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## AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR VISITS

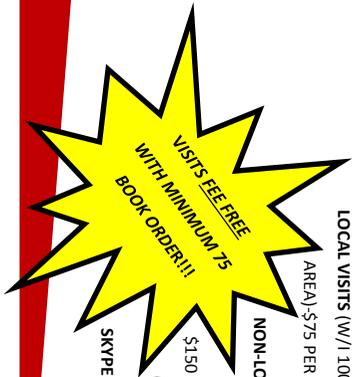


# Melinda Taliancich Falgoust

\*Member SCBWI

If you are interested in an author visit or would like more information, please contact the publisher at:

Ph 888.407.4272  
Fax 800.407.6901  
info@waggingtalespress.com  
www.waggingtalespress.com



LOCAL VISITS (w/ 100 MILES OF NEW ORLEANS METRO AREA) \$75 PER SESSION - MAX 4 SESSIONS PER DAY

NON-LOCAL VISITS (MORE THAN 100 MILES FROM NEW ORLEANS METRO AREA)

\$150 PER SESSION - MIN. 3 SESSIONS REQUIRED

SKYPE VISITS: \$150 FOR 2 SESSIONS

## Author Biography

Melinda Taliancich Falgoust is an elementary educator, author and working actor on both stage and screen. She often reaches into her actor's "bag-of-tricks" to introduce a cast of colorful and quirky characters who help bring her presentations to life!



Her works have appeared in Reader's Digest, Writers' Journal, and she has written for Harlequin. Other works have also won awards in competitions around the world, including:

- ◆ NY Book Festival Annual Competition
- ◆ The Oshima International Hand-Made Picture Book Competition
- ◆ Writers Unlimited Annual Literary Competition
- ◆ Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine Mysterious Photograph Contest; and
- ◆ Doubleday Book Club's "Quoth the Raven" Contest

For ideas on funding author visits, check out the

Author Visits tab at

[www.melindatfalgoust.doodlekit.com](http://www.melindatfalgoust.doodlekit.com)

## Programming Options

Below are the basic presentation options available with the author. Of course, the author is willing to work with any group to more suitably tailor any presentation to fulfill your current needs. Programs are designed to motivate students to read, write and express their own creativity, reinforce current classroom instruction, help students learn to enjoy the writing process, and offer students the unique opportunity to meet with a working author.



## Grades Pre-K through Third

### ◆ STORYTELLING & ACTIVITY WITH LOUSY LIVER

Set the table, grab your fork, and dig in to a deliciously good time as the author reads award-winning children's picture book *Lousy Liver* and invites them to discover that something different isn't always something bad as they make "dirt" cups complete with worms (of the gummy variety, of course) - a simple lesson served up with a side dish of silly complete with interactive puppet show. Older children can explore the concepts of language arts through rhyme association activities and fun, narrative exercises.

## Grades Fourth through Eighth

### ◆ BRAINSTORMING WITH BUCCANEERS: FUN WITH THE 5-STEP WRITING PROCESS



Ever wonder where a writer's ideas come from? Students set sail on a literary adventure with the author as she steers them through the 5-step writing process and the creation of an exciting and believable story with realistic characters. Participants are guided through improvisational exercises designed to stimulate creativity.

### ◆ SCALLYWAG SCIENCE

When the heroes of *The Gubbins Club* first meet, the mix of their very different personalities is explosive! However, each one of the characters has something special to offer the group. For instance, "Mad Dog" turns out to be a science whiz, creating glue from ordinary milk and exploding bubbly bangs in the teachers' lounge. Students will test their own science skills with the author as they conduct several of Mad Dog's experiments themselves and practice basic scientific method.

### ◆ LANDLUBBER LIBRARY SKILLS

"It all starts between the pages of a book, but first you have to know just where to look!" Students try their

hand at cryptography and codes like the kind solved by the heroes of *The Gubbins Club* to explore the shelves and technology available in their own school library. (Requires additional advance notice.)

#### ◆ HEAVE HO HISTORY

“Yo, ho, yo, ho! A pirate’s life for me!” The children of *The Gubbins Club* match wits with a ruthless, modern-day pirate in a race to rescue a buried treasure, but real buried treasures are a little harder to come by. Students learn why as the author takes them on a guided tour of the Golden Age of Piracy and they learn the difference between a pirate and a privateer, hoist the colors with some of the most famous pirates to sail the seven seas, and even make their own hardtack and “scrimshaw”.

#### ◆ AYE, AYE ART WITH THE GUBBINS CLUB

Things aren't always what they seem as the members of The Gubbins Club discover - in more ways than one. *Trompe l'oeil* is a French phrase which means to “fool the eye”. It is an artistic method artists can use to create realistic illusions. In the story, the children disappear into a natural *trompe l'oeil* near Holyrood Park in Chapter 28 of the book. Students create their own masterful illusions in this guided art lesson and activity with the author.

