Photos by Robyn Graham Photography

SAMPLE TALKS

DONNA GALANTI is the author of middle-grade books with the *Unicorn Island* series, *Joshua and the Lightning Road* series, and *Loon Cove Summer* (5/6/25). She's also the author of the paranormal suspense *Element Trilogy* for adults. She has lived in fun locations including England, her family-owned campground in New Hampshire, and in Hawaii where she served as a U.S. Navy photographer. Donna is an avid outdoor adventurer and nature lover. She volunteers for the Old-Growth Forest Network and with the National Audubon Society. When Donna's not wandering the woods seeking magic and wonder, you can usually find her biking or kayaking. For more information on her books and events, visit her at: www.donnagalanti.com.

Sample one-to-two-hour fiction writing craft lectures and workshops:

BUILD SUSPENSE: MEET YOUR READERS IN THE MIDDLE
Suspense isn't only for thrillers and who-dun-its. Every book in every genre needs a way of building the kind of tension that keeps the reader turning pages. These techniques are even more effective if you invite the reader to participate in an active reading experience. Donna will share how to meet your audience in the middle through raising questions, strategically disseminating information, setting the mood, and YES – going S-L-O-W!

FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD BUILDING IN FICTION
All stories happen somewhere. Whether you write fantasy, dystopian, science fiction, or even about the "real world," world building is key to creating a meaningful story. With two science fiction and five fantasy books under her belt, Donna shares methods of world building that any writer can apply. From the smallest details to the rules of its universe, discover the way a considered approach to world building can govern the hearts of your characters and help drive your story. Topics include: elements of world building, using world building to support conflict and tension, world building questions and resources, and what to avoid in building your world.

HARNESS YOUR INNER CHILD TO WRITE FOR KIDS
Whether you write for children now or are considering it, Donna will share how to harness your childlike wonder and create an engaging story idea that tweens and teens can connect with while steering clear of stories that can fall flat. Through writing techniques that will help you get inside the minds of young readers and see what issues they face; you will learn to write a story that gets inside their hearts. Topics include: Defining middle-grade (MG) and young adult (YA) audiences, finding a story idea, diving into the mind of an MG/YA reader, ways to engage young readers, how to thrill kids, using setting and imagery, evoking wonder, creating characters, and hands-on exercises on how to harness wonder to write for kids.

NOVEL REVISION TECHNIQUES TO GET PUBLISHED & GAIN READERS
Have you had your manuscript requested over and over only to have the door closed on your work? Based on personal experience working with agents, editors, multiple publishers, and as a literary agency intern, Donna shares what can get your manuscript past the gatekeeper (the intern!) and in the hands of the agent—or your reader. You'll discover the most common stop-reading mistakes Donna experienced as a first-reader intern that led her to not recommend the manuscript to an agent. In this self-editing talk, you'll also learn how to build your revision toolkit and apply it to your manuscript, including; world building, narrative flow, character development, dialogue, backstory, and undeveloped plot lines. Donna will help you create the game plan to overcome problems that could be plaguing your manuscript and keeping you from getting published—or connecting with your readers if you self-publish! Addressing these issues could power up your story and get it past the gatekeeper—whether the agent or the reader.

Sample one-to-two-hour book marketing lectures:

7 WAYS TO MARKET YOUR NEW RELEASE
Benefit from Donna's experience of having three books release within six weeks of each other, hitting the Amazon bestseller lists, and staying there. She shares the basics on how to successfully launch your book–from social media to advertising to giveaways. Learn the steps to finding best-fit reviewers, engaging authors to blurb your book, and expanding your book's exposure on social media. To advertise or not? Donna explains what paid advertising can work and how the timing of your advertising is critical to its success. This book launch overview will help you send your new release on its way into the right reader hands–and sell more books!

A 7-STEP AUTHOR MARKETING PLAN TO BUILD BRAND & PLATFORM
Even if you don't have a literary agent, a book deal, or a polished draft, Donna will show you what you can do right now to successfully pave the way to an author career before your book is published. Learn how to build a strong author foundation that includes; creating a peer support network, building a platform, creating an author persona, forming relationships with authors, sharing the wisdom you already have, working with industry organizations, and connecting with readers (yes, before that book is out!). Creating an author platform takes time and building it slowly can make this overwhelming process not only easy and manageable, but fun! Attendees will come away with the steps to launch their author platform over time as they continue to seek publication.

