Dear Young Author,

Congratulations on being selected by your school as an outstanding young author to participate in the Young Authors Conference for our 33rd year. This year’s Young Authors Conference, Writing: What If..., recognizes the importance of writing helping to answer questions and generate new pathways.

At this conference you will have the unique opportunity to work with professional writers, editors, and educators from diverse fields who will share their experience and skills with you. Each presenter is here to help you improve your writing by sharing insight into the ways professional writers work. The presenters will also facilitate writing workshop activities to encourage you to write, create, share, and discuss your writing with other committed high school writers from the Lower Hudson Valley.

We hope you enjoy the conference and the opportunity to meet outstanding young writers from other high schools. But even more, we hope you will continue to commit yourself to the art and craft of writing to explore thinking, explain feelings and beliefs, and to tell your stories in ways that help you explore your own “What If...” The world needs to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Fred Ende, Danielle Collangelo & Diane Sarna
Conference Coordinators

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO:
https://tinyurl.com/YACRegistration20
AGENDA

7:50 AM – 8:25 AM  Registration and Refreshments

8:25 AM – 8:50 AM  Welcome
Auditorium – Academic Arts Building
Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY
Fred Ende  PNW BOCES
TBD  Westchester Community College
Diane Sarna  PNW BOCES

9:00 AM – 10:10 AM  Workshop Session I
Various Classrooms – Academic Arts Building

10:20 AM – 11:30 AM  Workshop Session II
Various Classrooms – Academic Arts Building

11:40 AM – 12:50 PM  Workshop Session III
Various Classrooms – Academic Arts Building

1:10 PM – 1:50 PM  Catered Lunch
Cafeteria – Student Center

Departure

------------------------ Special thanks to… ------------------------

Westchester Community College, Valhalla, New York
for hosting the Young Authors Conference
Workshops

Workshop #1: Just Shoot, Stab, Strangle, Smother or Poison Me: Writing the Murder Mystery
Workshop #2: I’d Like to Have an Argument
Workshop #3: Capturing the Truth in Historical Non-Fiction
Workshop #4: Yeah, Yeah, Yeah! Combining Historical Fiction, Pop Culture and The Beatles
Workshop #5: How to Create a Podcast in 60 Minutes: Exploring a New Form of Storytelling
Workshop #6: Play With Words: Journey from page to stage
Workshop #7: Write, Edit, and Air
Workshop #8: Your Individual Writing Perspectives: Celebrate Your Possibilities & Potential
Workshop #9: Letting Characters Speak for Themselves
Workshop #10: “If” and “And” or “Or”
Workshop #11: Young Adult Literature: What’s Changed, What’s Next, and How You Can Write & Pitch It!
Workshop #12: The Horror, the Horror
Workshop #13: Writing, What If It Were A Window Into Hope?
Workshop #14: Rebels with a Cause
Workshop #15: Use Your Worst Nightmares and Your Best Daydreams to Create Gripping Young Adult Fiction
Workshop #16: Shout Your Authentic Voice
Workshop #17: Can You Spare Ten Minutes? Writing the Perfect One Act for the Stage
Workshop #18: Trusting Your Authentic Voice In A Poem: The Process Of Personal to Page to Stage.
Workshop #19: Inspirational Indie Filmmaking Techniques
Workshop #20: Think Like a Screenwriter
Workshop #21: Great Scenes
Now that a little dab of DNA can finger the perp faster than you can say “Benedict Cumberbatch,” is there any future for the amateur sleuth, the consulting detective, or the wise-cracking gumshoe? This workshop looks at the elements of the mystery novel, helps you tell a whodunit from a howdunit from a whydunit, and explores ways to build suspense and bamboozle the audience. What does it take to make your characters live and breathe on the page – and stop breathing on the next? Come to the session with crimes in mind – and get a clue.

**Alan Beechey** is the author of a series of humorous murder mysteries featuring children’s author and amateur detective Oliver Swithin. The most recent title, *This Private Plot*, earned Alan the epithet “master of the mystery genre” from one over-caffeinated reviewer. He is also the co-author of a nonfiction guide to American culture and values. His secret identity (and paying job) as a corporate communications specialist began in his native London. Since moving to New York, he has been a Director of Staff Communications for Citibank, a fancy-schmancy consultant, a work-at-home dad, and a narrator of recorded books for the blind, as well as doing all that murder mystery stuff. He is now a writer/consultant for a national employee communication agency.
New and improved! You’ve given your feedback, and the presenter has listened!

