

Presentation & Workshop Offerings: Author Joy E. Rancatore

For Writers

Writing with Layers (versions for adults and tweens/teens)

Great stories rarely emerge in the first draft. The depths of theme, intricacies of storylines and three-dimensional nature of characters come through revisions and edits. Explore adding layers of purpose, sense and action in this practical, hands-on workshop with award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore.

Your “Write” Adventure: Trail Blazes for Writing Memoirs

Every life is a story—or a dozen. How do you know when it's time to write yours down? Should you write it for your family or the world? What's the difference between autobiography and memoir? How do you approach each? Author Joy E. Rancatore will answer these questions and more. Writers will leave with tips and advice on writing their stories as well as a brainstorm of the best way to tell their adventures.

Campfire Stories: Writing Hooks, Adding Tension & Ending with a Bang! (versions for adults and tweens/teens)

Writers will receive tips about writing hooks, adding tension and ending stories with a bang. They will be provided with prompts or may begin a story with their own ideas. They will have time to begin writing and may ask questions or receive assistance in brainstorming from author Joy E. Rancatore. The workshop ends around a metaphorical "campfire" for writers to share their stories.

PREP Your Story (versions for adults and tweens/teens)

One of the biggest mistakes writers make with their first drafts is not prepping. The results? Frustration, stopping midway, unclear direction. Another reason to prep is having a better product in the end. A well-prepped manuscript will be less dumpster fire and more neatly contained trash bags. Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore will provide practical guidance for the process. (*Presentation or workshop*)

To inquire about Joy's availability and fees or discuss specific presentation needs, please email her at joy@joyerancatore.com. For more about the author: <https://joyerancatore.com/>.

INNK Your Story (versions for adults and tweens/teens)

Author Joy E. Rancatore aims to help writers of all levels successfully draft their stories. While this workshop stands alone, it makes a natural Part 2 to the PREP Your Story workshop. *(Presentation or workshop)*

EDIT Your Story (versions for adults and tweens/teens)

Author and Editor Joy E. Rancatore guides writers of all levels to successfully self-edit their stories. While this workshop stands alone, it makes a natural Part 3 to the PREP Your Story and INNK Your Story workshops. *(Presentation or workshop)*

Not *Just* Self-published

Many writers who have self-published sound apologetic when they tell people they are *just* self-published. Don't apologize; professionalize! This session with indie author Joy E. Rancatore provides a three-step shift and an extended Q&A time to tailor to participants' needs. Participants will receive a Mindset Shift Mini-journal. *(This workshop is geared toward fledgling writers new to the industry and the idea of self-publishing.)*

Embracing Indie Publishing

This session with indie author Joy E. Rancatore defines indie publishing, dispels some misconceptions, dives into practical tips and includes an extended Q&A time to address participants' needs. Participants will receive a Mindset Shift Mini-journal. *(This workshop is geared toward writers who have been self-publishing for a while or who have planned to self-publish for a while.)*

Ready for the Red Pen?

You've typed "the end," but are you ready for the red pen? This info-packed presentation with editor and indie author Joy E. Rancatore will prepare writers for the process toward publication.

Building an Editorial Board

Author and editor Joy E. Rancatore answers the 5 W questions, How? and So What? of building an editorial board in this presentation for authors.

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Self-Editing for the Skeptical

All writers can and should self-edit before and while they seek outside assistance and expertise for polishing their words. This presentation with editor and author Joy E. Rancatore seeks to boost the confidence of all writers with practical tools and examples. *(Can also be framed as a workshop with guided practices.)*

Interviewing for Authors

Research is integral to the writing life. Often the best sources live nearby or may be reached online. Former journalist and current author Joy E. Rancatore will teach writers how to identify experts in any community and prepare helpful questions to interview them for book research. *(Includes a workshop component.)*

Brand Yourself!

Author Joy E. Rancatore designed this interactive workshop to give writers a firm foundation to brand themselves as author(preneur)s.

Finders Keepers: How to Find and Keep Your Writing Critique Partner

Authors and critique partners Joy E. Rancatore and Meagan Smith introduce writers to the concept of writing critique partners, dispel misbeliefs, highlight how to begin a partnership, examine how to set one up for success, identify where to find fellow writers and share benefits to the relationship. *(Workshop availability dependent upon both authors' schedules; adaptable for adults and older teens.)*

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For Readers

Finding the Facts in My Fiction

Even the most fantastic fiction contains facts. Award-winning, multi-genre indie author Joy E. Rancatore shares examples of facts in her southern fiction, fantasy and historical fiction.

What's Southern Fiction without Food?

Explore the importance of food in Southern fiction with Joy E. Rancatore, award-winning author of Southern fiction with Christian roots. Attendees will receive recipe cards inspired by her award-winning novel *Any Good Thing*.

Emergence: How One Book Became Four

Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore takes fans of Southern fiction with Christian roots behind the books of Carolina's Legacy Collection to uncover how the initial plan of a standalone novel turned into a story treasury across four literary mediums: novel, novella, short story collection and epistolary.