### High School to Adult

#### ◆ YO, HO, HO AND HOLD ‘EM: CAPTURING YOUR AUDIENCE AT STORYTELLING & OTHER LIVE EVENTS

Sometimes the prospect of standing in front of a room full of complete strangers is enough to set even Davy Jones’ knees to knocking. But, as writers, we create hundreds of characters on a regular basis...why not create one for ourselves? It’s often much easier for us to sail bravely into a presentation under a bold pirate flag, or share stories in the skirts of Mother Goose, or tell tall tales as a Ten-Gallon Hat Texan...we gain a sort of buffer zone between us, the authors, and the characters we’ve created to present our work.

Participants will use a plethora of hats as inspiration, and create a character that might pop by the local bookstore, or into a classroom full of excited elementary school students and read the author’s work. They will then use dramatic characterization, voice, and movement to either read a small portion of their work, tell the audience something about their work, or give the audience a mini “review” of their work...but, ALL in character.

In breakout groups, participants will brainstorm on at least three “out-of-the box” ways to make their next author presentation stand out from the crowd. Ideas that tie-in to each author’s individual work are encouraged.

**CATEGORY:** How-To; Public Speaking

#### ◆ THE MAD, MAD SCIENCE OF DISSECTING THE PLOT MONSTER: A UNIVERSAL FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

Every good doctor (or evil genius scientist) has spent her days poring over anatomy texts like Gray’s Anatomy to better familiarize herself with the inner mechanics of her patient (or monster). Writers are no different. Now, of course, we have no Gray’s Anatomy, but we do have some scions of story science to look to for guidance to the systems and organs that make a truly good story come to life. There are sixteen essential elements that combine to form the anatomy of the plot monster.

Participants will learn the “scientific” formula distilled from the teachings of master storytelling gurus worldwide which can be applied universally across all types of writing. With a slight margin for error, the formula holds true for most successful literary works, many of which will be examined in this presentation.

Every good mad scientist, er, writer, does her best work in the lab. In our “lab” portion of the presentation, attendees will participate in some guided dissection of some successful, well-known titles, picture books, chapter books, and even some screenplays, to



see how the Plot Formula applies and, when adhered to, nearly guarantees a concise, tightly woven plot that keeps the monster under control. Then, attendees will split into work groups to put the author to the test...and dissect HER work to see if it passes the test!

**CATEGORY:** Writing Craft

#### ◆ IVY LEAGUE “DUMMIES”: HOW TO SEND YOUR PICTURE DUMMY TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

It’s not Greek Week – it’s Geek Week (or at least Geek Hour-and-a-Half)! Grab your pocket protectors, sharpen your pencils, and take a seat for a crash course in how to send your picture book dummy to the head of the class. Participants will learn the definition of a picture book dummy, why one is needed, what are the stages of a dummy, and what is the

basic anatomy of a dummy. After a brief recess (jump ropes allowed), there will be an honor-roll how-to and class project where participants will construct a picture book dummy mock-up for future reference. At “graduation” there will also be opportunity for a brief Q&A.

**CATEGORY:** How-To; Writing Craft (Genre Specific)

#### ◆ IN CYBERSPACE, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU BLOG: WHAT ALIENS TAUGHT ME ABOUT WRITING

Have you ever placed one of your characters in mortal peril? Had them staring down the blue steel barrel of death at the hands of a foreign operative? Had them fleeing from their life through a maze of burning cars as extraterrestrials fire deadly lasers from above? Given them a brush with a vampire, known for his brutal and bloody savagery?

Have you ever written out those scenes and, in draft after draft, the words just fall flat, failing to garner the proper

emotion – the smack of reality needed to truly draw readers in and suspend their disbelief and accept your fiction for fact? If your answer is “yes”, you can relax. Stop beating your head against your keyboard, grab an icepack for that nasty lump on your head, and join the author as she shares a fresh perspective on the old problem facing many writers: how to craft believable and memorable scenes that will keep your readers turning the pages.

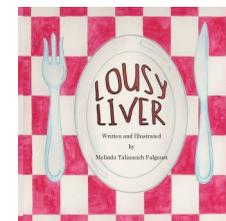
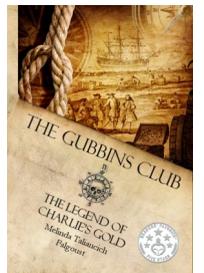
**CATEGORY:** Writing Craft

**...and many more!!!**

For more info, fun, and games, visit the author at her website [www.melindatfalgoust.doodlekit.com](http://www.melindatfalgoust.doodlekit.com)

**The Gubbins Club: The Legend of Charlie’s Gold**  
*Createspace Independent Publishing Platform*

ISBN: 978-1482690408



**Lousy Liver**  
*Wagging Tales Press*

ISBN: 978-0692302880

**The Rancher & the Rose Harlequin**

ISBN: 978-1552547755

**...and more!!!**

