



School Programs — Elementary

Faye combines reading with comments, visuals or props so anticipate an interdisciplinary approach. Western Canada's past is often the thematic focus. Ideas about inspiration, a writer's life, writing process and style are interwoven with the stories. Expect powerpoint images. Below are descriptions for presentation and writing workshops. Choose the individual program or combination that best serves your students' needs. Screen, rolling cart, electrical outlet, table and backup computer/projector please.

Alberta: A History in Photographs (Presentation Grades 3-7, Curriculum: Grade 4)

Faye presents old photos, narratives, stories and history prompting students to explore the familiar & unfamiliar from our early days. They discover the diversity in homes from teepees to tar paper shacks and mansions. Also, early Albertans faced natural & man-made disasters & misfortunes but survived & prospered. Students are encouraged to consider how geography, early settlement & many cultures helped build communities and develop services, transportation, agriculture, industry and resources. Also, Faye encourages students to do research & employ various methods of discovering our stories.

Blue Pencil Workshops & Individualized Meetings (Workshop or Individual Consultation Grades 4 & up)

Whether organizers prefer blue pencil workshops with groups under 10, meetings with individual students or both, Faye will offer her feedback and help on student writing projects in any genre except drama and film scripts. The intent is always to help students discover how they may use language more effectively whether in stories, poetry, essays, blogs or presentations.

Discovering Stories and Characters in Photos (Writing Workshop Grades 4-7)

Our world is filled with fascinating images—in photo albums, books, magazines and on the Internet. Old and new photos reveal captivating people and fascinating events, but with today's photo manipulations, some images are more fantasy than reality. In this workshop, students will discover how to use photos as a source for writing ideas, characters and stories, and then they will draft their own stories. Afterwards, writers may want to share stories with the group.

From A Child's Point Of View (Presentation Grades 3-7)

Pioneer children's lives were filled with challenges, heroism and sadness just as often as they were filled with bright spots and fun. Students discover real-life experiences that are as fascinating as fiction. Such stories are enjoyable, scary, inspirational, even unbelievable. So, what problems did kids have? What responsibilities and chores waited? And what did they do for fun? Just listen, view, talk and learn.

From a Child's Point of View (Writing Workshop Grades 4-7)

True stories written by children about their lives are important. Students will be inspired to write what they know from experience. Their true stories may be based on experiences at home, in school, while travelling or at special events. They may be about problems, responsibilities, chores or even someone they know who was heroic. After writing their stories, they will have an opportunity to share with the group.

Homemade Fun (Presentation Grades 1-3) - small groups only

Discover the fun children had in the old days. Develop identity, self-worth & community through our history. Images, excerpts and activities help students learn what their grandparents & great grandparents did. Toys & games include some from First Nations and from the cultures of newcomers to Alberta. So, even homemade fun accentuates the multicultural nature of our communities.

Not Just A Journal (Writing Workshop Grades 4-7)

Great characters, places, memories and thoughts lurk in everyone's life. Many writers explore ideas through journals and diaries. Hear journal entries from Faye's own writing and from Canada's past. Then, young writers let loose their imaginations to express their own impressions in their journals. Also, they discover how to use photos or art to make journals unique and especially valuable.

Prairie Twins (Presentation Grades 3-7, Curriculum: Grade 4)

Alberta shares its history, geography, First Nations and settlement patterns with sister province Saskatchewan. Except for the far west in Alberta and far northeast in Saskatchewan, the two are twins. Both were made provinces in 1905, but they developed very different personalities. Students explore some of the factors that made them different. Expect images, story and discussion.

Settling In: First Homes of the Prairies (Presentation Grades 3-7)

Early homes on the Prairies were varied. From the teepees of First Nations, tar paper shacks of some newcomers to the mansions of the wealthy, the variety in homes affected quality of life for children and adults alike. Some homes made inhabitants especially susceptible to natural and man-made misfortunes. Others provided not only simple shelter or cosy homes but excellent protection from whatever the environment might offer. From photos and stories, discover prairie life as it once was.

Writer's Process - A Writer's Life (Presentation Grades 4-7)

What is it like being a writer? How do you know whether you should write poetry, short stories, novels, magazine articles or non-fiction books? Where do you find ideas? What do you do when you get stuck and can't finish a story? What is it like having your work edited and published? Listen, view, talk and learn.