



YOUNG EAGER WRITERS PRESENTS

# YEWCON 2022 ONLINE

**FULLY VIRTUAL WRITING CONFERENCE!**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH  
SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH  
SUNDAY, APRIL 10TH**

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*Our 4th annual writing conference for young  
writers in their teens and 20s.*

*Meet authors. Make friends. Learn new skills.  
Join the community!*



# FRIDAY

# APRIL 8TH

**2 PM - 3 PM**

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Keynote: "**A Writer's Guide to Mental Health**" *with Michael Evans*

**3:10 - 4:10 PM**

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Workshop: "**Giving & Receiving Feedback**" *with Desiree Brown and Damien Holland*

**4:20 - 5:20 PM**

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Panel: "**The Next Generation of Writers**" *with Millie Florence, Dana Broadus, Risha Chaurasia, and Hannah Ward*

**6 PM**

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**Popcorn Social!** *with YEW Team*

*All presentations and events are remote and will be presented via Zoom*

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*\*All times posted are in Eastern Daylight Time*

*Full descriptions of presentations and speaker bios on the following pages or at [youngeagerwriters.org](http://youngeagerwriters.org)*

# SATURDAY

# APRIL 9TH

12 PM - 1 PM

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**Generative Workshop** with  
Jacqui Castle

1:10 - 2:10 PM

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Panel: **"I founded, I directed, I conquered!"** with *Desiree Brown, Alee Anderson, delmetria I. millener, and Emma Jean*

2:20 - 3:20 PM

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Keynote: **"What's Your Origin Story?"** with *Alan Gratz*

3:30 - 4:30 PM

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Craft talk: **"The Hero's Journey"**  
with *Alan Gratz*

*All presentations and events are remote  
and will be presented via Zoom*

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Eastern Daylight Time*

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and speaker bios on the following pages  
or at [youngeagerwriters.org](http://youngeagerwriters.org)*



# SUNDAY

# APRIL 10TH

12 PM - 1 PM

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Keynote: "**Neurodivergent Rep in YA and MG: Writing as Neurodivergent**" *with Meg Eden*

1:10 - 2:10 PM

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Keynote: "**The Space Between Us: Freeing Expression Through Hybrid Form**" *with Micaela Green*

2:20 - 3:20 PM

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Keynote *with Brendan Reichs*

3:30 - 4:30 PM

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Keynote: "**Don't Write Alone**" *with Scott Reintgen*

*All presentations and events are remote  
and will be presented via Zoom*

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Eastern Daylight Time*

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and speaker bios on the following pages  
or at [youngeagerwriters.org](http://youngeagerwriters.org)*

# PRESENTATIONS



## **Keynote: "A Writer's Guide to Mental Health"**

From burnout to career goals, to identity crises, and everything in between, Michael Evans will guide you through the emotional struggles and turmoil of embracing and pursuing your passion as a writer. He will highlight his own story, sharing the highs, lows, and funny moments in between, hoping to shed light on how to manage one's mental health as a writer.

## **Panel: "The Next Generation of Writers"**

As young writers, we have the power to shape this field into a more freeing, inclusive, encouraging space. Join Millie Florence, Dana Broadus, Risha Chaurasia, and Hannah Ward in a conversation about how they brought their stories to life, achieved their career and academic goals, and built communities around their love of writing. As they set forth to accomplish more ambitious goals, they pave the way for other young writers to follow.

## **Workshop: "Giving & Receiving Feedback"**

Sharing your work is a vulnerable process that all writers must face. We wish to protect our stories (and by extension, ourselves) from the harsh criticism inevitably waiting for us ahead. Join Desiree Brown and Damien Holland from Young Eager Writers for this informative, eye-opening workshop where we will learn the difference between constructive and destructive feedback, the power of open language, and the importance of "taking a breather."

## **Popcorn Social!**

We believe, with this many young writers, we should have an exciting, social time together (and play some games!) Meet young writers around the world and join our virtual Popcorn Social Friday evening to discuss your favorite books, authors, character ships, playlists to write to, and more. Pop some popcorn, put on your comfy t-shirt, and haul the stack of your favorite books to your laptops. We can't wait!

