

NORA SHALAWAY CARPENTER
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Nora Shalaway Carpenter is an award-winning author, writing educator, and audiobook narrator. Her newest novel *Fault Lines* won the 2024 Green Earth Book Award for YA and a Whippoorwill Honor for authentic rural fiction, in addition to being named to the prestigious Texas Library Association TAYSHAS state reading list.

Her critically acclaimed anthology *RURAL VOICES: 15 Authors Challenge Assumptions About Small-Time America* was named an NPR Best Book of the Year, and her fiction has been written about in both the *New York Times* and *People* magazine. Other accolades for her work include selection to the Library of Congress's Discover Great Places Through Reading list, the Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, the Children's Book Council Teacher and Librarian favorites lists, and the Nautilus Book Award Gold Medal for "better books for a better world."

Shalaway Carpenter holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts and has served as faculty for the Highlights Foundation's Whole Novel Workshop since 2021. She is also the registrar for the Kindling Words East symposium.

A neurodivergent author with an invisible disability, she champions busting stereotypes of all kinds. Follow her Substack, *Creative. Resilient. Magick*, on Substack @norashalawaycarpenter.

EDUCATION

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT
Master of Fine Arts, Writing, July 2012

American University, Washington, DC
Master of Arts classes, Literature, August 2005-May 2006
Overall GPA: 4.0/4.0 GPA
Honors: Awarded Full Scholarship, Stipend, and Teaching Assistantship

Marshall University, Huntington, WV
Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, Humanities, *summa cum laude*, with a Latin minor, May 2005
Overall GPA: 4.0/4.0

Honors:

- Full Scholarship Recipient, *Society of Yeager Scholars*
- University Honors Graduate
- Student Commencement Speaker, May 2005
- Recipient, *Maier Writing Award*, August 2004-May 2005
- Recipient, *Ruth Flower Brown Scholarship for English*, August 2004-May 2005
- Recipient, *Outstanding Classical Studies Student Award*, August 2004-May 2005
- Recipient, *Ruth Harrison Hayes Memorial Scholarship*, violin, August 2002-May 2003
- Recipient, *Larsen Education Scholarship*, August 2001-May 2005

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
Postmodern British Literature seminar class, August 2004

Exeter College, Oxford University, Oxford, England
Charles Dickens and Jane Austen seminar classes, August 2003

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Shalaway Carpenter, Nora, contributing ed. *Onward: Climate Fiction to Inspire Hope*. Charlesbridge Press. Forthcoming April, 2026.

---. contributing ed. *Spinning Toward the Sun: Essays on Writing, Resilience, and the Creative Life (benefitting victims of Hurricane Helene)*. Burlwood Books. March 18, 2025.

---. *Fault Lines*. Hachette/Running Press Teen, September 12, 2023.

Honors:

- Green Earth Book Award Winner, YA Fiction
- Nautilus Book Award Gold Medal, YA Fiction
- Texas Library Association TAYSHAS state reading list selection
- Whippoorwill Book Award Honor Book
- Cybils Award finalist

---.co-contributing ed. with Rocky Callen. *AB(solutely) NORMAL: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes*. Candlewick Press, 2023.

Honors:

- Texas Library Association TAYSHAS state reading list selection
- Children's Book Council – Top 10 Teacher Favorites 2024
- Children's Book Council - Librarian Favorites 2024

---. *Rural Voices: 15 Authors Challenge Assumptions About Small-Town America*. Candlewick Press, 2020.

Honors:

- An NPR Best Book of 2020
- A Bank Street Best Book of the Year, 2021
- YALSA Best Young Adult Fiction, 2022 Finalist
- Whippoorwill Book Award winner
- Winner of 2 Nautilus Awards
 - Gold, Best Mid-Grade Fiction
 - Best Overall Mid-Grade & YA
- A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection
- A *Country Living* magazine Front Porch Book Club Book of the Month

---. *The Edge of Anything*. Running Press, 2020.

Honors:

- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of the Year
- A Bank Street Best Book of the Year, 2021
- *A Mighty Girl's* Book of the Year
- North Carolina Humanities' 2021 selection for the Library of Congress's Discover Great Books Through Reading list
- Charlotte Community Reads 2023 Young Adult Title
- Cybils Awards Finalist
- A Tar Heel Teacher's Book of the Month selection

---*Yoga Frog*, Running Press Kids, 2018.

PUBLISHED ESSAYS, ARTICLES, & SHORT PIECES

Carpenter, Nora Shalaway. "Selected Writings." *Writing From Disabled, Chronically Ill, Deaf, and Neurodivergent Appalachians*. Ed. Kendra Winchester. University Press of Kentucky, forthcoming fall 2026.

