
THE
VANCOUVER
**WRITERS
FEST**



**WRITERS IN THE
CLASSROOM SERIES**
MARCH – MAY 2020

WRITERSFEST.BC.CA

FREE AUTHOR VISITS

The Vancouver Writers Fest will provide up to 13 free author visits to schools across the Lower Mainland between March and May 2020. During each of these Writers in the Classroom events, authors will read from their works, discuss their writing process and chat in an intimate setting with up to 60 students for one class period. Teachers can request one of the following authors to join them in the classroom this Spring.

NAFIZA AZAD

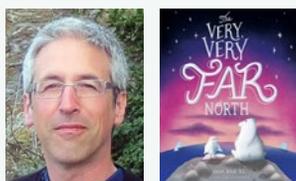
Suitable for: Grades 8–12
Availability: Booked in advance



Nafiza Azad is a self-identified island girl. She has hurricanes in her blood and dreams of a time she can exist solely on mangoes and pineapple. Born in Lautoka, Fiji, she currently resides in BC, Canada where she reads too many books, watches too many Kdramas and writes stories about girls taking over the world. Her debut YA fantasy, *The Candle and the Flame*, was released by Scholastic in 2019.

DAN BAR-EL

Suitable for: Grades 3–4
Availability: March 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24 and April 3, 6, 10



Dan Bar-el is an award-winning children's author, educator, and storyteller whose books include *Audrey (Cow)*, *Not Your Typical Dragon*, and *The Very, Very Far North*. Dan has worked with children ages three to thirteen as a school-age childcare provider, a preschool teacher, a creative drama teacher, and a creative writing teacher. He also teaches with the Creative Writing for Children Society. Dan lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, with artist and goldsmith Dominique Bréchault, and Sasha, the most adorable cat in the known universe.

JILLIAN CHRISTMAS

Suitable for: Grades 8–12
Availability: March 18-31; April 1-21; May 8-31



Jillian Christmas lives on the unceded territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam people, where she served for six years as Artistic Director of Versæs Festival of Words. Her focus has been to increase anti-oppression initiatives in spoken word. She has executed programs in partnership with Toronto Poetry Project, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Opera, and more. Jillian has performed and facilitated spoken word workshops for youth and adults across the country and beyond. Her debut book of poetry, *The Gospel of Breaking* releases in Spring 2020 with Arsenal Pulp Press.

LEE EDWARD FÖDI

Suitable for: Grades 2–3
Availability: March-May



Lee Edward Födi is a children's author, illustrator, and educator—or, as he likes to think of himself, a daydreaming expert. He is the author of several books for children, including *The Secret of Zoone* and *The Guardians of Zoone*, as well as the *Kendra Kandlestar* series. In his spare time, Lee is a traveler, adventurer, and maker of dragon eggs. He especially loves exploring castles, mazes, tombs, and temples—the types of places where he can lose himself (sometimes literally). Lee lives in Vancouver, where he shares a creative life with his wife, Marcie, and son, Hiro.

SEBASTIEN DE CASTELL

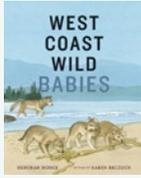
Suitable for: Grades 8–12
Availability: March-May



Sebastien de Castell has a degree in Archaeology, but left it to pursue a focused career as a musician, ombudsman, interaction designer, fight choreographer, teacher, and actor. His only defence against the charge of unbridled dilettantism is that he genuinely likes doing these things and that each of these fields plays a role in his writing. Sebastien's acclaimed swashbuckling fantasy series, *The Greatcoats* was shortlisted for the 2014 Goodreads Choice Award for Best Fantasy. His YA fantasy series, *Spellslinger*, was nominated for the Carnegie Medal and is published in more than a dozen languages.

DEBORAH HODGE

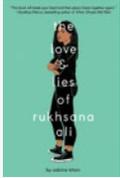
Suitable for: Grades K–2
Availability: March–May



Deborah Hodge is an award-winning author of thirty books for children. She specializes in writing engaging nonfiction for young readers. She also writes picture books. Her honors include the Children's Literature Roundtable's Information Book Award of Canada (won twice) and the Green Prize for Sustainable Literature. Deborah is a former teacher and curriculum writer who lives in Vancouver.

SABINA KHAN

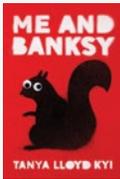
Suitable for: Grades 6–7
Availability: March–May



Sabina Khan is the author of *The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali*, a YA Contemporary, out now from Scholastic. She is an educational consultant and a karaoke enthusiast. After living in Germany, Bangladesh, Macao, Illinois and Texas, she has finally settled down in beautiful British Columbia, Canada, with her husband and three daughters, one of whom is a fur baby.