# PRESENTATIONS



## **Keynote: "The Space Between Us: Freeing Expression Through Hybrid Form"**

Join writer and MFA candidate Micaela Green for this inclusive, affirmative writing workshop exploring the use of hybrid forms to free creative expression and empower young writers.

## **Keynote: "What's Your Origin Story?"**

Join New York Times bestselling author Alan Gratz as he challenges you to think about the origin stories for your characters and create your own origin story as a writer.

## **Craft talk: "The Hero's Journey"**

From the Ramayana to Star Wars to Harry Potter, "The Hero's Journey" is a universal story structure that can be found in many of the world's most lasting stories. Join author Alan Gratz to learn more about how you can use the Hero's Journey in your own work!

## **Panel: "I founded, I directed, I conquered!"**

For the first time ever, Desiree Brown of Young Eager Writers, Alee Anderson of Hey! Young Writers, delmetria l. millener of #TeenWritersProject, and Emma Jean of I'm An Author Academy will come together in this inspirational, informative, entertaining panel for young writers. They will discuss what inspired them to build their organizations and businesses, what kept them going, their experiences and struggles through the pandemic, and how young writers can get involved and become a part of the communities they built. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask their own questions. We can't wait!

# PRESENTATIONS



## **Keynote: "Neurodivergent Rep in YA and MG: Writing as Neurodivergent"**

What does it mean to be a neurodivergent writer? While publishers say they're looking for work from lived neurodivergent experiences, do they really mean it? While I personally have received so much positive support already for my forthcoming novel in verse SELAH'S GUIDE TO NORMAL, and have found such joy in writing about my lived experience, I've also had some reactions to my neurodivergent protagonists along the way that have surprised me. Come for an honest conversation about the current state of neurodivergent representation in kidlit, as well as the experiences of a neurodivergent writer in the publishing landscape. Bring questions and topics you'd like to talk about!

## **Brendan Reich's Keynote**

To be announced...

## **Generative Workshop**

In Jacqui Castle's workshop, come ready to talk about a variety of generative writing exercises, including erasure, picture and word prompts, mixed media exercises, stream of consciousness writing, collage, and more. Bring a notebook or laptop, as you will have an opportunity to put one or more of these generative exercises into practice!

## **Keynote: "Don't Write Alone"**

Author Scott Reintgen will talk through an old idea about writing being a solo sport. We think writing is done in the loneliest room of the house and if we're lucky, someone might read our writing long after we're dead. Writing isn't a solo sport, though. It's actually incredibly collaborative. We're writing with the other authors who've come before us, with our audience, and more. Scott's talk will walk through the importance of thinking about creativity and writing as something we do with the rest of the world, and how that thinking can lead to writing even better stories.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## Micaela Green

is a writer and artist curious about the intersections of language, nature, and Black womanhood. She has had artwork previously exhibited at The Hermitage Museum in Norfolk, Virginia. When not working on an MFA in Fiction at Vermont College of Fine Arts, she is working as a Mental Health Advocate in Richmond, Virginia.

## Brendan Reichs

is an author born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. After leaving his career in law, he co-wrote the *Virals* series and wrote the New York Times bestselling YA series *Project Nemesis*. He later co-wrote the middle grade series *The Darkdeep* with best friend Ally Condie. He is the Executive Board of both the YALLFEST and YALLWEST young adult literary festivals, and he continues to live in Charlotte with his family.



## Jacqui Castle

is a professional freelance writer and novelist living in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina. Castle is one of the hosts of the Indie Writer Podcast. *The Seclusion*, her first novel, is a Foreword Indies Book of the Year Award Winner in Science Fiction, and the winner of the North Carolina Author Project. The sequel to *The Seclusion*, *The Chasm*, will hit shelves on March 29, 2022.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## Alan Gratz

is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of seventeen novels for young readers, including *Ground Zero*, *Refugee*, *Allies*, *Grenade*, *Prisoner B-3087*, *Projekt 1065*, and *Ban This Book*. A Knoxville, Tennessee native, Alan is now a full-time writer living in Asheville, North Carolina with his wife and daughter.

