

Links to Mesa Public Library Presentation Files

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I'm listing my library presentations by date so that you can look back and see if there are any you might have missed. At the bottom you'll find some bonuses. I know you'll enjoy Bob Dukelow's notes from the "Write Now" conference. Those of you who are ready to publish, but discouraged by hunting for an agent, can look through my *Publishers 2017* directory. Otherwise, here are the notes for classes you may have missed.

Sign Up For My Newsletter

Before you forget, please go to my website—<http://maryleemacdonaldauthor.com>--and sign up for "Writers' Bootcamp." That will get you onto my mailing list. Make sure you check your spamblocker so that you approve my email address. I know that some of you haven't been getting the SignUp Genius emails, even though you're signed up for one-on-ones. I'm assuming that's because the emails are going to your spam folder.

Leave Reviews on Amazon and Goodreads

Do you know what a "swipe file" is? It's a file you can copy and use for your own purposes. Several of you have published books or are about to publish them. I've found that even folks who've read my books have a hard time figuring out how to post reviews on Goodreads.

I've created a **swipe file** that tells readers how to do that. Please swipe all or part of these instructions and **use them to let your readers know how to post to Goodreads**, the largest book club in the world. [Here's the file.](#)

If any of you have read my books this summer, I'd greatly appreciate you leaving reviews:

[Bonds of Love & Blood](#) on Amazon

[Bonds of Love & Blood](#) on Goodreads

[Montpelier Tomorrow](#) on Amazon

[Montpelier Tomorrow](#) on Goodreads

Writing Group to Continue

Every **Wednesday from 3:30-5:30**, the Mesa Library Writing Group will continue meeting in the upstairs conference room of the Main Library. You're welcome to join them.

Presentations and Handouts

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When you click on the download links, you may get a message asking whether you want to download the file. This is an automatic question that pops up as a result of your security settings. The files are safe.

June 1-Is It Better to Show or Tell: That Is The Question

Writers are often advised to "show, don't tell," but what does that mean? We'll look at excerpts from writers who tell more than they show, and from writers who tell, rather than show.

[Show or Tell](#)

June 8-Hero's/Heroine's Journey

From THE ODYSSEY to LORD OF THE RINGS, the plots of many beloved stories have a common mythic element. Learn how to give your heroes and heroines the tools they need to bring back the magic elixir. We'll talk about heroes, heroines, and villains and a technique called "storyboarding" that can help you visualize your novel. This program is for teens and adults.

[Hero/Heroine Journey pdf](#)

[Vogler's Guide to Joseph Campbell](#)

June 9-Where to Writers Get Story Ideas?

Learn how to use snippets of conversation, newspaper articles, hobbies, and jobs as springboards for fiction.

[Story Ideas](#)

[Character Checklist](#)

June 15-Should You Self-Publish or Find an Agent (Part 1 of a Two-part Talk)

In this presentation, you'll learn how to turn your manuscript into a book, either by submitting it to an agent, by contracting with an independent publisher, or by self-publishing: an overview of the publishing industry today.

[Mesa Library Resources](#)

[2017 Key Book Publishing Paths](#)

[Slides and Notes](#)

June 22-How to Craft a Legacy Book

Have you written down the stories only you can tell? If you've put off telling stories about the days before cell phones and the internet, then come learn how to record those stories, get your words transcribed, and turn your stories into a book.

[Questions for Your Interview](#)

[Crafting a Legacy Book Presentation Notes](#)

June 23-Listening for Voices

Each character in your story has a particular way of speaking, and often, the story itself has a voice. Learn how to listen for and develop a voice that's just right for your story.

[Listening for Voices](#)

June 29-Finding Time to Write

As busy as we all are, finding the time to write seems like an insurmountable obstacle. Learn strategies for dealing with procrastination or with simply having a life that's overbooked.

[Time to Write](#)

[Must Do Daily](#)

June 30-Likeable Characters

Readers and agents pass judgment on characters, and if your character isn't "likable," readers will put your book down, and agents will take a pass. Learn how to create flawed, but likable, characters.

[Likeable Characters](#)

July 6-Grown-up Fairy Tales

Discover the fun of creating imaginary worlds. Learn how to borrow the story structure of fairy tales and write modern fairy tales of your own.

