

LEANNE SHIRTLIFFE

leanneshirtliffe@gmail.com

LeanneShirtliffe.com

POETRY-SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Manuscript into Book: What You Need to Know to Publish Your Poetry Book with Kelli Russell Agodon & Susan Rich, Zoom (February 2021)
- 3 Lectures by Pushcart Prize Winner Brenda Hillman, University of Virginia (February 2021)
- Dodge Poetry Festival, Zoom (2020)
- Billy Collins Masterclass “Reading and Writing Poetry,” Masterclass.com (2020)
- Hosted poet Tyler Perry as creative writing class guest speaker, Calgary (2019)
- Hosted poet Richard Harrison as creative writing class guest speaker, Calgary (2018)
- Poetry-in-Voice Professional Development session with Phoebe Wang, Toronto (2018)
- Hosted poet Nikki Reimer as creative writing class guest speaker, Calgary (2017)
- Making and Unmaking Metaphor with Lorna Crozier Calgary (2017)
- Poetry-in-Voice Professional Development session with Adam Sol, Toronto (2016)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- WriteOnCon, online conference for writers (2018, 2019)
- How to Write a Novel: Structure and Outline, UBCx, Annabel Lyon and Nancy Lee (2018)
- First Five Pages Workshop, Manuscript Academy (2017)
- Words in 3D Conference, Edmonton (2015)
- Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Annual Conference, LA (2014)
- Writers Guild of Alberta Conference, Calgary (2014)
- Surrey International Writers Conference, (2009-2013)
- B. Ed., English/Geography, Queen’s University (1994)
- BA (Honours), English/Women’s Studies, Queen’s University (1993)

WORKS PUBLISHED

Poetry

- 3 Minisons, *Minison Project* (February 2021)

Picture Books

- *Sloth to the Rescue* (Running Press Kids, October 2019, 32 pages)
- *I Love Sharks Too!* (Sky Pony Press, 2017, 32 pages)
- *Saving Thunder the Great: the True Story of a Gerbil’s Rescue from the Fort McMurray Wildfire* (Boulder Publications, 2016, 36 pages)

- *No More Beige Food* (Sky Pony Press, 2016, 32 pages)
- *The Change Your Name Store* (Sky Pony Press 2014, 32 pages)

Humour/Nonfiction

- *Mommyfesto: We Solemnly Swear (\$%*!)...Because We Have Kids: A Book About the Reality of Parenting* (Skyhorse 2014, distributed by Thomas Allen in Canada, 64 pages)
- *Don't Lick the Minivan: And Other Things I Never Thought I'd Say to my Kids* (Skyhorse 2013 hardcover; 2015 paperback, distributed by Thomas Allen in Canada, 320 pages)

Anthology Contributions

- *Wake Up and Smell the Shit: Hilarious Travel Disasters, Monstrous Toilets, and Demonic Dildos* (Ed. Kirsten Koza, Traveler's Tales, 2015)
- *I Just Want to Be Alone* (Ed. Jen Mann, Throat Punch Books, 2014)

AWARDS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / JURIES / LISTS

- Shortlist, Blue Spruce Award, Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading (2019)
- Judging Panel, TD *I Think First* contest (2018)
- Juror, R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature—Middle Grade & YA (2016)
- Shortlisted, R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature—Picture Books (2015)
- Mayor Nenshi Reads *The Change Your Name Store* (2014)
- 100 Best Bloggers, *Babble* (2013)
- 15 of the Best Canadian Parenting Tweeters, Huffington Post (2013)
- Top 10 Mommy Bloggers, *Reader's Digest* (2012)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & FESTIVAL APPEARANCES

