

# Presentation Menu for Deborah Halverson

Deborah@DeborahHalverson.com | DeborahHalverson.com | DearEditor.com

*In her 25+ years as an editor, author, and writing instructor, Deborah has created many workshops, one-hour sessions, and speeches, covering a range of topics and levels of experience. This menu is a sampling. Deborah is open to creating presentations customized to group needs and interests.*

## General...

**“State of the Industry and Market Trends”** [1-hour Session]: Learn what industry insiders see when they assess today’s children’s book marketplace, and what their submission inboxes and acquisitions look like.

**“Submission Workshop: Writing Queries, Strategizing Submissions, and Interpreting Editorial Feedback”** [Workshop]: For writers of all children’s book categories, and beginners as well as advanced writers looking to perfect their submission package and strategy.

**“How to Hide the Seams for Smooth, Flowing Fiction”** [1-hour Session]: Regardless of your novel’s category or genre, learn techniques to transition from one paragraph, scene, or chapter to the next so smoothly that readers don’t even know they were transitioned.

## about Young Adult / Middle Grade Fiction...

**“How to Build Your Own Teenager: Techniques for Writing Believable MG/YA Characters”** [Workshop]: Learn techniques for building teen and tween characters that reflect the unique perspective of real, flesh-and-blood young people.

**“Crafting Swoon-Worthy YA Romantic Relationships”** [1-hour Session or full Workshop]: Learn techniques and strategies for crafting romantic characters and relationships that are rich, real, and riveting (and that may include some hubba hubba).

**“How to Talk Like a Teen When You’re SO Not One: Writing Dialogue for YA/MG Fiction”** [1-hour Session or full Workshop]: Teen readers want to hear directly from the teen characters in their books. Your dialogue must entertain young readers, intrigue them, inform them, comfort them, and, depending on which characters are moving their lips, sound like them. Learn techniques to craft successful dialogue for YA/MG fiction.

**“Weaponizing Setting: Empower Your ‘Where’ for More Powerful YA/MG Novels”** [1-hour Session or full Workshop]: With today’s heavy emphasis on plot and characterization, too many aspiring YA/MG novelists are ignoring setting—and sacrificing storytelling depth as a result. Setting isn’t just a place to be. Learn setting strategies and techniques to enrich your novel in unexpected ways.

**“Subtext & Subplots: How to Deepen & Energize Your YA/MG Fiction”** [1-hour Session or full Workshop]: Learn techniques for using subtext and subplots to build rich, satisfying stories and fix common storytelling “problems.”

**“The Ultimate Checklist for Submitting to Editors: 10 Tests a Novel Must pass to Prove It’s Really Ready for Submission”** [1-hour Session]: How can you know when your manuscript is really ready to submit to agents or editors? You think it is, but how can you know *for sure*? Learn ten actionable tests for knowing when a novel is really, truly ready to submit . . . along with ways to whip the manuscript into shape if it fails a single one of them.

**“Crafting Plots that Push, Pull, and Provoke Characters... and Readers, Too”** [Workshop]: Learn strategies and techniques for sculpting MG/YA storylines that propel characters through their personal journeys and rivet readers.

**“Think Like a Teen: Youthful Narrative Voice & Sensibility in YA/MG Fiction”** [1-hour Session or full Workshop]: Whether your narrator is your young protagonist or an all-knowing omniscient being, there are ways to convince young readers that you understand them and their view of the world. Learn techniques for creating a narrative sensibility that reflects the way teens think, resulting in teen fiction that “clicks” with young readers.

**“Going from Good to Great: Revising Your MG/YA Novel”** [Workshop]: Learn how to analyze your YA/MG manuscript, and learn techniques for revising the elements you find lacking.

#### about Picture Books...

**“You Got the Beat: Achieving Rhythm without Relying on Rhyme in Picture Books”** [1-hour Session]: Rhythmic language is an essential factor in a satisfying picture book reading experience. But you don’t have to rhyme. Learn techniques to write a rhythmic, satisfying, fun-to-read-aloud picture book text without using rhyme.

**“5-1/2 Things That Will Impress Picture Book Editors”** [1-hour Session]: Learn five (and a half!) techniques, strategies, and goals to know and do in order to shape your picture book concept into a satisfying manuscript that can connect with kids and make seasoned editors say “Yes!”

#### about New Adult Fiction...

**“Writing Riveting New Adult Fiction”** [1-hour Session or full Workshop]: Learn to develop a New Adult novel for 18- to 26-year-olds and the teen/adult crossover audience. Includes techniques for writing the NA experience and sensibility, from youthful yet mature dialogue and point of view to plot, setting, and character construction that reflect the “emerging adult” experience. Includes writing riveting romance.

#### for Elementary & High Schools...

**“What an Editor Does”** [1-hour Session]: Learn how books are made and an editor’s role in the process. Understand how the editor and author work together to take a story from concept to final bound book—and satisfied readers.

**“BIF! BAM! POW!: How Young Writers Can Use Their Inner Heroes to Write Fab Fiction”** [1-hour Session]: Young writers learn techniques to recognize and mine the heroes within themselves in order to craft characters who can overcome their fears and flaws for heroic outcomes.

#### ~ TESTIMONIALS ~

***“An amazing retreat. On a scale of 1-5, Deborah scored GREATER than 5! Many participants said they’d like to have Deborah back, saying it was the best writing event they’d ever attended.”—Pat Trattles, Revision Retreat Organizer, SCBWI Michigan***

***“Deborah wowed participants at our SCBWI Revision Intensive with her workshops on setting, picture books, and the ‘10 tests a novel must pass to prove it’s ready for submission to editors.’ Beginning writers and published authors alike found Deborah to be friendly, approachable, organized, and full of helpful tips and techniques. An added plus was her ability to wear two hats: editor and fellow writer. A guaranteed home-run for your next event!”—Patricia Newman & Erin Dealey, Co-Regional Advisors, SCBWI CA North/Central***