



# Novel Comprehensive Agenda

SCBWI-Florida Mid-Year Workshop  
Orlando 2017

Wanting to bring your novel to the next level? Or are you thinking of taking a break from picture books to write something longer? Join authors **Henry Neff** and **Bruce Hale**, along with author and editor **Francesco Sedita** for a daylong dive into the wild world of novel writing.

## **9:00-10:20 a.m. – Concept and World Building**

Pick a concept based on what's popular and you doom yourself to failure. Choose it based on your passions and you're onto something. Learn some practical approaches to picking a concept and building your story world around it.

Writing exercise: Writing your story's "logline"

**10:20-10:35 a.m.** - Break

## **10:35-Noon – Crafting Memorable Characters**

The hero is the building block on which your story is based, but how do you make sure you're building on a strong foundation? Learn key ingredients for a relatable hero — plus, how to craft an unforgettable villain.

Writing exercise: The power of the right name

Writing exercise: Strengthening your hero or villain

**Noon-1:00 p.m.** - Lunch

## **1:00-2:30 p.m. – Structure and Suspense**

What makes your story unputdownable? Nothing more or less than a continuous sense of tension about what happens next. Learn how to create that page-turning suspense both at the macro level (story structure) and micro level (sentence to sentence and scene to scene).

Writing exercise: Creating suspense

**2:30-3:00 p.m.** - First Page critiques\*

**3:00-3:15 p.m.** - Break

## **3:15-4:30 p.m. - Today's Market: What Works and Why**

Fads come and go. So how do you know whether your novel will appeal to editors and readers? Sometimes trends are good to follow... but let's talk about what publishers will *always* be looking for.

**4:30-5:00 p.m.** - Q&A

\*Bring in an anonymous page for a possible critique in front of the group.