---. "Conversations Between Friends: Nora Shalaway Carpenter and Rob Costello." *CRAFT*. Sept 2024. <https://www.craftliterary.com/2024/09/04/conversations-between-friends-nora-shalaway-carpenter-rob-costello/>

---. "The Critical Need for Environmentally Focused Rural YA Books." *School Library Journal's* Teen Librarian Toolbox. (13 Sept. 2023). <https://teenlibrariantoolbox.com/2023/09/13/the-critical-need-for-environmentally-focused-rural-ya-books-a-guest-post-by-nora-shalaway-carpenter/>

---. "Why Stories Matter." Nerdy Book. (11 April 2023). <https://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com/2023/04/11/why-story-matters-by-nora-shalaway-carpenter-and-rocky-callen/>

---. "The Healing Power of Fiction." *School Library Journal's* Teen Librarian Toolbox. (26 March 2020). <https://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/?s=nora+shalaway+carpenter>

As Nora Shalaway (maiden name):

Shalaway, Nora. "[Enchanter's Garden](#)." *Wonderful West Virginia*. March 2006. pp. 20-23.

---. "[A Honey of a Toy Story](#)." *Wonderful West Virginia*. Dec. 2005. pp. 4-7.

---. "[Irish Road Bowling?!?](#)" *Wonderful West Virginia*. April 2004. pp. 2-5.

---. "New Horizons." *This Active Life*. 17 Sept. 2006.

---. "A Side Gig Ready for Sautéing." *NEA Today*. 20 Oct 2006.

---. "[Spc. Sarah Gilbert](#)." *Wonderful West Virginia*. July 2006. pp. 7-9.

---. "A Teacher Turns to Politics." *This Active Life*. 17 Sept 2006.

---. "[Thundering Ahead: Marshall University and the City of Huntington](#)." *Wonderful West Virginia*. Dec. 2006 pp. 20-24.

For a complete list of podcast interviews and other writings, please visit <https://www.noracarpenterwrites.com/interviews-podcasts--other-writings.html>

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (in addition to school visits)

R(ev)ise & Shine Writing Community

Guest Lecturer, "With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility: How Authors Inadvertently Shape Rural Readers' Identities." Virtual. [May 28, 2025](#).

West Virginia Young Writer's Award Ceremony & Conference

Keynote Speaker. May 2, 2025.

Association of Writers and Writing Programs

Panelist. "The Setting Gap: Deconstructing Patriarchal Environments Through Worldbuilding." March 26, 2025. Los Angeles, CA.

North Carolina Reading Association

Moderator. "What's Cookin' in Carolina Kids' Lit?" March 24, 2025.

Vermont College of Fine Arts

Panelist, "How to Get Noticed by Anthologists and What to Expect When You Do." Virtual. March 20, 2025.

National Council of Teachers of English 2024 Conference

Keynote Speaker, *The Rural Assembly on English Language and Literacy Education's inaugural session*. November 21-24. Boston, MA.

---*Panelist*, "Windows, Mirrors, and Barn Doors: Busting Stereotypes in Rural Literacy and Literature." November 21-24. Boston, MA.

---*Panelist*, "Let's Talk about Mental Health! Exploring the Power of Story." November 21-24. Boston, MA.

---*Panelist*, "Mental Health Literacy and ELA: Using Books to Normalize Conversation." November 21-24. Boston, MA.

---*Panelist*, "Ecoliteracy Can Change the World: How Reading and Writing About Our Environments Can Inspire Hopeful Activism." November 21-24. Boston, MA.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, Whole Novel Workshop, Oct 17-22, 2024.

Society of Children's Books Writers & Illustrators Carolina Conference

Presenter, "What's the Deal with Short Fiction & Why is it Definitely Worth My Time?" Sept 22, 2024.

Columbus Book Festival

Panelist, "More than Cornfields: Rural Teens." July 13, 2024.

Columbus Book Festival

Panelist, "Hey! Look, It's Me: Mental Health in Stories." July 13, 2024.

Vermont College of Fine Arts

Panelist, "Publishing Panel: How to Create a Dynamic Presentation." May 23, 2024. Virtual. <https://vcfa.edu/event/how-to-create-a-dynamic-presentation/>

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment's *Green Fire Symposium*

Panelist, "Ecoliteracy Can Change the World: How Reading and Writing About Our Environments Can Inspire Hopeful Activism." May 17, 2024. Virtual.

Appalachian Studies Association

Co-Presenter, "Echo from the Holler: The Unique Ability of Young Adult Literature to Foster Positive Appalachian Identity." March 7-9, 2024. Western Carolina University.

Summit on the Research and Teaching of YA Literature

Panelist, "Worth Fighting For: Politically-Engaged Literature in the Regulated Classroom." Feb 29 March 1, 2024.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, "Intro to Writing Short Fiction" webinar, Part 1. Jan 23, 2024.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, "Talk to Me: the Ins and Outs of Dialogue That Drives Plot and Delivers Reader Satisfaction" webinar, Part 1. Feb 27, 2024.

National Council of Teachers of English Conference

Panelist, "Reading Rural Environmentalism: Connections Between People and Place in Rural Literature and Secondary ELA." Nov 16-19, 2023.

