular romance novels are traditionally published under a pseudonym. Haley is an alumna of Columbia College, a musical theater nut, and a raging bibliophile. She resides with her family in Layton and enjoys spending time with her husband and children when she's not writing. She loves to hear from her readers and encourages you to contact her via her website and social media.

Teaching

Investing in Romance: How to Create a Relationship that Compounds

Heidi Voss

Heidi Voss's debut novel Frogman's Response has been praised as being "instantly engaging" and her award winning short fiction has been featured in multiple anthologies. She serves as the president of the Salt City Scribes chapter of the League of Utah Writers and has presented workshops at the Spring Pre-Quill Conference as well as FanX, Utah's comic convention. When not writing or promoting her work, she enjoys video games.

Teaching

Fight Scenes we Love and Why they Work, Write Captivating Prose With Clearer Sentences, 5 Comments From Feedback Groups and What They Mean

Howard Collett

My 11th-grade English teacher said I had a flair for writing, but it lay dormant for 16 years. Then, springing from my navy flight experience and a stint with two leading civilian helicopter corporations, I launched a magazine dedicated to hospital-based medical helicopter transport. The rest is history.

I started more magazines in diverse fields such as computer software and lifestyle, then branched into freelance writing. I have published 1,600 print and online lifestyle and how-to stories, including 3,000 photographs and 50 videos.

My adventures documenting humanitarian work in a dozen countries, coupled with an 18-month experience in Berlin, led me to my first novel, Erika's War.

Teaching

The Beginning Novelist: 44 Resources for Your Writing Journey

Inna Lyon

Inna Valerie Lyon was born and raised in the city of Taganrog, Russia and now lives in Utah, USA with her husband. She attained degrees in engineering and accounting and worked for many years in public catering and in corporate America.

Her real passion in life has always been for writing and after taking a creative writing course before she began writing contemporary fiction, short stories and flash fiction. Her work has already gained her recognition and now she is working on her first sci-fi novel.

In her free time Inna enjoys biking, yoga, cooking and traveling.

Teaching

Writer's Block Myth & Wakening Your Creativity

Jared Quan

Jared Quan is an Author/Gamer/Writer Twitch Affiliate, former writer for Sports Illustrated and Yahoo. Published works include Changing Wax, Award-Winning "Prepped", and Really Random and Ridiculous Ride-share Rumors. He has served in key roles with Storymakers, League of Utah Writers, Cultural Arts Society of West Jordan, EMAA, BigWorldNetwork, TEDxSaltLakeCity, UVU Book Academy, Utah Poet Laureate Selection Committee, and for countless events/organizations. Jared has received awards from two Presidents of the United States, from Utah State Governor, Lt. Governor, recognition from many other organizations. He has been interviewed by several websites and podcasts, including Joseph Batzel, Artifice, and Writing Excuses Podcast.

Teaching

Navigating a Path to Find Your Work/Life Balance, Mastering the Art of Networking in the Writing Community, Essentials to Writing from Your Family History

Jef R Huntsman

Jef Huntsman is the author of four fiction and two non-fiction books, numerous short stories, and two published books of poetry. A lover of the music of words, he spends most of his time writing from his loft in Salt Lake, hiking around the Pavant mountains, laughing at his own mistakes (which are numerous), and enjoying the dance of a raging fire at his ranch in central Utah.

Teaching

Arranging the right words: Poetry

Jodi L. Milner

Jodi L. Milner is the author of the YA fantasy Shadow Barrier series, which includes Stonebearer's Betrayal, winner of the LUW Recommended Read award, and Stonebearer's Apprentice, winner of the LUW Silver Quill. When not chasing daydreams, she enjoys destroying movie plots, making amigurumi, and plotting to take over the world. She makes her home in the mountains of Utah. Learn more at JodiLMilner.com.

Teaching

Fantasy Writing Requires Research!

John M. Olsen

John M. Olsen is a past president of the LUW. He uses writing to harness his burning desire to create things, hoping to entertain and enlighten others and himself. A love of stories about ordinary people stepping up to extraordinary circumstances permeates his writing. He approaches writing and editing like he approaches his secret lair full of dangerous power tools (aka wood shop), hoping to create something new and interesting with each new project.

John lives in Utah with his lovely wife and a variable number of mostly grown children and a constantly changing subset of extended family.

Teaching

Infinite Worlds in Finite Time, Short Story Prep and Submission, Care and Feeding of your Amazon Author Account

Johnny Worthen

JOHNNY WORTHEN is an award-winning, multiple-genre, tie-dye-wearing author, voyager, and damn fine human being! Trained in literary criticism and cultural studies, he writes upmarket fiction, long and short, mentors others where he can, and teaches writing at the University of Utah.

Teaching

The Muddled Middle, Basic Story Structure

K.B. Wagers

K.B. Wagers is the author of the NeoG Adventures from Harper Voyager and the Indranan and Farian War trilogies from Orbit Books. They are a fan of whiskey and cats, Jupiter Ascending and the Muppets. You can find them on Twitter @kbwagers and Instagram @midwaybrawler for political commentary, plant photos, and video game play-throughs.

Teaching

Into the Breach (Keynote Speech)

A Life Before The Book (Workshop)

Mandy Ballard

Mandy is a prolific and multi-award winning author as well as a highly sought-after editor with Salt and Sage Books. Within both her own work and in her role of supporting other writers, she has found a passion not only for storytelling and sentence structure but for the life-changing practice of detaching from the outcome and embracing the power of choice. When she's not working on her own stories or those of others, she can be found reading or doing yoga in the cracks between all that drives life on a tiny wanna-be homestead in Southern Utah.

