

Melanie Heuser Hill: Virtual Visits, Possible Presentations and Storytimes

Melanie will spend up to an hour via Zoom, Skype, or Google Meet with your students, patrons, or bookclub members. She prefers the group size to be limited to roughly 30 students so she can see the faces of the students asking the questions ... and they can, in turn, see her face.

Please contact Winding Oak (booking@windingoak.com) so we can work with you to set the date, as well as a connection testing beforehand. We can send you technical guidelines, as well as a pre-visit activity for your students once we know how you'd like to proceed.

STORYTIMES

Are you working on certain theme in your classroom or homeschool? Would you like a storytime made just for your students? Melanie is a seasoned storytime host for all ages – you'll love her books and stories, songs and activities.

Possible Themes:

- *Around The Table That Grandad Built Storytime*
- *Seasonal Storytime* (Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall?)
- *Different Isn't Weird* (A storytime on embracing differences in each other)
- *Kindness Matters* (A storytime on kindness and empathy)
- *Fantastic Food!* (A storytime dedicated to food and eating!)
- *Be The Change* (A storytime featuring heros – everyday heros, kid heros, and little known heros, too! Some history and some inspiration!)
- *Alphabet Storytime* (Pick a letter – any letter! – and have a storytime made for you.)
- *Holiday Storytime* (Upcoming holiday of your choice! Or a bouquet of holidays around a theme such as Giving Thanks, Holidays of Light etc.)

Pre-K thru 2nd grade: 30 minutes\$100

3rd-6th grade: 45 minutes\$150

WRITING WORKSHOPS

Making It Worse

Ever noticed that a real page-turner often has tons of things go wrong? This is called *conflict* and a story's plot needs it. But writing conflict can be hard. Melanie will help your students push their conflict to new frontiers – they'll make things worse...and worse yet...and *even worse* for their characters in order to kick-start or revive a languishing plot. Students should come with at least two story ideas – perhaps one they've worked with a bit, and one brand new. Then we'll make things worse!

3rd-8th grade
60 minutes

Write What You Want to Know: Researching A Novel

Everyone knows that non-fiction books require research, but what about fiction? Melanie will walk your students through the research she had to do for *Giant Pumpkin Suite*, which featured many topics she knew little about. Skills included: primary and secondary sources, writing interview questions, confirming information, and finding a research/information trail. Q & A at the end.

6th-12th grades (made age appropriate for the group)
60 minutes

The Story of How *Giant Pumpkin Suite* Came to Be

Perfect for bookgroups and classrooms/communities who have read Melanie's novel *Giant Pumpkin Suite*. Want to know more about the writing and publishing process? This one-hour presentation includes the details! Q & A at the end.

All Ages—must have read the book!
60 minutes

Ten Surprises on the Way to Becoming an Author

Melanie has published a novel and picture book. The road to holding those two books in her hands was long and full of surprises. Want to hear more about the writing/ revising/ editing process? Publication process? This presentation of surprises is for you! Q & A at the end.

All Ages
60 minutes

STEM WORKSHOPS

How To Grow Giant Pumpkins

Have you seen them?! Hundreds of pounds, *thousands* of pounds—giant pumpkins are not your typical garden pumpkin! And they take *lots* of work. Melanie knows something about this process, having tried to grow these giants a few years in her garden. We'll talk about seeds, fertilization, vine and pumpkin management, amazing leaves—lots of pictures and information!

2nd-6th Grades
45 minutes

Bach & His Numbers

J.S. Bach is one of several composers who enjoyed putting numerical cyphers, patterns that work inside out and upside down, and interesting math in his music. In this presentation, we'll learn a bit about Bach, play some of his music, and take a look at some examples of his numerical fun. Ability to read music is helpful, but not required.

Ages 6th-12th grade
60 minutes

Fee Structure:

Individual Presentations:

\$300 for one 45-60 minute presentation with up to 50 students.

\$500 for one 45-60 minute presentation of more than 50 students.

Full-Day Visit:

\$1000 for three 45-60 minute sessions with up to 50 students.

A smaller lunchtime conversation with a small group can be added within this fee.