National Council of Teachers of English Conference

Panelist, "The In Between: Bringing Hope to Mental Health Literacy." Nov 16-19, 2023.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, Whole Novel Workshop, Aug 17-22, 2023.

Summit on the Research and Teaching of YA Literature

Panelist, "Reading Rural Environmentalism." April 21, 2023.

Texas Library Association

Panelist, "Teen Mental Health: Stop(ping) the Stigma." April 20, 2023.

National Council of Teachers of English Conference

Panelist, "Rising from Darkness: Destigmatizing the Adolescent Mental Health Experience with Brave Voices in in MG and YA Literature." Nov 17, 2022.

National Council of Teachers of English Conference

Panelist, "Shining a Light on Rural YA Literature: Presenting the Winners of the Whippoorwill Award for Rural Young Adult Literature." Nov 17, 2022.

YALSA Symposium

Panelist, "Courageous Storytellers: Sharing Stories of Mental Health & Wellness." Nov 6, 2022.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, Whole Novel Retreat, Aug 19-23, 2022.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, Intro to Writing Short Fiction webinar, May 24 & 26, 2022.

YALSA Symposium

Co-Presenter, "Safe Haven: Creating Safe Education Spaces that Destigmatize the Teen Mental Health Experience." Nov 5-7, 2021.

Charlotte Teachers Institute

Presenter, "Creating Empowered Spaces for Authentic Mental Health Conversations."
Oct 26, 2021.

Highlights Foundation

Faculty, Whole Novel Retreat, Aug 21-27, 2021.

North Carolina Reading Association Mini Conference

Presenter, "Connecting Students to Creative Writing Through Their Lived Emotional Experiences." June 26, 2021.

Summit on the Research and Teaching of YA Literature

Presenter, "Reframing Write What You Know to Increase Student Engagement & Empathy." June 12, 2021.

Summit on the Research and Teaching of YA Literature

Panelist, "AB(solutely) NORMAL: How YA Literature Depicting Diverse Mental Health Experiences Can Create Community and Save Lives." June 9, 2021.

SCBWI Carolinas Webinar Series

Presenter, "The Character Equation: How to Find Your Story's Heartbeat." Feb 11, 2021

SOMOS a Place for Words, Taos, NM

Guest Speaker, Teen Virtual Writing Workshops, January 7 & 21, 2021

Bookmarks Bookstore, NC

Guest presenter, Virtual Journaling Workshop for Teen Advisory Council, January 13, 2021

Testimonials about Nora's teaching:

www.noracarpenterwrites.com/presentations--workshops.html

ADDITIONAL WRITING-RELATED CAREER EXPERIENCE

Wonderful West Virginia magazine

Associate Editor, September 2007-October 2014

- Worked with authors to improve manuscript quality.
- Managed the query box and assigned stories to freelance writers.
- Edited each monthly issue for both content and stylistic issues.
- Wrote feature articles:

National Education Association

Intern, May 2006-August 2006

- Conducted interviews and wrote articles for NEA's monthly magazines, *NEA Today* and *This Active Life*.
- Attended and reported on press briefings and conferences.

- Reviewed books and materials for *NEA Today*'s "Resources" section.
- Organized data collected from NEA's annual national Representative Assembly (RA) conference.

MEMBER OF THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Appalachian Studies Association
- North Carolina Writers' Network
- West Virginia Writers, Inc.
- The Writers' Association of Northern Appalachia
- Society for Children's Book Writers & Illustrators

VOLUNTEER WORK

Marshall University Department of English

Advisory Board Member, term begins May 2025.

- Consult with program directors and provide advice and feedback to English Department administrators
- Provide insight into workplace shifts and relevant skills / classes to help better prepare English Department majors and graduate students for successful creative careers

Haywood Arts Regional Theatre

Board Member, Jan 2024-present

- Marketing Committee Chair, Jan 2025-present
- The Academy at HART committee

Friends of the Western North Carolina Nature Center

President, Board of Directors, June 2018-2020

Vice President, Board of Directors, June 2017-June 2018

Board Member, 2014-2020

- Worked with the City of Asheville to ensure the WNC Nature Center has everything it needs to provide the best possible care of its animals and maintain its Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation.
- Helped manage the Friends' substantial budget.

Marketing Committee Chair, June 2015-2017

- Wrote successful grant for \$313,500 to provide the Center with a new, fully accessible front entrance, new parking, new and upgraded exhibit spaces, new event spaces, new offices, and gift shop.
- Wrote text for marketing campaigns/Center materials.
- Helped organize marketing events.

Literacy Center of Northern Virginia

Adult Literacy Tutor, April 2010-August 2012 (when I moved to Asheville)

- Worked one-on-one with adult English-learner for at least one hour per week, helping student earn a first-place award from LCNV for an essay written during our second year together.
- Helped student pass his citizenship test and achieve his goal of bettering his English enough to take college classes.