There’s more to an argument than contradiction; just ask the gentlemen of Monty Python’s Flying Circus. Throughout the course of the workshop, we’ll go through the process of responding to a controversial issue and creating a (somewhat) foolproof argument via structure and some subtle rhetoric.

Here’s what attendees have said about it in the past:

“I wish he showed more videos.” –a student writer

“The presenter showed too many videos.” –another student writer

Come see what all the arguing is about!

Christopher Cooper has been a high school English teacher for . . . seventeen years? Eighteen years? Something like that. He’s not sure, since he doesn’t teach math. At any rate, he has spent the past decade-plus with Valhalla High School. There, he works with his students in AP and eleventh grade classes to perfect the art of argumentation. He is the moderator of Vox Magazine, Valhalla High School’s award-winning, student-run literary and arts periodical; you can find some of his own original writing in the short story anthology, Longer Than the Road that Stretches Out Ahead, published by The Last Automat Press.
Workshop 3

Capturing the Truth in Historical Non-Fiction

PRESENTER: VIN DACQUINO

Are you ready to capture history so that the people of today can learn their past for a better tomorrow? Where do you begin? Where do you look? What must you include? Be prepared to present, discuss, and map out your next project.

Come ready to write.

Vin Dacquino hosts his own television show called “One On One with Vin Dacquino,” aired on Comcast’s Channel 21, Mondays from 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM and released a new book with The History Press, April 1, 2019: Patriot Hero of the Hudson Valley. Mr. Dacquino has made numerous appearances at schools and historical sites based on his adult biography, Sybil Ludington: The Call to Arms and the student version of this book. He has addressed English teachers at annual conferences at the county, state, and national levels and has presented at the PNW BOCES Young Adult Conferences for over twenty-five years. He retired as the director of the BEPT Teacher Center to dedicate more time to his writing and lecturing after teaching in Westchester County for over 35 years.
Author Paul Ferrante will tell how he combined a love of history and his passion for the “Fab Four” to tell a tale of the need for religious tolerance, the right to self-expression, and the value of being true to oneself. He will explain the painstaking research involved in writing his teen-adult novel 30 Minutes in Memphis: A Beatles Story to create the setting of 1966 Memphis, Tennessee; the challenges of bringing the story to light; and his memorable collaboration with a Beatle’s sister in choosing the title. Paul will mix in period footage and music that should keep things rocking! Be ready to share your thoughts on the study of pop culture and the Historical Fiction Genre.

Paul Ferrante is originally from the Bronx and grew up in the town of Pelham, NY. He received his undergraduate and Master’s degrees in English from Iona College, where he was also a halfback on the Gaels’ undefeated 1977 football team. Paul has been an award-winning secondary school English teacher and coach for over 40 years, as well as a columnist for Sports Collector’s Digest since 1993 on the subject of baseball ballpark history. Many of his works can be found in the archives of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. His writings have led to numerous radio and television appearances related to baseball history.

The young adult T.J. Jackson Mysteries series has led Paul to speak at the 150th Anniversary Battle Commemoration in Gettysburg, PA, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame during their 75th Anniversary celebration.

Paul lives in Connecticut with his wife Maria and daughter Caroline, a film screenwriter/director.
Workshop 5

How to Create a Podcast in 60 Minutes: Exploring a New Form of Storytelling

PRESENTER: JOE FERRARO

Let’s create a podcast together. “But I hate my voice.” Science tells us that many people dislike the sound of their own voice. Despite this, podcasts appear here to stay. There is something special about the personal nature of one writer or speaker’s ideas being transmitted directly into your ears. This workshop will expose young writers to the world of podcasting, from idea to publication. Students will listen to excerpts from a variety of award-winning podcasts en route to developing their own voice. In just under an hour, students will learn how to think about, structure, and ultimately create a first draft of a podcast of their own. Students will work through the writing process to begin structuring their stories for an audio-only audience. Students will leave this workshop with an introductory understanding of basic editing tools including Garageband and Audacity. A laptop and headphones are not required, but feel free to bring them if you would like.

