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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bentonville's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Literature Festival Saturday, April 29**

BENTONVILLE, Ark.—Bentonville's Youth Literature Festival will be returning to Bentonville Public Library for its third year this Saturday, April 29!

Seventeen authors, illustrators, and educators engaged in the world of youth literature will be present for workshops, activities, book sales, signings and more. Nearly 3,000 children, teens and adults enjoyed 2016's Youth Literature Festival! This year's lineup has even more ways for you to interact with talented authors and illustrators, immerse yourself in the writing process and have fun creating art experiences! All festival events at Bentonville Public Library are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome and registration is not required.

### **Schedule of Events**

**9 a.m.**

#### **StoryWalk® Debut and Festival Kick-off!**

Train Station Park

Celebrating Literature and Art in the Park: StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children and adults alike to enjoy reading and outdoors at the same time. Train Station Park presentation is weather dependent; if raining, BPL's StoryWalk® may be moved in the Walmart Community Room.

**9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m.**

#### **Kids Can Draw Workshop! with Rich Davis**

Children's Read Aloud Area

A fast paced, interactive workshop that engages participants in learning that leads to creative exploration and discovery! This fun workshop builds confidence in the ability to draw!

#### **Author Presentations**

**Mary Casanova and Ard Hoyt**

Walmart Room

**Susan Knapps**

Fireplace Area

**Alan Gratz**

Teen Zone

**9:30-11:20 a.m.**

**Notable Books for a Global Society Workshop**

**Renita Schmidt, Sue Parsons and Janet Wong**

Rotary Room

This workshop will highlight the work of Notable Books for a Global Society, a committee of the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association. Three years of Notable Books with a wide variety of diverse and inclusive themes will be presented. Approved for 2 hours of Professional Development by the Arkansas Department of Education.

**10:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m.**

**Author Presentations**

**Laura Betts Coello and Alene Betts**

Fireplace Area

**Maiya Williams**

Read Aloud Area

**Roland Smith**

Walmart Room

**Karen Akins**

Teen Zone

**11:30 a.m.**

**Picture Factory Workshop! with Napoleon Dezaldivar**

Walmart Room

Art Workshops for Children by Hervé Tullet- For Hervé Tullet, art is a word of action, a process. The Picture Factory will be a cooperative event that turns learning into play for a large number of children.

**12:30 p.m.-1:20 p.m.**

**Go Fish: How to Hook Your Reading From the First Line**

**Middle School Writing Workshop**

**Karen Akins and Kristen Gray**

Rotary Room

Participants will learn how to hone their ideas into an engaging story opening and avoid pitfalls that can bog it down.

**Author Presentations**

**Alan Gratz**

Read Aloud Area

**Mary Casanova**

Teen Zone

**Thomas Cochran**

Fireplace Area

**1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m.**

**Poetic Personal Portraits: Writing College Essays People Will Remember**

**College Writing for Teens Workshop**

**Janet Wong and BPL Teen Advisory Board**

Rotary Room

What makes you different? What makes you special? High school students face these difficult questions in creative writing assignments, college applications and more. Join us in this writing workshop, where young writers can practice using poetic imagery and language to create memorable personal essays.

**Author Presentations**

**Maiya Williams**

Walmart Room

**James Babb**

Fireplace Area

**Roland Smith**

Teen Zone

**Ard Hoyt**

Read Aloud Area

**2:30 p.m.-3:20 p.m.**

**Book signings**

**Various authors and illustrators**

Walmart Room

Lulu, otherwise known as “Ladybug Girl,” is also attending Bentonville’s Third Annual Youth Literature Festival at BPL on Saturday, April 29. The character, featured in books by David Soman and illustrated by Jacky Davis, is sponsored by Children’s Book Council in celebration of Children’s Book Week. BPL’s celebration is an official Children’s Book Week kick-off event.

The festival’s mission is to connect our community with authors and illustrators to spark imagination, inspire young learners and nurture a lifelong love of reading, writing and creativity! The annual event is a great time for children and adults alike to learn about the book creation process- from conception to finished product and every step in between. When people get to meet and interact with these book creators, the process becomes demystified, inspiring everyone!

For more information about Bentonville’s Youth Lit Fest, please visit [www.bylf.org](http://www.bylf.org).

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