

Writing for Emotional Impact

Children's & Y/A with Jennifer Jacobson

Imagine your reader pinned in place by your story, unwilling to move until she reaches the end. Imagine your reader racing to force that book into the hands of the nearest person exclaiming, "You have to read this!" No doubt, the best novels evoke strong emotions. In this workshop, we'll explore ways to craft stories that create intense feelings including suspense, amazement, empathy, and awe. Each retreat day will begin with an examination of authors' techniques followed by writing exercises. Some of the questions we'll explore are: What is your emotional theme? How do we create an emotional connection to the reader through characterization, language, and pacing? How do we prevent ourselves from backing away from conflict, always bravely mining the truth? And finally, how do we make sure we've shown the truth on the page? Each day will begin with an examination of the topic followed by writing exploration. Participants will be invited to share excerpts from their novels and/or writing exercises. Please identify one scene from a novel you've read that has had an emotional impact on you. Come prepared to share the scene with others.



THE INSTRUCTOR

Jennifer Jacobson is the author of over a dozen books for children. Her first young adult novel, *Stained*, was selected as an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, a *Publisher's Weekly* Best Children's Book, a New York Public Library Best Books for the Teen Age, and the Maine Lupine Award for a Juvenile Title. Her second young adult novel, *The Complete History of Why I Hate Her* (set in Maine) was chosen as an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. Her recent middle grade novel, *Small as an Elephant* (also set in Maine) won a Parent's Choice Gold Award, the Maine Lupine Award for a Juvenile Title, and second place in the Maine Literary Awards (young adult category). *Small as an Elephant* was also selected for the International Reading Association Young Adult Choices Reading List and nominated for five state reading awards. When not writing, Jennifer provides professional writing development for teachers.