

Jodi Carmichael - Author/Presenter

Award-winning Canadian author, Jodi Carmichael is a champion for the underdog and kids who think differently. Through her writing, Jodi hopes to help children and teens build self-confidence, self-acceptance, and empathy for others. Jodi has presented across Manitoba to groups of children, teens, and adults. Each presentation encourages interactive participation, and can include writing activities. Jodi adapts presentations to teacher and/or librarian requests, so they are meaningful for each classroom, school, and community she visits.

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Published Books



* **FAMILY OF SPIES: PARIS** (2018) Middle Grade Novel - Highly Recommended by CM Review of Materials. Nominated for a Manitoba Book Award (2019)

* **FOREVER JULIA** (2015) - Young Adult Novel - Winner of Manitoba Book Award; The McNally Robinson Books for Young People Awards - Older Category and Bronze Moonbeam Award



* **SPAGHETTI IS NOT A FINGER FOOD AND OTHER LIFE LESSONS** (2013) Chapter Book - Winner of Gold Mom's Choice Award and Silver Moonbeam Award

Presentations

Growing a Story - From the Seed of an Idea to a Published Book

Growing a Story encourages students to embrace their individual passions, by showing that with hard work and persistence, dreams can be achieved. Students see how Jodi took a seed of an idea for a story and grew it into a published book. Using her middle grade novel, *Family of Spies: Paris*, Jodi explains how she turned a framed newspaper article about her grandfather winning the Newfoundland Rhodes Scholarship Award in 1914 and transformed it into a middle grade spy mystery. Jodi guides students along the writing journey step by step, sharing the research, edits, submission to publishing houses, rejection, perseverance, book contracts, cover design, illustrations, printing, and finally the book launch—only to begin all over again with the next novel. This is Jodi's most popular presentation and students leave excited to write their own book.

Audience: Grades 3 to 12 *Also Suitable for Assemblies: Kindergarten to Grade 12



Developing Spy-Like Writing Skills

This presentation develops students' writing skills, by helping them think like a writer. Jodi encourages students to ask questions, keep an open mind, become observant of the world around them and engage all their senses when writing. She brings in items such as; containers of garlic, lemon, cotton balls, and mini-marshmallows to provide concrete examples to help students become keenly aware of sensory details necessary for creative writing. Using a flip chart, she records what students hear, see, touch, smell and finally taste. The workshop is concluded by exploring how students can include their own memories and feelings *or* a character's memories and feelings to what has been observed/touched/smelt/heard/tasted to really make their writing pop. Students learn that it is the little details that make writing come alive and become believable.

Audience: Grades 3 to 6



Reading, Writing and Editing - How to Become a Better Writer

In this presentation, Jodi shows students that a writer's job is to write so clearly that a reader or teacher can "see" what the writer sees in their mind. To become a better writer Jodi discusses the importance of reading, writing, thinking like a writer, using one's senses, reading work out loud, studying other books, accepting feedback, editing and adding detail. Included in this presentation is a telling vs showing activity that explores how to make a simple sentence more dynamic. This presentation demystifies the belief that novelists, poets and song writers create something perfect with little effort and encourages students to embrace all aspects of creative writing.

Audience: Grades 3 to 6

Fostering Creativity - Finding and Nurturing our Inner Creative Self

This PowerPoint presentation assists adults to get in touch with their creative selves, through hands-on writing activities. Current research on happiness, mindfulness, and mental health show creative thinking and engaging in creative pursuits are like yoga for our mind. Creative activities decrease stress, improves and renews brain function and improves mood. However, being creative isn't as easy as it sounds. As we grow older we often lose touch with our creative selves and may view creativity in a negative way for a variety of reasons. Jodi works through these creative road blocks and helps participants begin to see that engaging in creative thinking is as important to their mental health as exercise is to their physical health.



Audience: Educators/Clinical Teams/Parents (This presentation was initially developed for the Pembina Trails School Division Clinical Team)

Presentation Details

With every school visit, my goal is to inspire children to read and write and to foster their imaginations. I have presented to groups as small as ten and to entire school wide assemblies numbering over 500. No matter the size of the group, I encourage participants to embrace their individual passions, knowing that hard work and persistence makes all the difference. Through sharing the books I wrote when I was ten, to the stacks of revisions from my current novels, and finally to showing the metal book plates from the printing press, I help make the entire process of writing and publishing become real and possible.

All presentations are an hour in length and suitable for students in grades three to twelve, unless otherwise indicated. Shorter or longer presentations can be developed and fees will be adjusted. Longer presentations are often not suitable for younger children.

My fees are \$250 for one session, \$450 for two, \$650 for three, and fees for four or more to be discussed. Each session is one hour in length. Travel outside of Winnipeg can be negotiated.

Speaker References

Jane Friesen, Director of Clinical & Extended Services, Pembina Trails School Division
Colleen Nelson, Teacher-Librarian, Linden Meadows School
Claire Sutton, Teacher-Librarian, Stanley Knowles School
Karen Slippert, Occupational Therapist, Pembina Trails School Division
Trish Steadman, Teacher-Librarian, Ecole Crane School
Teresa Rogers, Principal, Linden Meadows School

"Creativity is intelligence having fun."

Albert Einstein