



SCHEDULE

➞ 5 APRIL 2025

➞ 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

7:30 AM

Registration opens (Wellness Center)

8:30 AM

Welcome & Opening Keynote with Byron Graves (Wellness Center)

9:30 AM

Breakout Session 1 (North Classrooms)

10:45 AM

Breakout Session 2 (North Classrooms)

11:50 AM

Lunch & Blue Spruce Award Winner Announcement (Wellness Center)

12:35 PM

Local Author Panel (Wellness Center)

1:45 PM

Breakout Session 3 (North Classrooms)

3:00 PM

Teen Connection Panel, Book Giveaways, & Author Signings (Wellness Center)

SESSION 1



9:30-10:20 AM

NORTH CLASSROOMS

**ROOM
1202**

Editing: What is it? Who Needs It? When to do it? How to do it?

Presented by Cheryl Carpinello

Writing a good story isn't enough. Stories need to flow and be consistent from chapter to chapter. Authors also need to have a story free of spelling, punctuation, and usage errors. This is especially true for self-published authors. In today's easy-to-publish world, your manuscript needs to stand out and above the others whether you're self-publishing or submitting to an agent. I will go through several methods that help the writer do this. I will also introduce a new method I'm using designed to cut down the time spent editing and to move authors quicker to that final page.

**ROOM
1204**

Social Justice Meets Young Adult Fiction

Presented by Erica Schimmel & Christine Dyar

Teens can be powerful agents of change in our world. Recent years have seen a rise in teenagers interested in impacting their communities through activism and social justice. But what is social justice? And what are some of the key social justice topics and issues influencing our world today? Join Erica and Christine to talk more about what we mean when we say "social justice," and learn about some amazing recent Young Adult nonfiction books shining lights on important topics.

**ROOM
1403**

Finally, I have time to teach!

Presented by Juliana Bowers

Are you running your classroom or is your classroom running you? Eliminate the repeated warnings and requests without using trendy gimmicks or paying a student to behave. Reduce up to 90% of classroom discipline problems and walk away with simple yet effective techniques that you can use in your classroom on Monday! In this jam-packed session, you will learn time-tested, research-based strategies and techniques designed to:

- Decrease teacher and student frustration
- Improve student focus
- Systematically teach appropriate, on-task behavior
- Drastically reduce problem behavior
- Increase instruction time

**ROOM
1405**

Party Animals: Reads with Creature Vibes

Presented by Bridget Kiely & Cody Robinson

Come hear some booktalks about stories with delightful animal vibes! Purrfect for readers who want to find books for their fursonas, theriotypes, or those who just have a deep affection for certain creatures and want more animal facts in their lives. Basically, if you've ever found yourself wondering what a hedgehog or orca would read, this is the session for you.

Education, Programming, & Libraries Track

Literature & Advisory Track

Writing Track

SESSION 1 - CONT'D



9:30-10:20 AM

NORTH CLASSROOMS

ROOM
1408

Supporting Identity through Humor, Absurdism, and Satire in YA

Presented by Cameron Gillespie

The transition from reading middle grade to young adult books often includes shifts in genres, tones, and topics. While many popular middle grade series-like Percy Jackson, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and Dork Diaries—and books center around comedic situations and narrative styles, YA titles across genres often strike a more serious tone or only use sporadic humor. Join teen librarian Cameron in discussing the many developmental benefits of engaging teens in humorous books, reviewing a range of styles, and booktalking several laugh-out-loud titles.

ROOM
1603

Valuing Choice and Relevance: Pedagogy Possibilities with Young Adult Literature

Presented by Sarah Woodard, Matthew August, Zachary Bennett, Thea Cudnowski, Rebecca Hassanabad, Emma Wolf, & Laura Wolf

This session features a panel of middle and high school teachers from various contexts across the Denver Metro Area who will share examples of how they are incorporating young adult literature into their instruction in purposeful and intentional ways.

SESSION 2

10:45-11:35 AM

NORTH CLASSROOMS

ROOM
1202

Writing & Drawing is Easy (when creating is play and not work)

Presented by Thane Benson

Participants will work together through several different fast and fun collaborative creative exercises and games to create original mini graphic novels. The goal is to make creativity play and not work. No writing or drawing ability is necessary to participate. All you need is a willingness to try.

ROOM
1204

Read with Pride!

Presented by Tori Sandoval & the JeffCo GSA Teen Advisory Board

Hear directly from teens about what they think are the best LGBTQ+ books. Youth in the Jeffco Library GSA Teen Advisory Board will book talk their favorite titles. Take away a list of teen approved reads for your community from this engaging session!