Joe Ferraro (@FerraroOnAir) is currently in his twenty-first year as an educator, teaching English 12, Public Speaking, and Creative Writing. In addition to his work in the classroom, he is the creator and host of the personal growth podcast, One Percent Better. On his quest to learn the secrets of daily improvement, Joe has interviewed authors such as Seth Godin, Daniel Pink, James Clear, and Debbie Millman. World Champions like fifteen-time World Series of Poker champion Phil Hellmuth, and former FBI lead hostage negotiator Chris Voss have also been guests. Joe’s writing has been featured on TopCoach.com and Inside Pitch Magazine. Joe has been a guest on podcasts, including The Productivityist, Success is a Choice, Teacher Tunnel, Creative Nonfiction, TopCoach, and The Baseball Drive.
Plays are exactly like playing! Theatre is live and needs to get right into the action in the moment. Beginning with your “What if” statement developed from a writing prompt, you’ll learn how to jump into writing a play and make the characters jump off the page and onto the stage. We will start with one page plays to demonstrate structure and answer the critical questions: “Who wants what?” and “What gets in the way?” These questions are the building blocks of writing a play scene by scene. Let’s get “write” to the action

**Gabrielle Fox** is an award-winning playwright. Most recently, she won the Planet Activist Award for her fundraising efforts for the Alzheimer’s Association in the Planet Connections Theatre Festivity. Her play *The Home* also won awards for outstanding playwriting, and overall production and was presented in the La MaMa New Playwright Marathon in New York. Gabrielle teaches playwriting for the division of Workforce Development and Community Education at Westchester Community College. She is the founder of “Glass Ceiling Breakers”; the first women’s playwright festival in the Hudson Valley. She is a proud member of The Dramatists Guild and founder of Theatre Revolution (www.theatrerevolution.org). Her website is www.gabriellefoxwrites.com.
This session will focus on deadline writing for television. As a television reporter, Ms. Galindo spends her days gathering interviews and “b-roll,” leaving only a few hours to write and edit stories before they air. She will discuss some of the topics she covers day-in and day-out as well as how to shape stories under tight deadlines. Actual news footage will be used as examples of stories that correlate with the different topics discussed.

Nadia Galindo is a reporter for News 12 Westchester covering a wide range of hyperlocal news from breaking to human interest stories.

A Dallas native, she started her career in Waco, Texas as a multimedia journalist at KWTX, sharpening her writing, video shooting, and editing skills. Another reporting job on the Texas/Mexico border at KGBT, is where she extensively covered crime and political corruption. Her coverage on laser strikes blinding Customs and Border Protection pilots while in flight earned her an award from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She worked as a crime reporter at CBS Austin, then left for New York to work as a freelance reporter at News 12 Long Island before joining the News 12 Westchester team full-time.

Galindo graduated from the University of North Texas Mayborn School of Journalism with a bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism and is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

When Galindo is not reporting, she loves traveling and spending time with her daughter, ice skating, bike riding and watching movies.
Workshop 8

Your Individual Writing Perspectives: Celebrate Your Possibilities & Potential

PRESENTER: CHRIS HANSEN-NELSON

Every journey a writer initiates embarks from an individual starting point, a unique time and emotional place. While the particulars of this ultimate destination await discovery, one common, conscious or unconscious, ambition arises – the need, the desire, the commitment to expand the comprehension and appreciation of this strange, sad, humorous experience of being a living, sentient creature. We’ll begin by celebrating the individual perspective, that unique rock that wants and waits to be polished and honed. Next, we’ll look at how every writer developing a writing practice faces obstructions – lack of support, ridicule, self-doubt, self-judgment. This workshop will look to share those difficulties and the band-aids and armor we find to overcome them.

The remaining time, the majority of our time, will then be spent writing and sharing work, while considering some of the themes touched on above.

Finally, we will look at some tools that will help your work evolve from the volcanic eruption of first drafts to the sober satisfaction that comes with objective revision.

The key to maximizing your experience in this workshop will be the extent to which you are able exercise a willingness to try new things and to honestly, if privately, begin to develop an objective, accepting understanding of your current level of work.

