

Presenter Bio's Young Writers 2023



Letter	First Name	Last Name	Presenter Biography	Website
A	Peter	Bloedel	Chair of the Bethany Lutheran College Theatre Department, Peter Bloedel has been teaching for 30 years and has been entertaining crowds professionally for even longer. Bloedel is an active juggler and magician and is also one of the founding members of the eclectic folk band “The Divers.” He is the originator of Bethany’s annual vaudeville revue Theatre Physics, which had its 29th iteration this past fall. He has written a number of full-length plays including Jam Jar Sonnets, Icehouse, Life Coach, and Aboveboard, as well as stage adaptations for The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and The Adventures of Pinocchio. He has also written a number of one-act plays including: The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet and The Rules of Comedy. All Together his plays have been produced thousands of times in over 45 countries. Bloedel lives in Mankato, Minnesota with his wife Sarah.	
B	J. Michael	Blumer	J. Michael Blumer is author of the young adult fantasy series, “The Secret Books of Gabendoor” and “Amerath, The Birth of Magic.” He is a long-time storyteller who finally found time to be a writer thanks to encouragement from his children who dubbed him an “alternative life form” for his “creative” parenting techniques, like making them sing their arguments. Mike lives in Stillwater, Minnesota with his wife Jane.	www.gabendoor.com
C	Susan	Chambers	Susan Chambers is an award winning, published poet who enjoys performing poetry and helping others write poetry	
D & E	Jennifer	Davidson	Jennifer L. Davidson is an author, freelance writer, and owner of Rochester Writing Lab. She enjoys writing, reading, and sharing all she’s learned about being creative with students young and old.	
F	El	Holly	El Holly enjoys writing about a lot of things, but her heart is taken by the fantasy genre. Her fantasy adventure series, Phantasmic Wars, has been described by readers as “completely unique” and “very imaginative.” When she isn’t writing, she reads, teaches, drinks coffee, and goes on adventures with her family. She lives in Minnesota with her husband, their two kids, and her favorite fluffball, Mack.	https://elhollywrites.com

G	John	Lauritsen	My name is John Lauritsen and I'm a reporter (and fill-in anchor) with WCCO-TV in Minneapolis (CBS affiliate). I'm originally from Montevideo, MN and have worked at WCCO for 15 years. I also do a segment called "Finding Minnesota" in which we travel the state and highlight historic, unique and little-known parts of the state. It's a blast!	wcco.com
H	Terri	Michels	Author and Photographer, Terri DeGezelle Michels has published more than 60 children's non-fiction titles. Her latest fiction title, Simon of Cyrene, the Legend of the Easter Egg. Terri shares her writing experiences during school visits where she encourages students to follow their dreams. Terri's passions include traveling, reading and writing.	www.terrimichels.com
I	Amanda taking over for Patrick	Anderson Moore	Amanda Anderson is the video journalist for Pioneer PBS's public affairs program, Compass. Compass is an award-winning, solutions journalism-centered series that reports on current topics relevant to communities in southwest Minnesota and other rural communities in southwest Minnesota. Amanda has degrees in journalism, international studies and photography from Loyola University Chicago and has lived in Montevideo for the past six years. Patrick Moore has decades of experience as a newspaper editor, communications director, community organizer, artist and entrepreneur in western and southwestern Minnesota. He first learned to write a press release and news story when he was in 8th Grade and that lesson has served him ever since.	www.pioneer.org
J	SEE MORE	PERSPECTIVE	SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE is an MC, Producer/Composer, Spoken Word Poet, Visual Artist, Filmmaker, and Educator. His work explores identity, culture, social justice, mythology, science fiction, spirituality, and the paranormal. See More has received the VERVE grant for spoken word for a spoken word album about dreams, freedom fighters and mythology; the Artist Initiative grant from the MN State Arts Board for a music video suite; and a Cedar Commission from the Cedar Cultural Center to premiere new work about new mythologies and cultural justice work. He worked as a member of the Night Light cohort grant project from Public Arts Saint Paul to create 3D digital projection-mapping in 2021 to premiere, 'Jaws of Life After Death', a psychedelic Death trip of hip hop, poetry, synth, and soaring ethereal vocals. His most recently release 'Edgar Allen Poe Dameron' is an action packed, classicist boom bap, tour de force of MCing and Beat-making.	www.seemoreperspective.com
K	Patrick	Ryan	Patrick Ryan is a free lance writer from Mankato. He has written 35 nonfiction books and two fiction books. He has also written several stage plays. He just finished a run at the Minnesota Stage Festival. His play was entitled "The Humor of Patrick Ryan and Parkinson's: Part 2 The Miracle." CANCELLED	

L	Ozgur	Sahin	Ozgur Sahin is the author of the award-winning Brethren of the Spanish Main series of historical privateer novels. He currently lives in Minneapolis, MN.	www.ozgurksahin.com
M	Melanie	Schmidt	Melanie is the Enrichment Coordinator at Mankato Area Public Schools' Community Education Department	
N	Gillian	Singler	I am an instructor, a partner, a people and pet mother, a writer, and a SMAC board member. I enjoy reading, writing, hiking, traveling, jogging, playing games, and watching what I think is probably too much television. Most importantly, I believe art is a powerful instrument for expression and change.	
O	Kate	Vogl	Kate St. Vincent Vogl is the author of Lost & Found: A Memoir of Mothers. National ABC news has featured her story, and The Akron Beacon Journal named it among the best of the year. Her essays appear in the best-selling anthologies Listen to Your Mother and Why We Ride. Vogl has received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant for her latest work, as well as a residency at the Anderson Center. She graduated from Cornell University cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School, and from the Creative Writing Program at Hamline. She teaches creative writing to students of all ages at the Loft Literary Center.	www.katevogl.com
P	Sarah	Warren	Sarah is an artist educator and an award-winning children's book author. She loves to share stories about cool women who use their everyday powers to change the world. Sarah's family lives in Minneapolis with their dog, Bruce Valentine. Find out more at sarahwbooks.com and picturebookparade.com	sarahwbooks.com https://www.picturebookparade.com/