Education, Programming, & Libraries Track

Literature & Advisory Track

Writing Track

SESSION 2 - CONT'D



10:45-11:35 AM

NORTH CLASSROOMS

**ROOM
1403**

Meet in the Middle: The Importance of Upper Middle Grade and Early Teen Lit

Presented by Catherine Boddie & Erica Schimmel
Where have all the 13-15-year-old protagonists gone? To middle grade, that's where. Learn more about MG (and early YA) and why it's not just for kids. We'll talk about trends in MG and share some recent favorites.

**ROOM
1405**

Let's Get Niche: Using Microgenres for Reader's Advisory

Presented by Jayna Ramsey
Are you tired of recommending the same romantasies and whodunit mysteries? Try something new with microgenres that are as specific as your Netflix recommendations.

**ROOM
1408**

Literature and Fashion

Presented by Sarah Sherwood
This 50 minutes will be full of fashion. We will analyze ourselves and the stories we are telling each day. We will analyze characters from our favorite stories based solely on what they wear and accessorize with and how their fashion choices function inside setting, and we will build our analysis through drawing and making. Be ready to put your analysis into a tangible object. We will be looking at color, shape, drape, and style among other things.

**ROOM
1603**

How to Run a Literature Conference

Presented by Arra Katona & Meagan Perry
Learn the tips and tricks of running a teen literature conference from the group that has coordinated the Colorado Teen Literature Conference for the last 36 years! We'll cover logistics, working with presenters, and how to involve teens.

SESSION 3



1:45-2:35 PM

NORTH CLASSROOMS

**ROOM
1202**

How Do I Get My Book in the Library? The Many Roads to Publishing for Teens!

Presented by Jonce Palmer, Stephanie Alderton, Vivian Burkhalter, & Carina Morrison
Learn the basics of the publishing industry, including magazines and journals, traditional publishing houses, and self-publishing. We will cover how to get your books into public library collections and include helpful resources for participants to take home. Through this interactive, lecture-based workshop, participants will develop skills in identifying reputable publications, querying publications, and how to market oneself to publishers & target audience.

**ROOM
1204**

Trending in YA: Themes and Trends in Literature for Teens

Presented by Anush Balayan, Erica Schimmel, & RaineBo Thunder
From perennial favorites such as horror to growing trends such as social justice, book bans, romantasy, and more, books being published for teens are showcasing important voices and topics. Interested in learning more about some themes and topics popping up in YA lit? Join Erica, RaineBo, and Anush as they share some of the publishing trends being seen in recent and upcoming YA literature, and booktalk some titles you should have on your radar.

**ROOM
1403**

Protecting (& Sustaining) Your Creativity

Presented by Candice Jalili
We'll talk about the importance of sparking and sustaining creativity, especially as you build a career as a novelist and journalist. How to maintain your career while pursuing a full-time job in the journalism industry and what things you need to prioritize or not prioritize. Candice works as a Snapchat editor at Elite Daily, and can talk about her career as a fiction writer and work at Elite Daily.

**ROOM
1405**

Creative Chaos at the Library: Meeting Teens Where They're at with Pop-up and Passive Programs

Presented by Haley Boden
This presentation will explore the value of bringing activities to teens with passive and pop-up programs with examples ranging from Solar Oven S'mores to Make Your Own Cryptid!

**ROOM
1408**

The Importance of Monsters: How Engaging in the Horror Genre Sparks Adolescent Bravery

Presented by Kit Elstad
How many times have we heard, 'I want a scary book!' from our upper elementary and middle school students? Finding books specifically for grades 3-8 can be challenging, but ensuring students have exciting, engaging books that also teach them about themselves and the world is one of the most rewarding parts of being a librarian. In this session, we'll explore the role of horror in our collective experience, why middle grade kids need a variety of options, and review some great recent middle grade horror titles.

SESSION 3 - CONT'D



1:45-2:35 PM

NORTH CLASSROOMS

**ROOM
1603**

Book Banter: A Medley of Reader Response and Reflection

Presented by Sarah Woodard and students
Join a panel of present and future educators as they share learning about teaching with diverse adolescent literature. The medley will include book talks, instructional ideas that are responsive to the needs and interests of diverse learners, and reflections on their learning about young adult literature and its role in supporting adolescents to grow and develop as readers.

**ROOM
1605**

Bite-Sized Learning, Big Results: Microlearning Strategies for ELA

Presented by Amanda Lay
How can we inspire teens to engage deeply with literature while addressing the realities of short attention spans and busy schedules? Microlearning offers an innovative solution. This session will explore how ELA teachers can use bite-sized, focused learning and lesson design strategies to transform their classrooms into hubs of literary engagement. By incorporating techniques like reading sprints, short writing exercises, and reflective activities, teachers can foster a love of reading, improve comprehension, and make literature feel accessible and exciting to teens.

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