



## **AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

Ronni Arno's Author in Residence program goes far beyond a school visit. School visits allow students to get a glimpse into the world of writing and publishing, while the Author in Residence program allows students to engage in continuous hands-on work with a published author. Students will take writing techniques they've learned in the classroom and apply them to their own writing so that by the end of the school year, they will have finished their own novel while learning how to structure plot, create meaningful characters, and identify literary themes in their own work and in the works of others.

### **September**

At our first visit, I'll introduce myself to the class, and give an overview of writing and publishing a novel. Students are free to ask questions as I'll share the schedule for the upcoming school year.

### **October**

At this visit, I will brainstorm with students as they choose an idea for their novel. I'll provide the students with a journal, and teach them how it will help them solidify their ideas. During this session, they will learn to use a plot diagram and a rough outline, which we'll build upon in future visits. We'll also discuss the need for conflict in a story, and students will learn ways to increase the tension as they write.

## **November**

By now each student will have a completed plot diagram, and we'll begin our character sketches. Here, students will complete a detailed questionnaire and scrap books about their characters, and for those who are inclined, may use technology (Pinterest, etc) to further elaborate on not only who their characters are, but 1) what they want more than anything else, and 2) what is stopping them from getting it.

## **December**

Now that we've got the plot outline and characters down, the actual writing begins! Students will write the first three chapters of their novel, using their outline as a guide. Students are encouraged to share their work with me online over the course of the month, and I'll send them notes prior to my next visit.

## **January - April**

Students will continue working on their novel, adding a few more chapters at a time each month. They can also revise previous chapters by looking at the critique notes I've shared with them. Examples of those notes may include: adding more detail, dialogue techniques, grammar and punctuation, staying true to the character, and staying on course with the plot outline. We'll also examine the themes of their Works-in-Progress.

## **May**

Students will now share their work with their classmates, and will learn the art of critiquing another writer's work. I'll teach them how to be a good critique partner, as this is an integral part of becoming a writer. Not only do critiques help fellow writers, but I'll show the students how they also help their own work. We'll also go more in-depth on revisions and why they are an important part of writing.

## **June**

The novels are complete! We will discuss how a manuscript gets published, and I will share more about the 3 R's of publishing--rejections (every writer has them), revisions (nothing is perfect the first time), and rejoicing (when your hard work finally pays off).

## **Contact Information:**

Ronni Arno

[www.ronniarno.com](http://www.ronniarno.com)

609-203-7012

ronniarno@gmail.com