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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 04/24/2017

Writing Workshops For Kids & Teens at Bentonville's Youth Literature Festival

BENTONVILLE, Ark.—Bentonville's 3rd Annual Youth Literature Festival (BYLF) at Bentonville Public Library (BPL) will have two unique opportunities for kids and teens to learn about the writing process from published authors on Saturday, April 29!

Authors Karen Akins and Kristen Gray will present **Go Fish: How to Hook Your Readers from the First Line**, a writing workshop for middle school students at 12:30 p.m. in the Rotary Conference Room. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn how to hone their ideas into an engaging story opening and avoid pitfalls that can bog it down.

Kristin Gray, whose debut novel *Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge* was recently published, will be presenting at Bentonville's Third Annual Youth Literature Festival for the first time. Karen Akins, author of *Loop* and *Twist*, is a returning presenter at the Festival. Akins says, "As an author, it's been such an honor to be a part of this thriving, growing event. And as a parent, I love that my kids have the opportunity to meet the writers and illustrators of some of their favorite books." Akins won the 2016 Arkansas Teen Book Award, a state-wide honor that recognizes quality literature for young adults. The purpose of this annual award is to encourage young adults across Arkansas to read. Akins was recognized in the Level 2 category (Grades 10-12) for her debut novel, *Loop*.

Author Janet Wong, with help from BPL's Teen Advisory Board, will present **Poetic Personal Portraits: Writing College Essays People Will Remember** at 1:30 p.m. in the Rotary Conference Room. *What makes you different? What makes you special?* High school students face these difficult questions in creative writing assignments, college applications, and more. In this writing workshop, young writers can practice using poetic imagery and language to create memorable personal essays.

Bentonville's Third Annual Youth Literature Festival will also include presentations by authors and illustrators of popular youth titles, art and creative writing workshops, book sales and signings. All BYLF events are free to attend; registration is not required. All ages are welcome. BYLF3 is an "Official Kick-Off Event" for Children's Book Week. Learn more at www.bylf.org or www.bentonvillelibrary.org.

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