

Possible Workshops

Terri Michels

Nuts and Bolts of Researching Legends

Simon of Cyrene and the Legend of the Easter Egg

◆ **Presentation best suited for grades 4 through 8**

Author Terri Michels shares her researching knowledge and revision experiences with students. She will show how she found the tidbit of a German legend, Simon of Cyrene was an egg farmer on his way to Jerusalem when he was compelled by the soldiers to help Jesus carry his cross. She will discuss how she was asked to do major rewrites and revisions. In doing so, Simon of Cyrene and the Legend of the Easter Egg became a much better strong story and won the 2018 Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada's Honorable Mention for Children's Book and Books For Teens.

The Ellis Island Experience

◆ **Presentation best suited for grades 4 through 8**

Author Terri Michels leads students through the Ellis Island experience of sights, sounds, and smells. Students enact the unpacking of a typical suitcase, discussing why immigrants made choices about what to bring to a new life. Medical examinations left their mark – students act out this often heartbreaking experience. Historical to modern-day photos draw the students into the feeling of “you are there.” Terri reads from her nonfiction book *Ellis Island* and shares her grandfather's experience of Ellis Island as a six-year-old little boy. It's often fun to end this session with a cup of vanilla ice cream, which the immigrants experienced while on Ellis Island.

How to Eat an Oreo™ Cookie

◆ **Presentation best suited for grades 3 through 6**

Using an Oreo cookie and the five senses, students will learn how to strengthen their own writing. Terri guides students are guided through each of the five senses, writing what they've noticed, finally taking that anticipated bite of chocolate and creamy white filling, savoring every crumb, once again writing about what they've experienced. Poetry, fiction, or nonfiction, the students will come away from the presentation with a piece of writing that can be a jumping-off point to a great finished project.

ABC, 123, Get Ready, Get Set ... Go

◆ **Presentation best suited for grades K through 2**

Terri reads selections from one of students' favorite books, *Bugs A to Z*. As a follow-up, Terri will leave a box of insect crackers for snack time.

What Do You See?

◆ **Presentation best suited for grades 4 through 8**

Frank Lloyd Wright allowed nature to be his inspiration, advising his students to “study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.” How do you put the color into your writing? How do you make observations with the writer’s eye? Terri Michels combines her love of writing and nature photography, working with students to produce a written piece of poetry, fiction, or nonfiction, as well as a work of art suitable for framing. In this workshop, students will be introduced to the art of hand tinting black & white photographs using soft pastels chalk. Each student will be supplied with a B&W photo and working with soft pastels will add their own flavor, bringing the photo to life. Each student will produce a frame-able work of art.