

Ingrid Ricks is an author, speaker, essayist and teen mentor. Her books include *The New York Times* Memoir Bestseller, *Hippie Boy*, and *Focus*, a memoir about her journey with the blinding eye disease Retinitis Pigmentosa. She is currently working on a memoir about her yearlong quest to save her eyesight, and is blogging about her journey at www.determinedtosee.com.

Ingrid's essays and stories have been featured on Salon and NPR. Along with writing, she is passionate about leveraging the new world of publishing to give teens a voice. Using *Hippie Boy* as a catalyst, she recently cofounded **WeAreAbsolutelyNotOkay.org**, a nationally recognized program that transforms students' lives through personal storytelling.

Ingrid's keynotes, presentations and breakout sessions have covered the following topics:

- Embracing the NOW (and Making it Count)
- How to Become a Dreamer who DOES
- The Life-Changing Power of Personal Storytelling
- The Secret to Turning Adversity into Achievement
- How to Say "No" to Naysayers and "Yes" to Yourself
- Secrets to Navigating the New World of Publishing



TV Interview, NPR Story Clip and Live Storytelling Podcast

- [Author Appearance: New Day Northwest](#)
- [NPR's Snap Judgment: On the Road Again](#)
- [Ballard Jam House: How My Fading Eyesight Taught Me to See What Counts](#)

What Others Are Saying:

"I recently had the pleasure of hearing Ingrid Ricks give a keynote speech at a conference for youth service providers. Ingrid held us all spellbound as she spoke of transforming students' lives through personal storytelling. After Ingrid's keynote I made sure I did three things: 1) I purchased two of her books, 2) I bought her teachers' guide on how to work with youth in storytelling, and 3) I sought her out so I could get more tips. Without a doubt, hearing Ingrid's keynote has changed my approach for working with young people who have faced difficult challenges." - **Jerry Sherk, Youth Mentoring Consultant and Trainer**

"We received the greatest amount of praise and thanks for Ingrid's workshop at our PubCamp conference in Seattle. Attendees raved about Ingrid's professional, personal and on-point presentation about book marketing. We were so pleased we asked Ingrid to present at other events as well. She is one of our top-rated and most requested speakers." - **Kelsye Nelson - CEO & Co-Founder, Writer.ly**

"I thought yesterday's program on Embracing the Now was superb! I was particularly impressed with Ingrid's candor, clarity, and warmth. I could feel - actually see - her bonding with her audience. Her ability and willingness to share her emotions was particularly moving." - **Rock Roth, President, The Rotary Club of Edmonds Daybreakers/CAPT USN (RET)**

"Informative, interesting, energetic - those are some of the words that come to mind after hearing Ingrid speak to the EDGE Literary Artist Trust writers." - **Rebecca Redshaw, novelist, playwright, critic**