



(photo by Kevin Reese)

## MARY HALL SURFACE



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### A PLAYFUL APPROACH TO WRITING

**Workshop Leader: Mary Hall Surface**

**For Teachers of Grades 1-6**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

Playwriting offers a powerful way to interest students in writing or pre-writing processes. Participants examine ways to help students learn how to think like playwrights and to develop a script—written or pictorial—that draws on their improvisations of characters and ideas. Workshop activities are drawn from Judith Viorst’s *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. At the sponsor’s request, another work of children’s literature can be used.

### STANDING IN A CHARACTER’S SHOES: DEEPER MEANING THROUGH MONOLOGUES

**Workshop Leader: Mary Hall Surface**

**For Teachers of Grades 6-12**

**6 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

Helping students develop understanding of the emotions and motivations of literary characters and historical figures is often challenging. In this two-part workshop, participants explore ways to help students imagine, improvise, and write monologues (a dramatic speech by one person) that reveal the emotions beneath a character’s/person’s words (the subtext) and how those emotions change (the turning points). Teachers discover how students can look beyond the surface facts of a text or event and search for deeper meaning, both as readers and writers. Mary Hall Surface shares how this process of questioning and inferring can enrich students’ empathy of real or imagined characters.

### Mary Hall Surface also offers the following services\* for:

#### Students

- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/ Exhibit Attendance
- Other Workshops
- Residencies
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

#### Teachers

- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/ Exhibit Attendance
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

*\*Not all services have been designed or presented by the Kennedy Center.*

**MARY HALL SURFACE** is an internationally recognized playwright and director who specializes in theater for family audiences. Her plays have been produced at major professional theaters, museums, universities, and festivals with fifteen productions with the Kennedy Center’s Theater for Young Audiences and National Symphony Orchestra. She has been nominated for nine Helen Hayes Awards (receiving the award in 2002 for Outstanding Director of a Musical), and has published two books, twelve plays, and three award-winning original cast albums of her plays, *Sing Down the Moon: Appalachian Wonder Tales*, *Perseus Bayou*, and *The Odyssey of Telemaca*. For more than fifteen years, Ms. Surface has brought her enthusiasm for the “power of the playwriting-pen” into classrooms throughout the United States, to national arts education conferences, and to teachers nationwide.