

Write Your Heroes Alive

Are you tired of writing heroes that fall flatter than paper? Join Melissa Walshe at the Topsham Public Library this summer to explore ways to bring your protagonists to life. We'll look at writing heroes in three sessions designed to complement one another while being useful as standalone workshops.

The Only Good Hero is An Anti-Hero

Date: June 2 | Time: 6:00 PM

With the rising popularity of dark fiction such as Game of Thrones and young adult dystopias such as The Hunger Games, the classic notion of a hero seems to be losing ground to more complex champions. In this one-hour workshop, we'll discuss examples from pop culture and borrow from the concept of alignment in role-playing games to consider how making your protagonist a bit wicked can be a gripping way to engage readers' emotions.

The Hero's Choice

Date: July 7 | Time: 6:00 PM

The beliefs of heroes are one thing: their actions another. What makes the questionable choices of one hero sympathetic and another just plain pathetic? In this one-hour workshop, we'll discuss examples from pop culture and consider the questions you need to answer in order to imbue your hero's choices with the life that comes from believable motivation and a consistently developed perspective.

When The Good Die Young

Date: August 4 | Time: 6:00 PM

Happily ever after is a trope so outdated it's almost due for a comeback. Part of drawing the reader into the world of your hero is creating a genuine belief that it's possible for bad things to happen to good characters. In this one-hour workshop, we'll consider great and mediocre examples in modern fiction and discuss the principles behind setting a lovable hero up for complete failure...without isolating the reader.

Instructor Bio:

Melissa Walshe mucks about with words in just about every possible way. She published her first book, Autumn's Daughter in 2014. She is a professional copywriter for shines & jecker laboratories. She has an Ed.M. in language and literacy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in linguistics from the University of Southern Maine. Most of her waking (and dreaming) hours are spent thinking about how to tell a more compelling story.