

Suzanne Fox

TALKS & LECTURES 2023

The diverse experience of writer, artist, editor and book reviewer Suzanne Fox informs all of her talks and lectures, which are also fueled by her energy, warmth, and genuine interest in participants' needs, concerns, and journeys. For Suzanne's biography and credentials, [click here](#); for feedback from her speaking sponsors, guests and participants, [click here](#).

All talks below can be adapted to lengths from 20 to 90 minutes and to audiences of any size. Content is designed to be enjoyable for participants of all backgrounds and topic knowledge levels from novices to "pros." Each talk is supplemented by a brief handout, time for questions, and participant access to a web page stocked with links for further exploration.

Suzanne will gladly incorporate examples relevant to the group's mission into the talk or lecture you choose. If the topics below don't fit your needs, she's delighted to develop a talk to fit your group's backgrounds, interests and goals.

Where noted, talks are also available as seminars or workshops. For more information on Suzanne's classes, [click here](#).

BOOKS & PUBLISHING

Behind the Book Cover. This lively talk traces the art and science of book cover creation from a raw manuscript to the finished product we see on physical and digital bookshelves. Who designs a cover? When does the work begin, and what does it involve? How much control does the author have? What happens when something goes wrong along the way? Real-life examples help bring the behind-the-scenes process of cover design—and its sometimes unexpected relationship to a book's text—alive.

Inside a Book Review. Whether they're the searching essays seen in elite publications like the *New York Times Book Review* or the brief reviews, published in magazines such as *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*, that booksellers and librarians use to choose their stock, book reviews influence both sales and reader opinions. This fun talk offers a glimpse of the "how, who, when and where" of book reviews, illuminating both the professional book review marketplace and the emerging power of reader reviews and blogs.

WRITING & LITERATURE

Reinventing Jane Austen. More than two hundred years after her death, Jane Austen is big business. Blogs and biographies, tote bags and tarot card decks, and an astonishingly diverse array of book, film, and television adaptations update her work for new generations whose lives

are vastly different from her own. Why does the work of a writer who went largely unrecognized during her own lifetime have such wide and enduring appeal? How are contemporary “creatives” at once honoring and interrogating her core concerns? You don’t have to be a “Janeite” to enjoy this lighthearted yet richly informative talk. *[Also available as a seminar.]*

Effortless Memoir. For every personal or family history that is completed and shared with readers, many more are abandoned unfinished. Designed to benefit writers of all experience levels as well as family historians and genealogists, this talk shares four transformative tips that can make creating life-based narratives much easier and more impactful. *[Also available as workshop.]*

The Heart of Story. Why are we drawn to read, watch, and create certain stories? Why do the same types of tales appear in such diverse times, places, and cultures? What makes a story engaging, even unforgettable? This talk explores the five core qualities virtually all great stories share. Its look into the hidden heart of story is enjoyable whether you’re looking for perspective on a narrative you’re creating or just curious about why you love the books and films you do. *[Also available as a workshop.]*

The Six Writing Selves. Writing is not a single seamless and unchanging process but rather one with skills, priorities and goals that vary greatly from one stage of a work in progress to another. The techniques and thinking most helpful in an early draft, for example, can fail us drastically when we’re wrapping up a piece, and vice-versa. When you understand the stages of writing a work and the mindset most helpful during each, you can sustain your confidence, produce your best writing, and avoid some frustrating and all-too-common pitfalls. *[Also available as a seminar.]*

Drafting Like a Dog. If you’ve ever tried to write with a dog playing at your feet, you might have felt most aware of the distraction the pup offers. But as this playful talk explains, we can learn four crucial writing traits from the behavior of our canine companions. Brief glimpses of famous dog-loving writers enliven an exploration of these lessons that will inspire writers of all genres and skill levels—whether or not they currently write with a pooch at their side. *[Also available as “Writing Like a Cat” and as a seminar.]*

CREATIVITY

Decluttering Your Creativity. Whatever our particular art or craft, creative people often have lots of stuff, both tangible and intangible. Lots of supplies, tools, works-in-progress, and inspiring objects; lots of questions, fascinations, project ideas, and expectations. When does this natural abundance become too much, confusing rather than fueling our creativity? How can we clarify what’s most important to us right now and release, at least temporarily, the things that are not? While it covers physical clutter, this talk also identifies other sources of creative overwhelm. *[Also available as a workshop.]*

Team: Creative. It’s often assumed that writing and making art are solitary tasks. Yet while the task of creation itself is usually done alone, productive “creatives” always have a team behind them. As with other teams, the roles on “team: creative” are specialized ones, each offering a particular kind of support and requiring particular kinds of willingness and skills. Introducing the roles—which may be paid, unpaid, or some combination—at play in effective creative teams,

this talk identifies what each does (and doesn't) offer and how to use each role to sustain your creative work. *[Can be adapted to creative forms including writing, visual arts, and crafting.]*

Crafting Like a Cat. What do cats have to teach us about our creative work and process? A lot, it turns out! This playful but informative talk identifies four ways in which being a bit more catlike can strengthen our crafting or visual arts practice. Brief glimpses of famous cat-loving artists enliven our exploration of these creatively useful traits. The session will amuse and inspire artists in all media, whether or not they love our feline friends. *[Also available as "Crafting Like a Canine" and as a seminar.]*

CAREGIVING & BEREAVEMENT

Journaling for Caregivers. As caregivers, how can we release our responsibilities and stress enough to sustain the strength our role requires? Journaling can help—as long it's based in our own needs and preferences rather than preconceived expectations. Drawn from Suzanne's personal experience of caregiving as well as her work with those who play this deep and challenging role, this session suggests three brief, simple techniques to get started journaling no matter how busy or drained you feel. We'll also talk about releasing assumptions about what, when, how and how often you should write; honoring concerns about honesty and privacy; and finding a journaling rhythm that fuels rather than drains your life. *[Can be adapted to family caregivers, professional caregivers, or mixed groups. Also available as a workshop.]*

Journaling After Loss. Journaling is a profoundly healing practice for those who have experienced a bereavement or other loss. As we write, we have the opportunity to acknowledge and release any challenging emotions that arise as well as capture the moments of hope, peace and gratitude that strengthen us. In this interactive workshop on journaling and the healing path, we'll talk about the power of writing and try out some easy but powerful journaling prompts. You need not share what you've written, nor have any experience in writing to benefit from the supportive dialogue, tools and strategies the workshop offers. *[Also available as a workshop.]*

FEES & BOOKING

Have questions about the information above or interest in booking a talk by Suzanne? Contact us at suz@suzannefox.me. We'll get back to you promptly and set up a no-obligation chat.

[Click here](#) for descriptions of Suzanne's seminar and workshop topics.

Each year, Suzanne offers a limited number of free talks to benefit not-for-profit groups, venues and organizations. We suggest booking these as early as possible, as slots fill up quickly.

Fees for other sessions begin at \$250 and are based on group size, talk length, travel requirements if applicable, and special customization requests if any. Reimbursement for lodging and other travel costs may be requested for venues more than 90 miles from Pinehurst, North Carolina unless Suzanne will be in your area for other engagements.

We look forward to hearing from you!