Meet the Characters of Carolina's Legacy Collection

Authors aren't always in charge of their stories; characters often double as directors. Joy E. Rancatore shares how the characters of her Carolina's Legacy Collection influenced the stories and developed the themes.

KINND Book Reviews

Author Joy E. Rancatore developed a system for writing KINND Book Reviews that she has shared in multiple formats (presentation and workshop, in-person and virtual) in a few weekly (or daily) sessions, a longer single workshop or a simplified presentation. *(Can be adapted for teens, tweens and upper elementary students.)*

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Be an Active Reader

Explore a few ways to be a more active reader with lifelong reader and award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore.

The Roles of Mothers in Literature

Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore explores a variety of roles of mothers in literature, using examples from literary history as well as her work.

Summer Reading: Not Just for Kids

Examine a few benefits to summer (or other seasonal or year-round) reading challenges for adults. Discover free and exciting programs that exist in your local library and online and leave with tips to make the most of the experience. Led by longtime reading challenge enthusiast and LAM Summer Reading Challenge host Joy E. Rancatore, this presentation leans toward a workshop with fun and thought-provoking questions to aid readers in starting right.

Book Club Basics

Explore what's so great about book clubs with author, LAM Book Club host and longtime book club lover Joy E. Rancatore. The topic includes: where to find book clubs, how to start them, how to be the best member and how to keep them fresh.

Joy also offers free digital book club kits and author visits (in-person or virtual) with Book Clubs who read her books.

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For Students

My Life as a Writer: Exploring Jobs with Writing

Author Joy E. Rancatore has used her writing skills in just about every writing-specific job field that exists. She has stories and examples to share and loves answering questions.

How to Become an Author

The publishing industry has changed drastically in recent years. The result? Writers have many paths to choose if they'd like to be published authors, and they don't have to choose only one. Author Joy E. Rancatore will share facts, tips and practical wisdom while answering students' questions.

A Day in the Life of an Author

What does an author do all day? Spoiler: it's not just writing! Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore pulls back the curtain on what it takes to release books into the world—and keep them there.

Tales on Tails Four-Part Creative Writing Series

Perfect for a month of weekly creative writing workshops or a creative writing summer camp, these four workshops can be presented in their entirety or one topic at a time. Originally designed for tweens and teens, this series may be adapted for adults or younger children.

- **Workshop #1: Tails' Fable Tales**
Led by author Joy E. Rancatore, students will learn about fables and use prompts to write their own.
- **Workshop #2: Fairy Tails' Tales**
Led by author Joy E. Rancatore, students will learn about fairy tales and use prompts to draft their own.
- **Workshop #3: Tales of Mythic Tails**
Led by author Joy E. Rancatore, students will explore great myths and legends from history and find inspiration from mythical "tails" to create their own tales.
- **Workshop #4: Create-Your-Own-Tail Tale**

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Led by author Joy E. Rancatore, students will workshop and brainstorm to create their own fantastical tail-bearer and then write its tale. This is the most in-depth workshop and can be split into more than one session.

Oceans of Stories Within You Three-Part Creative Writing Series

Perfect for a month of weekly creative writing workshops or a creative writing summer camp, these three workshops can be presented in their entirety or one topic at a time. Originally designed for tweens and teens, this series may be adapted for adults or younger children.

- **Workshop #1: Choosing Your Story to Tell**
Often, the hardest part of the writing journey is choosing which story path to take. Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore will provide five tips and lead students in a brainstorming session to choose their tales to tell.
- **Workshop #2: Building Characters**
How can writers create a character readers will love—or hate—enough to invest in their story? Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore brings five tips plus prompts to help students build their characters.
- **Workshop #3: Writing Through Challenges**
Writers know stories don't always come easily. Award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore will share five overall tips and then lead students in a brainstorming session to develop a plan of attack to write through their challenges before they happen.

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For Broad Audiences

Journaling with Joy

Journaling provides a multitude of benefits and takes many forms. Explore some of these with award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore. Attendees will receive journaling prompts to put their newfound knowledge and inspiration to use.

Onward, Christian Creatives!

Do you have artists, musicians, writers, artisans or other creatives in your church? You can—and should—be a huge part of their success. Choose a simple presentation on how churches can support their creative members or add an interactive workshop to put ideas into action.

Love Letters: Not Just for Lovers

Writing letters seems like a dying art these days, but it doesn't have to be. Joy E. Rancatore, award-winning author of multiple books, including an epistolary, inspires audiences of all ages to try their hands at letter-writing.

Set Fantastic Goals

Author Joy E. Rancatore is a lifelong goal-setter who loves to share practical tips with others—writers, readers or anyone! She provides whimsical templates and journal guidance to make the goal-setting journey fantastic.

Creativity SPARKs Creativity

Lifelong creative and award-winning author Joy E. Rancatore loves encouraging creativity in people of all ages. This presentation includes five practical tips to encourage finding and nurturing creativity.

Joy has presented a variety of programs to civic groups and other organizations about the author life, the writing process and other topics.

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