

**Session Title:** Everyone is a Hero—You Can Tell Their Stories, Too!

**Session Description:**

What is a hero? Do you know any heroes? Are you a hero yourself?

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. They can be young or old. They can be rich or poor. One thing is certain, though, we all love hero stories—and digging into the details of our favorite heroes' lives so we can write their stories fully can be great fun!

Aimée Bissonette likes to write about heroes—especially little known heroes whose stories need to be shared. Join her in a discussion of what makes a hero, why their stories are important, and how you can write your own heroic stories to share with others.

*This session can be adapted for a variety of elementary school ages. Aimée will send copies of two of her books in advance of her visit for teachers to read and share in their classrooms.*

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will develop an expanded view of what makes someone a “hero” and how even the smallest heroic acts benefit society.
2. Students will gain an understanding for why feeling an emotional tie or connection to a topic or subject—something readers and writers often feel with “hero” stories—is important and helps nonfiction writers bring facts to life in a fun, engaging, and responsible way.
3. Students will gain an understanding of the research and writing process from an experienced nonfiction writer (ELA Common Core Writing Standards including: Craft and Structure; Integration of Knowledge and Ideas; Proof of Claim; and Understanding Text Types and Purposes.)

Specifically, we will explore:

- How students can tap into their emotions, passions, and curiosity to become better researchers and writers (and enjoy researching more);
- Why it is important for nonfiction writers to balance their enthusiasm for a subject or topic with facts and objectivity to get to the true heart of the story;
- How we all benefit from reading and writing “Everyday Hero” stories, especially stories that focus on absented, misrepresented, and underestimated heroes.

**Classroom Activity:**

Teachers will be provided with a lesson plan after Aimée’s visit that will help students identify their own “Everyday Heroes” and get started on the research and writing process.

Aimée will also provide a bibliography of well written “hero” biographies that can be used as mentor texts.