TANYA LLOYD KYI

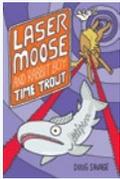
Suitable for: Grades 5–8
Availability: March–May



Tanya Lloyd Kyi is the author of more than 25 fiction and non-fiction books for children and young adults. When not writing, she likes to bake, read and play tennis. Her favourite meal is breakfast, her favorite color is blue and her favorite children's book is *A Wrinkle in Time*. Tanya grew up in the small town of Creston, BC, but now lives in Vancouver with her husband and two children.

DOUG SAVAGE

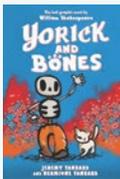
Suitable for: Grades 3–4
Availability: March–May



Doug Savage is the creator of *Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy*, a series of graphic novels for all ages, about a moose who shoots lasers out of his eyes and his cheerful rabbit sidekick. Doug also draws the popular comic *Savage Chickens*, which he has been drawing (on post-it notes) and publishing online every weekday since 2005. Born in rural Ontario and raised by a pack of wild piano teachers, Doug now lives in Vancouver with his partner (and colourist) Janet and their two cats, Watson and Crumble.

JEREMY TANKARD AND HERMIONE TANKARD

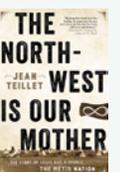
Suitable for: Grades 6–7
Availability: April 13–May 5



Jeremy Tankard is the bestselling authorstrator of the *Grumpy Bird* picture books. He discovered the joys of Shakespeare in high school when his drama teacher cast him in a production of *The Tempest*. His book *Yorick and Bones* sees these two interests collide in the most unexpected ways. **Hermione Tankard** discovered her love of Shakespeare in fourth grade when she asked her father, Jeremy, to buy her a copy of *Romeo and Juliet*. Little did she know it would one day lead to a job writing new Shakespearean adventures with her dad. *Yorick and Bones* is their first book together.

JEAN TEILLET

Suitable for: Grades 8–12
Availability: March 16, 17, 30; April 3, 6, 7, 20, 22; May 11, 18, 20, 22



Jean Teillet is called to the Bar in Ontario, BC, NWT, Manitoba and Yukon. She specializes in aboriginal rights litigation and negotiations and is currently the chief negotiator for the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw who are negotiating a treaty in the lower Fraser Valley in BC. She maintains an active role as a public speaker and is published in many journals and law books and is the author of the annually updated Métis Law in Canada. She is the great grandniece of Louis Riel. *The Northwest is Our Mother* chronicles the story of the Métis Nation, “a new Indigenous people descended from both First Nations and Europeans.”

CHIERI UEGAKI *Suitable for: Grades 1–3* *Availability: March 23, April 6 and April 20*

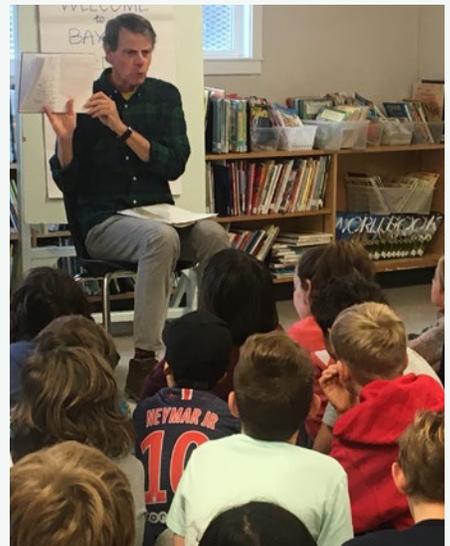


Chieri Uegaki, a second generation Japanese-Canadian children's author, was born in Quesnel, British Columbia, but grew up in East Vancouver. Chieri attended Sir John Franklin Elementary, Templeton Secondary, and the University of British Columbia where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. Chieri's books include *Suki's Kimono*, *Rosie and Buttercup*, and *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin*, for which she won the Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award. Her most recent book is *Ojii-chan's Gift*. Chieri Uegaki lives on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and dog.

LINDSAY WONG *Suitable for: Grades 8–12* *Availability: May Only*



Lindsay Wong is the author of the bestselling, award-winning memoir *The Woo-Woo: How I Survived Ice Hockey, Drug-Raids, Demons, and My Crazy Chinese Family*. She has a BFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and MFA in literary nonfiction from Columbia University, and she is now based in Vancouver, Canada. *My Summer of Love and Misfortune* is her first YA novel.



Left: Tanya Lloyd Kyi, Center: Mariko Tamaki; Right: Ted Staunton

TO BOOK AN AUTHOR FOR YOUR CLASS

The Writers in the Classroom series is one of our most popular programs and applications are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please apply by February 28, 2020 by completing this form:

<https://writersfest.bc.ca/education/writers-in-the-classroom-form> with the following mandatory information:

1. Name of the author you wish to book.
2. The name of your school and its address.
3. A phone number.
4. The estimated number of students at the presentation.
5. The time you would like to book the author for.

Note: Author presentations are flexible and are usually designed by the author after consultations with the teacher in charge of the class(es) they are going to be presenting to. The availability of authors is non-negotiable.