[Grown up fairy tales](#)

July 13-How to Study Writing Without Going Back to School

Aspiring writers often wonder if they should go back to school. Come learn about free, online classes and library resources that can help you find your inner muse. Many classes start this fall.

[Learn to Write](#)

July 14-Enneagrams and Character Profiles

Find out what makes your main characters tick by exploring the hidden sides of their personalities. We'll use profile sheets and Enneagrams to uncover a character's vulnerabilities, coping mechanisms, and desires.

[Enneagrams Handout](#)

[Character Checklist](#)

July 20-Avoiding the Agent Trap (Part 2 of a Two-part Talk)

The world of publishing has changed dramatically. Discover Print-On-Demand (POD) publishing, and learn the difference between vanity presses, independent publishers, and self-published books.

[Avoiding the Agent Trap](#)

[Key Book Publishing Paths](#)

July 27-Dialogue Do's and Don'ts

Learn how to deal with the "he saids" and "she saids" in your manuscript and discover why dialogue is like arm-wrestling. This is an advanced workshop for folks who've been writing for a while.

[Dialogue Do's and Don'ts](#)

July 28-Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

In order to capture readers' interest, every story needs action. We'll do some theater games to show the difference between dialogue and thoughts. And, we'll also co-create a story with all the story elements of setting, character, and action.

[Lions, Tigers, and Bears](#)

August 3-How to Handle Characters' Thoughts

Readers enjoying spending time inside of characters' heads, but rendering a character's thoughts can be tricky. Learn how to render thoughts without the common mistakes of head-hopping, italicizing, or switching from third- to first-person point of view.

[How to Handle Characters' Thoughts](#)

August 10-Social Media for Authors

If you've published a book or are about to publish one, learn how advanced social-media tools can help you build an audience. This workshop will discuss apps like Nimble, Meet Edgar, LeadPages, Canva, PicMonkey, Hootsuite, ScoopIt, and Designrr.io.

[Social Media for Authors](#)

[Article on Cost of Self-Publishing](#)

August 11-Unfolding the Roadmap of Your Novel

Every trip needs a roadmap. Learn a magic, two-sentence method that will transform your character's wandering path into a compelling tale that will keep readers emotionally invested and turning the page.

[Unfolding the Roadmap of Your Novel](#)

August 17-Top 10 “How to” Books for Authors

The library is a great resource for writers. In this presentation, Marylee MacDonald will share her personal favorites, and some of them may surprise you.

[Top 10 Books for Writers Handout](#)

[Elmore Leonard and Friends](#)

August 24-Microtension

Most writing workshops focus on the big plot elements--the car chases, fight scenes, and breakups. But what about those moments when we're walking down a dark street and we hear footsteps behind us?

That's microtension. To understand how microtension works, we'll be looking at a single passage from author Margot Livesey's novel *HOMEWORK*.

[Microtension Lecture Notes](#)

August 25-Secondary Characters

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Secondary characters drive the plot. As the protagonist strives to reach her goal, secondary characters serve as obstacles, mentors, role models, or models of excessive behavior. Learn who's "riding in the coach" and who's running alongside.

[Secondary Characters Handout](#)

August 31-How to Create Memorable Characters

How well do you understand your characters? In this workshop we'll talk about how a character's inconsistencies will turn a potentially flat character into a complex, memorable character. Memorable characters develop as a result of action, dialogue, thoughts and physical descriptions. We'll talk about how plot arises from character, and not the other way around, and we'll learn how showing the character "in scene" strengthens the bond with the reader.

[Memorable Characters Handout](#)

[Storyfix Blueprint](#)

Bob Dukelow's Notes on the Write Now Conference

Terrific notes from a conference on August 12 involving Clive Cussler, the publisher of Brash Books, and several other excellent presenters

[Bob Dukelow Notes from Write Now Conference](#)

Publishers' List 2017 – a 462-page Word document that lists small presses, independent publishers, novel and novella contests, and university presses. In most cases these presses are open to submissions without the need for you to have an agent. This document is formatted for 8.5 x 5.5-inch paper. Go through the document to find publishers that match your book, select out the pages for those publishers, and compile a new book just for your personal use. You can then print out those pages and store them in a small binder. This should be a good way for you to keep track of your submissions and have new possibilities ready.

[Publishers 2017 Directory](#)

That's it for the summer! Have a great fall and continued good luck with your own works-in-progress.

Marylee MacDonald