Teaching

The Power of Choice in Your Creative Life

Michelle Henrie

Michelle Henrie spent 20 years teaching art to children and sold her artwork at art fairs. She loves adventures and flew in a bi-plane that landed on an iceberg, rode a camel, and belly danced for tips. Growing up, Michelle spent hours in The Jungle (a strip of oak trees) making up stories, secret codes, and drawing. Her mother provided a steady diet of fairy tales, mythology, Shakespeare, and classic literature. She's won awards from LUW and Writers of the Future Contest. Now Michelle lives in a blue house where she makes up stories and laughs at her own jokes.

Teaching

How to Use Art in Your Writing When You're Not an Artist

Patrick Partridge

Pat has 40+ years of managerial experience, working for large organizations, small companies, and start-ups (including his own, which failed). For 19 years he was the CMO for Western Governors University, followed by 2+ years as President of WGU Academy, a subsidiary. Pat has an MBA from the University of Virginia, and is an experienced, (mostly) successful investor.

Pat has authored children's stories, humor, short stories, and two novels, with, of course, another in the works. His political humor book, now in its third edition, has sold over 70,000 copies. His 2022 goal - write one perfect metaphor!

Teaching

Making Sense of Money: How to Write about Finance, Investing, Wall Street, and Even Cryptocurrencies

Paula Mendoza

Paula Mendoza's first book, *Play for Time*, was published by Gaudy Boy in the spring of 2020. She's a writer of the Filipino diaspora. She's currently finishing up her Ph.D. at the University of Utah.

Teaching

The Art of the Sentence and the Line: A Generative Workshop on the Prose Poem

Rachael Bush

Rachael Bush published her fourth book, *Love on Location*, with The Wild Rose Press in 2018 under her pen name, September Roberts. As September, she writes romance that's smoking hot and always happy ever after. As Rachael, she writes short stories about her tumultuous childhood (featured in the 85th anniversary League anthology, *The Function of Freedom*) and the Botany for Everyone series. When she's not writing, she volunteers for the League of Utah Writers as the Blue Quill chapter president, the Marketing Chair, and builds the app for our conferences. For nerdy science and art, follow Rachael on Instagram @botanyforeveryone

Teaching

Intimacy, Consent, and Sex in Fiction; Lessons Learned: How I Got Published and What I Learned Along the Way'

SARAH ALVA

Sarah Alva loves nail polish, chocolate, and happily-ever-afters. When she's not busy taking care of her two little boys, she can be found reading romance novels in excess, avoiding housework, and listening to NPR. Her second novel, *The Doctor and the Midwife*, was a Whitney Awards finalist.

Teaching

Mixed-genre Critique Groups: Yes You Can!

Sammie Trinidad

Sammie Trinidad is a proud Slytherin and a "Filipina Wonder Woman". Having fallen in love with writing at the age of nine, she dabbles in many genres but especially favors fantasy, magical realism, creative non-fiction, contemporary, and short fiction. Her short stories have been published in the League of Utah writer anthology as well as the Eagle Con anthology. The three T's are important to her: traveling, tacos, and time with family.

Teaching

A Whole New World

Shauna Brock

Shauna Brock is an award-winning writer and reviewer who has had work published in numerous online magazines. She was a founding member of the 1 to 5 Club, an advocacy group for the Bi, Pan, and Ace community in Utah and is currently a volunteer coordinator with Aging & Adult Services in the Meals on Wheels program. She has been writing fanfiction since the age of 12 and currently has over 1 million words published on AO3. She has been the moderator of the SLCWG for the past 15 years.

Teaching

Dual Wielding: Harnessing Fanfiction as a Writing Tool

Stan Johnson

Author of the series A Comedy of Love, and co-author of the Dead-Ex Files mysteries, Stan is a fan of family, friends, and the great outdoors, and when he's not writing, he's either spending time with the wife and kids, feeding his cat, or pretending to be an engineer. He also reads while walking, which many people find unsettling. Stan also serves as the president for the La Sal Legends chapter of the League of Utah Writers, based in Moab, Utah. Because, really, if you're going to write awesome stuff, why not live somewhere awesome?

Teaching

World in a Week: How to Build a Realistic Fantasy World

Talysa Sainz

Talysa Sainz is a freelance editor who believes life's deepest truths can be found in fiction. She runs her own editing business and spends her time at the library or volunteering with the League of Utah Writers. Always fascinated with the structure of words, she studied English Linguistics and Editing at BYU. She then went on to receive a Master of Science in Management and Leadership, focusing on nonprofit work, from WGU. Talysa is the President of the Utah Freelance Editors.

Teaching

Creating a Language, Inclusive Language

Terra Luft

Terra Luft is a speculative fiction author whose imagination conjures mostly dark tales. Her work explores women's themes and challenging societal norms in hopes of allowing fresh perspectives to emerge. An overachiever by nature, she tackles every project with coffee and sarcasm and believes all rules exist to be broken. Terra holds a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and English with a minor in Communications from Southern New Hampshire University and a Master of Science in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University. She is a member of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, and The League of Utah Writers where she serves on the board as Membership Chair. She resides in the mountains of Utah with her indulgent and supportive husband and their two daughters. Find her and her books at terraluft.com

Teaching

Show vs. Tell