Chris Hansen-Nelson came to poetry after long careers as a professional actor and director. Chris earned his MFA in poetry from Sarah Lawrence College in 2006. While there, he worked primarily with Stephen Dobyns and D. Nurkse. Most recently, he worked with Jean Valentine. Chris has published in journals, anthologies, and newspapers and has won awards for his writing including the Herbert J. Rubin Prize from the Gallatin Review. His work recently appeared in the journal Oberon. His first book of poems, The Book of Clay, garnered an excellent review in Kirkus Reviews and is available from Wicked Rufous Press.
Workshop 9

Letting Characters Speak for Themselves

PRESENTER: SCOTT JOHNSON

Get beyond cliched and contrived plots by letting your characters loose! This workshop, designed for fiction writers and dramatists, will focus on ways to perceive the conflicts that reside in every literary character. We will develop methods to help you build interesting and lifelike characters, and how their concerns, struggles, and dreams can lead to compelling plots.

Scott Johnson, now retired, taught English and Creative Writing at Pleasantville High School for many years. His three young adult novels, One of the Boys, Overnight Sensation, and Safe at Second, have been named to the American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults lists.
The “art” in artistry comes from artifice, or the tricking of the eye into seeing something that isn’t there -- a reality that does not exist. Or does not exist yet. Or that exists only because the artist has brought it into being. If you are a poet, such is the essence of why you write. Let me be clear: I am not talking about “discovering” your true “inner voice.” I question if such a thing even exists. Instead, I am talking about the playful way in which poets invent voices and discover alternate selves that allow us to consider ideas previously hidden, unknown, or forbidden.

By the end of this 70 minute workshop, poets will invent a triptych of new selves. Using the conjunctions if, and, & but, you will create a trio of poems that build a new way of presenting yourself to an audience, exploring topics you care about, and envisioning a self, a time, or a world as you think it should exist.

To be a little less abstract, you’ll experiment with three very practical writing forms, techniques, and methods. You will walk out of this seminar with practices that allow experimentation not with some “true” inner voice, but with the myriad voices from which a poet can describe an invented reality.

Come prepared to write in ways you haven’t tried before, to share your works in progress, and to offer each other your reactions.

Chandler Lewis is a poet, English teacher, and Poetry Out Loud coordinator at John Jay High School in Cross River, New York. His poetry has appeared most recently in Redivider, Diagram, and Sakura Journal.
Workshop 11

Young Adult Literature: What’s Changed, What’s Next, and How You Can Write & Pitch It!

PRESENTER: SANGEETA MEHTA

Back in the mid-2000s, the young adult (YA) series Twilight rocked the publishing world. Next came The Hunger Games and Divergent. Today, books like The Hate U Give, which was inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, and The Poet X, whose main character channels her inner conflicts into poetry, are topping bestseller lists. Does this mean that YA novels featuring vampires, oppressive governments, and factions have fallen out of style to make room for more realistic, issue-oriented stories? Or is dystopian fiction more relevant than ever?

In the first part of this workshop, we will discuss what YA literature is and what makes it so appealing. Following some group work, we’ll do a free writing exercise during which you will write a YA story—original or fan fiction—to share with your peers if you choose. You will also learn the basics of a query letter—a pitch that aspiring authors use to approach publishers—and find out how a teen writer’s query letter landed her a book deal. Although the writer’s journey is often long, it can be just as exciting as the destination, and it’s never too early to get started on it!

Sangeeta Mehta has been an acquiring editor at both Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (the children’s division of Hachette Book Group) and Simon Pulse (the teen paperback division of Simon & Schuster). At Little, Brown, she worked with debut and bestselling authors. At Simon Pulse, she acquired and edited commercial fiction and non-fiction and ran two paperback series. She currently consults on book projects for book publishers and individual writers. Ms. Mehta earned her MA in comparative literature from UCLA and loves to help young writers hone their craft and learn more about the book-publishing field. Her website is www.mehtabookeditingnewyork.com.
Workshop 12

The Horror, the Horror

PRESENTER: TONY MONCHINSKI

What are the possibilities and limits of horror on the written page? How do authors build a sense of dread? Is it possible to replicate a jump scare in prose? When it comes to gore and graphic violence, is less more? In this workshop we’ll look at a few examples of horror by established authors. A majority of our time will be spent writing horror/horrific scenes and sharing them in small groups as well as the entire workshop. Warning: This workshop is not for the squeamish!

Tony Monchinski, Ph.D., is a special education teacher at Fox Lane High School and a professor of Political Science at Westchester Community College. His novels include the I Kill Monsters series and Little Birds.
Workshop 13

Writing, What If It Were A Window Into Hope?