PUBLIC SPEAKING 101 FOR AUTHORS: PREPARE TO PRESENT
As authors, we need to be in the public eye. Often this includes presenting at conferences, being a guest author at conventions, giving school assemblies, doing group author events, and more. Saying YES to these opportunities will force you to get over your public speaking fear. Donna will share techniques for preparing and presenting at events, how to combat anxiety, tips to creating your presentation, what visual aids work well, and how to "set the stage". Donna will also guide you on how to share your expertise now (yes, even before published!) and how to find your ideal first "gigs" to present at for practice and confidence-boosting. Doing public events can create many new opportunities for you as an author, so get started today with jumping into public speaking–and discover how much fun it can be!

SCHOOL VISITS 101: PRESENTATIONS & GETTING THE GIGS
Your children's book is soon to be released and one of the best ways to get it in the hands of your readers (and keep your book in print) is doing school visits! You've invested a lot of time, energy, and emotion into your book–what can you do to make sure it captures the spotlight? Donna will guide you on how to develop a tailored school presentation (whether in-person or online), create a fee schedule, connect with educators, get testimonials, work with bookstores, and book the gigs. Find out more about this direct and lucrative connection to your readers! Donna will also share her PowerPoint school visit presentation with attendees.

WHAT ATTENDEES ARE SAYING:

"Donna is a professional and a pleasure to work with. She shared strategies with me that not only helped lead to the publication of my first novel but also helped me secure my dream agent. I have followed her expert advice on positioning myself and my first novel during the all-important marketing period before and after publication. Aside from her expertise, her enthusiasm is infectious and she's a truly kind person." –Kate Brandes, author of *The Promise of Pierson Orchard*

"Donna Galanti's keynote for the 2025 High School Commencement at Academy of the Holy Names was such a wonderful speech with a fantastic message to the students and their families. Her talk about "getting out of your comfort zone" was deeply inspiring. Listening to her own life experience as a graduate of Holy Names, gave her keynote a spark and kept the audience engaged." – Annemarie McGarry, Director of College Counseling, Academy of the Holy Names

"I recently took your class *5 Things to do Before a Book Deal* at the Doylestown Bookshop. Your presentation style was energetic and inviting. The workshop was truly fantastic! I wanted to say thank you for sharing so much information to help newer authors like myself. You've got so many insights that are invaluable to writers and hopeful authors-to-be. It was a joy to benefit from your passion for writing and for helping other authors be successful! To writers: don't miss Donna's class!" –Christa Tinari, national speaker and author of *Create a Culture of Kindness in Middle School*, www.peacepraxis.com, *(Doylestown Bookshop Writers Series*)

"Our students were enthralled to participate in Donna Galanti's interactive presentation and hear firsthand how a published author navigates the writing process. Her connections between the writing and revision process were made clear in a spirited and playful manner that not only engaged students' personal trials in writing but inspired them to continue to be creative and self-reflective. The students and teachers were still talking about her days after she left."–Wayne C. Rush, Librarian, Grover Cleveland Middle School, Caldwell, NJ

"Aren't writers supposed to revise AFTER clicking the final period on that first draft? That might be the rule, but Donna Galanti tells you how to use tried and true revision strategies to write your first draft better in the first place. I went to her session recently and found her suggestions relevant and effective. I highly recommend *Use Revision Techniques to Write a Better First Draft*." –Brenda Havens, author of *Gabby Goose Gets Going (The Write Stuff Conference)*

"Your class was amazing! Your energy and enthusiasm are empowering. You were very engaging and personable. We could have listened to you for another hour. You inspired me in many ways with my writing. Extremely informative. Looking forward to the next class." –Margaret Grandinetti, writer and artist *(Doylestown Bookshop Writers Series*)

"Donna Galanti sets learners at ease with her accessible demeanor, confident knowledge, and well-organized presentations. In the marketing lecture I attended, she helped daunted introverts accept that social media and publishing go hand-in-hand for today's writer, and that ideally, platform building, like writing, deserves years of pre-publication devotion. For beginners starting out or authors catching up, her clear, step-by-step suggestions untangle what can seem like an overwhelming jumble of marketing tasks. I highly recommend Donna as a speaker. "–Kathryn Craft, author of *The Far End of Happy* and owner of Writing-Partner.com *(Liberty States Fiction Writers Conference)*

CONTACT: info@donnagalanti.com * donna@donnagalanti.com * www.donnagalanti.com