

Session Title: Wacky, Wonderful Words

Session Description:

You may have heard it called “using figurative language” or maybe “employing poetic devices,” but in this session, we call it having fun with sound, rhythm, and wacky words! If you eat too much candy, will you get the *Collywobbles*? What should you do if someone waves a *Snickersnee* at you? Have you ever written a story using only onomatopoeia—words that imitate other sounds like *zap*, *buzz*, and *splash*? Writing is a lot more fun when word play is involved.

Aimée Bissonette has great fun playing with words when she writes. In this session, we’ll learn all about word play and word choice. And we’ll craft our own group stories using onomatopoeia, alliteration, rhyme, and more!

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 be introduced to a variety of writing techniques that will prompt them to use expanded vocabulary and strengthen their written descriptions.
2. Students will gain a greater understanding of the power of figurative language and why so many authors of fiction and nonfiction use it.
3. Students will learn how to employ figurative language and poetic devices to describe actions, thoughts, feelings, and character experiences in their writing for greater reader engagement.

Specifically, we will explore:

- Onomatopoeia
- Alliteration and assonance
- Rhyme and rhythm
- Wacky, unusual words from the English language
- Using collaborative story building as a first step toward improving our own creative writing

Classroom Activity:

Teachers will be provided with a lesson plan/activity description after Aimée’s visit that will help them continue their students’ foray into the wacky world of words.

Aimée will also provide a list of resources (books and online resources) that further demonstrate and explain figurative language and poetic devices.