

Mountain Writers Series



Graphic Flash Memoir/Illustrated Prose Poetry A Workshop with Leanne Grabel

1:00 – 4:00 PM–Wednesdays
April 1 – 29, 2020

Multnomah Friends Meeting House

In this workshop, students will write short lyrical memoirs or illustrated prose poems from which one detail will be pulled out and illustrated. Colors, textures, smells, sounds --the vast spectrum of imagery--will provide the inspiration. The challenge will be to capture the poignancy and details of each significant memory in the least words possible so that the story can be told in one lucid, yet highly visual and beautifully written page. Conciseness and clarity will rule in this workshop. Inspired by Maira Kalman, Alison Bechdel, Ellen Forney, Nicole George and Sandra Cisneros, this workshop will explore ways to enter a memoir, edit a memoir, and choose the not-so-obvious-but-much-easier-to-draw details to illustrate. We will share ways to avoid being intimidated by drawing (for non-artists), and we will experiment with weaving voices together and incorporating images on a screen, using a keyboard beat. The workshop will conclude with a reading/performance.

- Meets: 1–4 PM, Wednesdays, April 1 – 29, 2020
- Cost: \$250 (Five 3-hour sessions)
- Location: Multnomah Friends Meeting House,
- Minimum 4; maximum 8 participants

Register securely online through Paypal at www.mountainwriters.org. See www.mountainwriters.org for details about deposits.

Leanne Grabel, M.Ed., is a writer, illustrator, performer and special education & language arts teacher. In love with mixing genres and media, Grabel has written and produced numerous spoken-word multi-media shows, including “The Lighter Side of Chronic Depression”; “Anger: The Musical”; and “The Little Poet.” Her poetry books include *Flirtations*; *Lonesome & Very Quarrelsome Heroes*; *Short Poems by a Short Person*; *Badgirls* (a collection of flash non-fiction, as well as a theater piece); and *Gold Shoes: Graphic Prose Poems* (Finishing Line Press, 2018). Grabel taught Language Arts as a special education teacher in a residential treatment center for a dozen years. She and her husband Steve Sander are the founders of Café Lena, Portland’s legendary poetry café of the 90s. Currently, Grabel is teaching graphic flash memoir to adults in several arts centers and retirement communities throughout the Pacific Northwest, most recently Menucha and Rose Villa.



*Mountain Writers Series —
serving the literary community*

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