PRESENTER: RALPH NAZARETH

Sometimes we feel trapped in feelings of dryness and boredom, of anxiety and conflict, of loneliness and despair. Peace and joy always seem to be just beyond our grasp. We keep looking for answers, and we often come up short.

In this workshop, we will put our heads together to explore ways in which writing may help us deal with the difficulties in our lives. We will read poems and short prose pieces by other writers that illustrate how they face challenges—head on or by indirection, through wit or protest, by drawing on love or the deep rhythms of nature. We will write in response to their work and our own lives and share our poetic or prose reflections with the group.

By the end of our session, we will have experienced a core function of writing—to provide us with a pathway through the shadows, to offer us a window into hope.

Ralph Nazareth is a poet, teacher and publisher. Author of Ferrying Secrets, Between Us the Long Road, and Dropping Death, he has published widely in the U.S. and abroad and read his work at literary festivals in India, Palestine, Colombia, El Salvador and other countries. After nearly four decades of teaching English at SUNY Stony Brook & Purchase, UT Austin, & Nassau Community College, he lists his years doing poetry with ten-year-olds in Stamford schools in the 80s as among his most memorable. He leads a group of poets weekly at Curley’s Diner in Stamford and also teaches creative writing in maximum-security prisons in New York State. He is the Managing Editor of Yuganta Press and President of GraceWorks Inc., a nonprofit, charitable foundation (www.graceworksinternational.org) which undertakes developmental projects in India, Africa and other parts of the world.
Workshop 14

Rebels with a Cause

PRESENTER: VICTORIA PROVAZZA

Sometimes, you have to break the rules to stand apart. In this workshop, we will consider writers who break the rules of conventional storytelling. We will read work by authors who experiment with story structure and narrative perspectives. We will then explore our own writing through group exercises and experimental prompts, and, in doing so, find the confidence to take risks in our own writing!

Victoria Provazza holds an MFA in fiction from Sarah Lawrence College, where she served as Managing Editor of the international literary journal, LUMINA. Currently, she teaches writing and literature at Fordham University and Sacred Heart University. Her work has appeared in Fiction Southeast, Driftwood Press, and Story|Houston, among others.
Workshop 15

*Use Your Worst Nightmares and Your Best Daydreams to Create Gripping Young Adult Fiction*

**PRESENTER: KIM PURCELL**

In this workshop, we will look at both imaginary and real things that either terrify or delight you, and we’ll explore how to use both these fantasy/imaginary elements and the real world to create stories that have depth and power. We’ll work on building emotional resonance in your scenes through world building, effective body language, scene questions and character agency.

**Kim Purcell** is a young adult novelist and formerly a journalist. Her first novel, *Trafficked*, (Penguin, 2012) is about a modern-day domestic slave, and is based on over forty interviews and a research trip to Moldova. It was nominated for several state awards. Her second novel, *This Is Not A Love Letter*, (Hyperion, 2018) was inspired by the tragic disappearance of a close friend in high school and was named as one of NPR’s (National Public Radio) Best Books of 2018. Kim grew up in British Columbia, Canada, and now lives in both LA and NYC with a comedy-producing husband, two daughters, a destructive puppy, a curmudgeonly rescue dog and three cuddly cats.
It is hard to be a person in the world. It is possibly harder to be a writer looking to be authentic and bold. We take risks when we write and again when we share our work with any audience. In this workshop we will explore methods of voicing our authentic selves in a way that doesn’t sound like anybody else. By trusting in our vulnerability and inhabiting the parts of ourselves that are different from everyone else, we will generate a few short pieces of writing that work to get at something genuine. We will work in every genre, limited only by the short amount of time we have together.

Rachel M. Simon (she/her or they/them) is the author of two poetry collections, *Theory of Orange* and *Marginal Road*. She is the Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs & Diversity Programs and LGBTQQ Coordinator at Pace University in Pleasantville. She also teaches courses on writing, film, gender studies, and social justice at Pace University, Sarah Lawrence College, and others.
Every year across the country hundreds of theater groups produce one act play festivals populated by ten minute plays. Writing full length plays for the stage can be tricky enough, but creating a compelling play, with realistic characters, interesting dialogue, that engages, surprises, and delights the audience - all in ten minutes - now that’s a tall order indeed.

Through an examination of the form and guided writing exercises, this workshop will give you all the tools you need to start crafting plays for the stage in the ten minute one act form.

