

Adventure, mystery,
almost history

A. L. Tait



Author talks + workshops



AUTHOR TALK: LOOK, LISTEN, TAKE NOTE

In my general author talk, I dive deep into where ideas come from (and what to do with them), sharing the inspiration for my stories and including tips on everything from character to setting to plot to inspire kids to write their own.

Grades 5–8, in person (interactive) or online



AUTHOR TALK: HOW TO GROW A STORY

A variation of my general author talk, focusing on *Willow Bright's Secret Plot* and how to take a story from a seed of an idea and then nurture it into a story. Incorporates the main ideas of 'look, listen, take note' in a three step format – seed, nurture, blossom.

Grades 4–6, in person (interactive) or online



AUTHOR TALK: WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW (MAKE IT NEW)

A variation of my general author talk, focusing on *The First Summer of Callie McGee* and how to use places we know to inspire new stories. Helps kids understand they don't need to reinvent the wheel to write a story and that ideas are all around them.

Grades 4–6, in person (interactive) or online



PRESENTATION: FIND YOUR WRITING SUPERPOWER

Everyone has a writing superpower, what's yours? In this fun, inspiring and motivating session, I'll help kids work out the strengths in their writing—and how to use them to create amazing stories. Drawing on my own work, I offer tips on everything from description to plotting, finding ideas to editing.

Grades 4–8, in person or online



PRESENTATION: WRITING FANTASY STORIES

What makes a story a fantasy story? This session covers the key characteristics of writing fantasy stories, including character, quests, hero's journey and a deep dive into world building.

Grades 5–8, in person, can also be a workshop



WORKSHOP: HOW TO WRITE A (GREAT) MYSTERY STORY

Explores the key elements of a mystery story from where to start, developing your puzzle and deciding who's going to solve it, plus five insider tips to take your story from okay to outstanding.

Grades 5–8, in person or online



WORKSHOP: WHO'S TELLING THE STORY?

A deep dive into the mystery of Character and Point Of View, using my Maven & Reeve Mysteries to illustrate the choices writers must make to tell a story.

Grades 7–11, in person or online



WORKSHOP: UNLOCKING THE STORY CODE

Using the framework of the Ateban Cipher novels and the 10 Keys To A Great Story, this workshop looks at character, setting, plot, language choices, editing, and more.

Grades 5–8, in person or online



WORKSHOP: LEVEL UP YOUR WRITING

This workshop takes a deeper look into writing techniques and craft, covering point of view, voice, pacing, bringing a setting to life, show don't tell and more. Includes PDF handout.

Grades 7–11, in person or online



DISCUSSION/Q&A: SO YOU WANT TO BE A WRITER

Suitable for small groups of senior students interested in making writing a career, I draw upon my experience as a journalist, author, speaker and podcaster to discuss my career as a writer and answer questions about writing and being a writer.

In person or online



www.allisontait.com



[@allisontaitwriter](https://www.instagram.com/allisontaitwriter)



[@allisontaitwriter](https://www.facebook.com/allisontaitwriter)