- Panelist, Writing in Multiple Genres, When Words Collide, Calgary (Aug 2021)
- Keynote Speaker, When Words Collide, Calgary (2019)
- Festival of Trees Presenter, Toronto (May 2019)
- Forest Friday Virtual Author Visit, Ontario Library Association (2019)
- Webber Academy Visiting Author, Calgary (2018)
- Airdrie Public Library, Author Series Presentation (2016)
- Read Alberta Books Author Reading, Penhold (2016)
- Andrew Sibbald School, Calgary, Visiting Author (2016)
- Webber Academy, Calgary, Visiting Author (2016)
- Strathcona-Tweedsmuir School, Okotoks, Visiting Author (2014)
- Alberta Writers' Guild Conference, "The Writing Life" panel (2014)
- NIST International School, Thailand, Author Visit via Skype (2014)

- Calgary Reads launch of the First 2000 Days network, Keynote Speaker (2014)
- Calgary Wordfest, "Gals & Good Times" panel discussion with Ali Bryan, Cathy Marie Buchanan, Lynn Coady, and Cassie Stocks (2013)
- St. Albert's Readers Festival (STARfest), panel discussion with Cassie Stocks (2013)
- Surrey International Writers' Conference (SiWC), panel on SiWC Success Stories (2013)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE / WORKSHOPS LED

- Critique Ninja, 12x12 Picture Book Writers (2018-present)
- Instructor, "Picture Book Workshop Series" and "Preparing Book Proposals," Alexandra Writers Centre Society (2018)
- Presenter, Calgary Young Writers Conference, Ernest Manning School, Calgary (2016)
- "Creative Writing and Publishing," a for-credit elective (75 hours/year) for high school students (2013-present)
- "Structuring Your Memoir" and "Picture Book Trends in the 21st Century," Surrey International Writers Conference (2015)
- Editor, Blue Pencil sessions, Surrey International Writers Conference (2015)
- "Beyond Dr. Seuss: Writing Picture Books," Alberta Culture Days (2015)
- "Using Humour in Children's Literature, SCBWI, Calgary (2015)
- "From Idea to Publication," Calgary's Young Writers' Conference (2015)
- "Strategies for Writing Humour," Calgary's Young Writers' Conference (2015)
- "How to Run a Successful Critique Group," Alberta Writers' Guild Conference (2014)
- "The Art of Humour Writing," Calgary Public Library's Annual Writers' Weekend (2014)
- "How to Write Funny (Er)," WANA International webinar (2013)
- "Carving out Time for Writing," Alberta English Language Arts Conference (2012)
- "Revitalize your Classroom by Teaching Real-World Genres: Picture Books, Historical Fiction & Humour," Alberta English Language Arts Conference (2010)

CAPSULE REVIEWS

Sloth to the Rescue

- "A fine choice that also demonstrates problem-solving skills" ~ School Library Journal
- "Agreeable animal"

I Love Sharks, Too!

- "The ultimate book for all young ichthyologists...Bold illustrations accompany easy-to-read facts and funny text. A must-have for shark lovers." ~ Calgary Herald
- "The toothy tyke of Bob Shea's Dinosaurs vs. series has a new cousin. Shark fans will be

delighted.” ~ Booklist

Saving Thunder the Great: a True Story from the Fort McMurray Wildfire

- “Compelling” ~ Edmonton Journal
- “Heartwarming” ~ Newfoundland Herald

No More Beige Food

- “A rollicking, tongue-in-cheek book” ~ Montreal Gazette
- “A wonderful read-aloud” ~ CM Magazine

The Change Your Name Store

- “A fun read-aloud!” ~ Picture Book Junkies
- “The rhyming text flows beautifully and the illustrations make you smile.” ~ The Book Children
- “Colourful, bold, fun.” ~ CM Magazine

Don’t Lick the Minivan

- “An entertaining look at raising twins.” ~ Kirkus Reviews
- “She is our new Erma Bombeck.” ~ Elizabeth Boyle, NYT Bestselling Author
- “Side-splitting and thoughtful take on life with twins.” ~ Terry Fallis, Leacock winner

MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Writers Guild of Alberta (WGA)
- Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)
- 12x12 Picture Book community
- Online picture book and middle grade critique group for experienced writers