Tom Slot is a NYC based playwright, actor, director, and theater educator. Recent productions of his plays and musicals include *Interview With The First Family* (Theatre Three), *Magnolia and Pine* (Onionman Productions), *A Warm Winter Solstice* (Tada Theatre), *Captain Courage* (Treasure Valley Children’s Theater and Stray Theater Radio Boise), *Small Group* (Gloria Maddow Theater), *Dream 70* (Mary Lou Meese Theater), *Graceless* (Planet Connections and Capital Fringe), *My Father’s Ashes* (Theater 54), *Farewell to Sanity* (Gene Frankel), and *Killing Time* (Payan Theater). He earned a MFA from Columbia University. Visit www.tomslot.com.
Spoken Word Poetry is often classified as the ability to be an orator who commands attention. Many writers and poets will craft their poems to sound catchy and engaging to the ear while losing the substance of the content they want to share. There is a conflict that exists between the writer and the performer, one that doesn’t need to happen. This workshop will take a deeper look into the writing process, how we begin an idea, develop a poem on the page, and then decide to perform it. We will participate in free write/writing sessions. Students will be able to read their own poems, then have others read the same poems—allowing participants to focus in on voice and presentation. We will watch some clips of poems by Carlos Andres Gomez and other poets. This workshop will seek to help writers understand their inner voice in order to produce poetry that is both of literary value and powerful for performance.

Frankie A. Soto is an author and poet of Puerto Rican descent by way of New York. He is the 2019 winner of the Multicultural Poet of the Year award from the National Spoken Word Poetry Awards and now two-time winner (2016, 2019).

The New York Times called Frankie “an absolute force.” He has been featured on ABC News and has traveled across the country actively touring and running workshops at colleges/universities. His HIV poem was selected and premiered for the Atlantic Hip Hop Film Festival and his Drunk Driving Poem has been used by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. His work has appeared in several publications, and he is the author of two collections of poetry. His poems on addiction, trauma and recovery are used by substance abuse nonprofits, and he is the speaker for the organization Fighting Cancer with Poetry in Washington, D.C.
Workshop 19

Inspirational
Indy Filmmaking Techniques

PRESENTER: AMY STERN

What makes a film truly great? While this is a very subjective question since beauty is in the eye of the beholder, there are many different creative techniques used to create film masterpieces. In this workshop, we will examine these techniques and learn about creating visual story making, sensational music scoring and iconic imagery in powerful films. Collaborative screening and discussion of film clips will serve as an integral part of this cinematic experience. This veritable film journey will culminate in writing our own unique ideas for artistic films.scenes to be shot in the future.

Amy Stern is an avid cinephile and Jacob Burns Film Center-trained educator. She is also an experienced Language Arts K-12 teacher and education professor who is fueled by her passion for learning. Known for her creativity and passion for film, she is always experimenting with new activities and exciting strategies to inspire her students. A published author of curriculum, articles, and short stories, Ms. Stern enjoys all genres and phases of the writing and filmmaking processes from start to finish.
This hands-on workshop will introduce young writers to the art of screenwriting. Through a range of activities, including exploration of the screenplay format, viewing film clips, and writing exercises, students will practice some of the key components of successful screenwriting: detail, dialogue, story, and character.

Darrel Swann is a member of the Jacob Burns Film Center’s (JBFC) education faculty. He can usually be found leading workshops and film discussions at the JBFC’s Media Arts Lab in Pleasantville, NY or working with local educators from schools and community centers across the tri-state area. Darrel is an avid and experienced screenwriter. The JBFC is a nonprofit cultural arts center dedicated to: presenting the best of independent, documentary, and world cinema, promoting 21st century literacy and making film a vibrant part of the community.
More than ever, the heroes, heroines, anti-heroes, and anti-heroines of our screen(s) are nuanced, complex, and totally empathetic. In this way, our favorite shows and characters not only provide entertainment they inspire the writing life. This screenwriting workshop will give you the opportunity to develop compelling characters, and to write scenes that bring them to life.

Alicia Zadrozny has worked in local journalism, educational publishing, and children’s book publishing. She was the editor for Current Health Kids and the writing editor for READ, both publications of Weekly Reader publishing. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Writing degree from Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. Now as a freelance writer she is constantly on the hunt for good stories.