## Scott Reintgen

is an author of science fiction and fantasy books. He wrote the *Nyxia* trilogy, the *Ashlords* duology, and the *Talespinners* series. His next middle grade series will kick off in May 2022 with *The Problem with Prophecies*. He began his career as an English and Creative Writing teacher in North Carolina. He currently lives in North Carolina with his wife Katie and his two boys, Henry and Thomas.



## Meg Eden

is a 2020 Pitch Wars mentee and a professor at Anne Arundel Community College. Her work is published in magazines including *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *Crab Orchard Review*. She is the author of five poetry chapbooks, the novel *Post-High School Reality Quest* (2017), and the poetry collection *Drowning in the Floating World* (2020). She runs the Magfest MAGES Library blog.

# YEW SPEAKER BIOS



## Desiree Brown

is a poet & writer from Charlotte, NC. She received her B.A. from UNC-Charlotte and her M.F.A. from New York University. Her work has appeared in Hedge Apple Magazine, Unlikely Stories, The Woven Tale Press, Sanskrit, and The Scene & Heard Journal. She teaches college courses in English and Creative Writing and manages the Young Eager Writers Association.

## Michael Evans

has published three novels and four novellas at only seventeen. As the author of *Control Freakz*, a post-apocalyptic thriller series, he's is driven to write every day to hopefully shed light on the dark prospects of the future, and to spread the message that humans are the control freaks of our own future.



## Damien Holland

is an emerging queer, trans non-binary writer with a focus on queer rights, sexual health, and body positivity. He received his BA in Creative Writing from UNC Asheville. His work has appeared in Headwaters Creative Arts Journal, ode to queer, odyssey, Sanctuary Literary Arts Journal, and Unwritten. They live in Asheville, North Carolina and are Editor-in-Chief of the Young Eager Writers' Journal.

# PANELISTS

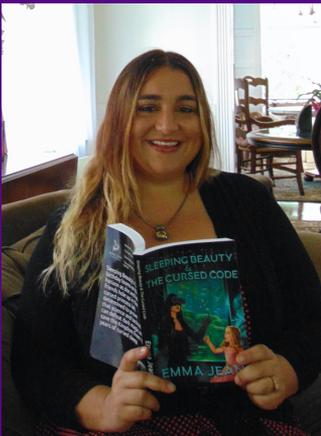


## Alee Anderson

is a ghostwriter whose clients have been published by HarperCollins, BenBella Books, Simon & Schuster, Thomas Nelson Publishers, and more. She founded Hey! Young Writer, an organization that seeks to change the culture associated with an art form that is traditionally embraced in solitude.

## delmetria l. millener

is a storyteller and teacher living in Asia. She worked as a nationally published freelance journalist, a content writer, copywriter, and editor. She is also the founding director of #TeenWritersProject, a nonprofit writing organization that provides a collaborative and engaging space for teens to write and be published. She leads its Lit Zine publication as Editor-in-Chief.



## Emma Jean

is the Award Winning Children's Author behind Charles McCheese & The Childhood News Network and Sleeping Beauty & The Cursed Code. She is the founder of the I'm An Author Academy, where she's linked forces with some of today's top Indie talent to teach high school aged authors the sometimes surprising but completely necessary skills to develop their voice and their presence as an author.

# PANELISTS



## Millie Florence

is an adventurous homeschooler who published her first book, *Honey Butter*, at age thirteen. She loves sushi, zip lines, and just about all things yellow.

## Dana Broadus

is a self-published young/new adult fiction writer, a literature blogger, and a journalist for UNC Greensboro. She is the author of the fantasy novel, *Imagine*.



## Risha Chaurasia

is an Indian tween author. *Tales of Twinkling Tweens* is her first novel, but she plans to write more. She is raised by inspirational and open-minded parents with a cute twin-sister Radhika.

## Hannah Ward

is an English education student at UNC Greensboro. She has a passion for literature and teaching, and hopes to bring the art of creative writing back to public school curriculums.





To the speakers, staff, and attendees  
who make this conference possible,

**THANK YOU!**

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*Have questions? Reach out to us at  
**[youngeagerwriters@gmail.com](mailto:youngeagerwriters@gmail.com)***

*Learn more about what YEW offers at  
**[youngeagerwriters.org](http://youngeagerwriters.org)***