

# Yvonne Ventresca: School and Library Visits

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Yvonne Ventresca is the author of two award-winning young adult novels, *Black Flowers*, *White Lies* and *Pandemic*. Her other works include two nonfiction books for teens, as well as several short stories selected for anthologies.

As a frequent presenter at writing conferences, schools, and book festivals, and a member of Toastmasters International (Advanced Communicator Silver Level), Yvonne enjoys speaking about the creative process. She has programs suitable for middle and high school classroom visits, book clubs, and larger audiences. For more information about her speaking fees, she can be reached by email at [Yvonne@YvonneVentresca.com](mailto:Yvonne@YvonneVentresca.com).

Her psychological thriller *Black Flowers*, *White Lies*, was listed at the top of BuzzFeed's must-read new YA fall books and went on to win a Gold IPPY Award for best national young adult fiction. Her debut, *Pandemic*, won a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. Both books are set in New Jersey.

**Educator guides (aligned with Common Core standards) can be downloaded for free from [YvonneVentresca.com](http://YvonneVentresca.com).**

## SAMPLE PROGRAMS

**Revision Techniques:** What happens after the first draft? Learn techniques for reviewing the big picture challenges of a work-in-progress as well as fine-tuning the final draft. Students will discover several methods for reviewing what they've written, gather a checklist of questions to ask about their writing, and receive a handout of further resources.

**The Four Phases of Writing:** Yvonne discusses four phases of writing—drafting, researching (even for fiction), seeking feedback, and revising. She details tips and techniques for success in each phase.

**Judging a Book by Its Cover:** Many readers select books because of their covers. But how accurately do these images represent the actual story? With anecdotes and cover image examples, this presentation offers behind-the-scenes information that appeals to a variety of students.

**Yvonne also has workshops about building suspense in fiction, how character secrets increase tension, and using deep point of view. For a complete list of programs, please email her.**



**More about Yvonne's award-winning young adult novels:**

***BLACK FLOWERS, WHITE LIES*** (Sky Pony Press, 2016, ISBN 978-1-5107-0988-1)

***When strange events cause Ella to question her perception of reality, she desperately needs to find answers, no matter how disturbing the truth might be.***

"Ventresca has carefully plotted a variety of twists and turns in this engrossing mystery that doesn't let up until the final pages."  
—Jeffery Harr, Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the NCTE

***PANDEMIC*** (Sky Pony Press, 2014, ISBN 978-1-62873-609-0)

***During a contagious outbreak, an emotionally traumatized teenage girl must face disease, death, and her personal demons in order to survive.***

"This is an engrossing apocalyptic story, told through Lil's eyes and newsfeeds as her neighborhood, then the East Coast, and finally the entire U.S. buckles to its knees as the pandemic spreads. . . . Themes of friendship and coming together in a crisis carry the novel." —School Library Journal