



PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS FOR TEENS

Given by Karen Avivi & Alexa Nazzero

Teen Fiction Novelists Tell All!

What does it take to write a book? Where do you get ideas that make great stories?

How do you overcome the fear of not being good enough?

60- to 90-minute presentation

In this joint presentation, authors Karen Avivi and Alexa Nazzero reveal their personal writing experiences, and encourage teens to write their own stories.

In her presentation *Write What You Don't Know (Yet)*, Karen shares why she decided to write about girls' BMX for her debut novel, *Shredded*, how she did the research without breaking any bones, and the enriching discoveries that await writers who dare to follow their curiosity.

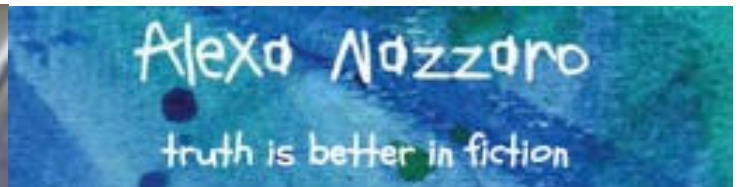


How did an insecure teenager finally work up the nerve to be a writer?

In her talk entitled *Stop Waiting, Start Writing*, author Alexa Nazzero inspires teens to follow their own creative path by relating her personal experience of becoming an author, from drafting her first novel as a thirteen-year-old to publishing her debut novel, *The Pool Theory* in 2013.



Hands-on writing exercises are included in the 90-minute version of this presentation.



4-Session Workshop: Discover Your Writing Voice

Ideal for 6-12 participants

Where do I start? How do I find my "voice?"

In this interactive workshop series, participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of creative writing and encouraged to flex their writing muscles with exercises. Authors Alexa Nazzaro and Karen Avivi will facilitate small group discussions and assist participants in identifying their unique writing voices.

Session 1: Ideas are Everywhere

- Introduction to brainstorming through prompts
- Stream-of-consciousness writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 2: The People in Your Story

- Techniques for building characters
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A



Session 3: Location, Location, Location

- The fundamentals of setting
- Exploring the different aspects of world-building
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 4: Conflict

- Exploring the different types of conflict in a story
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

This workshop series is given in four 45-minute sessions and includes handouts that cover the following: theory, additional exercises and suggested reading for further development.

Participants need to provide their own writing materials.



8-Session Workshop: Taking the Pen Further

Ideal for 6-12 participants

The 8-session workshop includes the content of the first 4 sessions and explores additional, more complex aspects of creative writing and the anatomy of a story. Each session is 45 minutes long.

Session 1: Ideas are Everywhere

- Introduction to brainstorming through prompts
- Stream-of-consciousness writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 2: The People in Your Story

- Techniques for building characters
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 3: Making Your People Interesting

- Exploring the character arc
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 4: Location, Location, Location

- The fundamentals of setting
- Exploring the different aspects of world-building
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 5: Conflict

- Exploring different types of conflict
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 6: And the Plot Thickens...

- Discussing the fundamentals of plot
- Looking at the basic elements of a story arc
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 7: The Big, Black Moment

- Exploring climax in a story and what makes a good climax
- Writing exercise
- Breakout groups for sharing
- Q&A

Session 8: Getting Your Work Out There

- Tips to help students share their writing, including leveraging various social media tools and other creative outlets
- Final Q&A

This workshop includes handouts that cover the following: theory, additional exercises, and suggested reading for further development. Post-workshop mentorship may be possible for interested participants.