



Joëlle Anthony – author bio

Joëlle Anthony started out life in Portland, Oregon as a talker, then a reader, eventually a writer, and by her teen years, the sirens of the stage were calling her name. With a BA in theatre, and absolutely no other marketable skills (not even waitressing), she got some headshots made and called herself an actress. Believe it or not, some people fell for it, and if you look really closely, and don't blink, you can see her in movies like *What The Bleep Do We Know?* and *The Temp*. The desire to write remained strong though, and was her real calling. After many years of practice, and lots and lots of reading, her first novel, *Restoring Harmony*, was published. It went on to be long listed for the American Library Association's *Best New Young Adult Fiction*, and chosen as the Feature Title for Cincinnati's *Teen on the Same Page Festival*. Her second novel, *The Right & the Real* also an ALA's *Best YA Fiction* nominee was named a *Bank Street's 2013 Best Books of the Year*. Her third novel, a new YA published under the pen name J. M. Kelly called *Speed of Life* was hailed by *Publisher's Weekly* as: *a believable portrait of blue-collar teens struggling to make it work against tough odds* and her first Middle Grade, *A Month of Mondays* will be released March 7th, 2017. She enjoys teaching writing workshops to writers of all ages. Visit her on the web at www.joelleanthony.com and www.jmkellywrites.com Follow her on Twitter @joellewrites

Author Visits & Writing Workshops

Many workshops are suitable for either adults or young writers, however when given in grade schools, they are tailored to fit the age of the students, so while mixing of ages can work, it's best if each workshop is taught to one or two grade levels at most. Organizers have the options of single or double workshops. Single Workshop – 40-60 minutes and Double Session Workshop – two 55 minute sessions with 10 minute break (designed for more advanced students).

Author Talk – ideal for large groups or public events

Presentation and Author Q&A - Joëlle will read from her novels, talk about writing, the life of the author, and process. There will be plenty of time for students to ask questions about everything from craft to the business of being published. This hour includes time for signing of books/bookmarks. **Ideal for large groups, assemblies, library talks, and festivals, but she's happy to do it for single classes also. For students younger than Grade 5, Joëlle has a shorter presentation for them.**

Choose from the following workshops:

Creating Memorable Characters - In this workshop, author Joëlle Anthony teaches you how to create quick characters to get you writing, examines the character clichés that permeate novels, and explains how to avoid them. Learn to make even the smallest character in your fiction well-rounded and memorable. **There are two versions of this workshop – one for kids Grade 6 and up, and one for adults who are aspiring and/or professional writers (emphasis and examples are for writers writing for kids/teens, but could be useful for all writers).**

Sensory Details Workshop – In this workshop, author Joëlle Anthony takes a hands-on approach to the five senses. You won't simply write about taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing, you'll experience it, too. Learn how to incorporate all the senses into your writing to give it more flavour and a

well-rounded feel. **This is a favourite class for kids, but also useful and fun for adult writers.**

Writing Bad Stories* – In this fun and often hilarious workshop, writers get an opportunity to find out just how bad of a writer they can be! Author Joëlle Anthony leads writers through a discussion about what makes writing bad versus just not to our taste. Once we have a list of writing crimes, writers are encouraged to do their best to show us their worst. Sharing these horrible stories are a big part of this workshop, and help writers get over the fear of where to start, and reading aloud. **Kids love this class, and adults have found it fun, too.**

Story Structure* – designed for beginning writers, this workshop explores Beginnings, Inciting Incidents, Middles, Climaxes, and Endings. **It's a great foundation class for young writers or those just getting started. Grade 6 and up.**

***These two workshops can be combined to form a 1 hour or 1.5 hour workshop.**

Where Do You Get Your Ideas? – In this workshop, author Joëlle Anthony gets everyone's imagination moving by making brainstorming maps. Then the writers break into groups and write collaborative stories with time to share at the end. **Ideal for young and especially shy writers.**

For Aspiring and Professional Writers –

True to Teens; dialogue in YA Fiction – 60-90 minutes

It's challenging enough to create realistic teen characters, but in the ever changing world of today's young readers, how do you write dialogue that rings true? In this workshop, Joëlle Anthony covers writing dialogue that sounds believable and authentic, language trends, texting, profanity, and how to use these types of dialogue for maximum effect. We'll try our hand at

writing exercises designed to tighten your dialogue, and discuss whether there are lines that shouldn't be crossed or if it's a free-for-all in YA literature these days.

The Final Polish – 60-90 minutes

You've finally finished a draft of your novel and you're ready to start querying. Or you've written something fabulous, but it's twenty thousand words longer than it should be and you don't know what to do. In this workshop, Joëlle Anthony will take you through that final pass before sending your manuscript out into the world. She'll give you tips for shortening and tightening your story, making dialogue snap, digging out the clichés, and more. Once you've applied these final polish techniques, your manuscript will shine, raising you above the rest who are in too much of a hurry to do this important step.

Creating Memorable Characters – 60-90 minutes

In this workshop, author [Joëlle Anthony](#) teaches you how to create quick characters to get you writing, examines the character clichés that permeate novels, and explains how to avoid them. Learn to make even the smallest character in your fiction well-rounded and memorable.

Need To Read – 60 minutes

Inspired by Joëlle's own reading program, *The Need To Read*, and the subsequent articles she wrote on it – *Red Hair is Not as Uncommon as You Think – twenty-five of the most overused things in MG & YA Fiction* and *Avoiding the Character Cliché*, this workshop is designed for writers pursuing a career in fiction. Those interested in nonfiction might find some of it applicable, too.

In this hour-long workshop, Joëlle will explain how a Designed Reading Program can take your writing to a new level. She will share ideas on creating your own personal program, including how to choose books, how to stay organized, and how to overcome the guilt many writers feel when they read instead of write. She will also lead an exercise designed to show writers how to avoid the most common plot and character clichés.

The Twenty Minute Author Talk – 60 minutes

In this interactive workshop, Joëlle will walk published writers through her twenty minute author talk step by step, showing why it works. There will

also be tips on expanding it for longer presentations, how to wing it when technology fails you, and an exploration of why some authors shine while others just look scared. We will explore vocal warm-ups, relaxation techniques, breathing, and diction. Joëlle will also discuss how to choose what passages from your books to read aloud at events, and how to edit the piece for clarity and brevity.

For the Visual Artist – 60 minutes

Writer & former arts promoter Joelle Anthony will take you through using the written word to create artist bios, blurbs about your work, and publicity materials. Learn how to brand yourself and your art so people remember you, find new opportunities for publicity, and show the world you're a professional artist.

Tech Requirements

The school/library/festival needs to provide microphone/sound amplification as needed for the room and audience size, a table to hold Joëlle's notes, and extension cords to reach outlets. While all workshops can be taught with a chalkboard or whiteboard, Joëlle prefers the option of being able to hook her computer up to a projector.

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