

Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators

MD/DE/WV

Maryland/Delaware/West Virginia

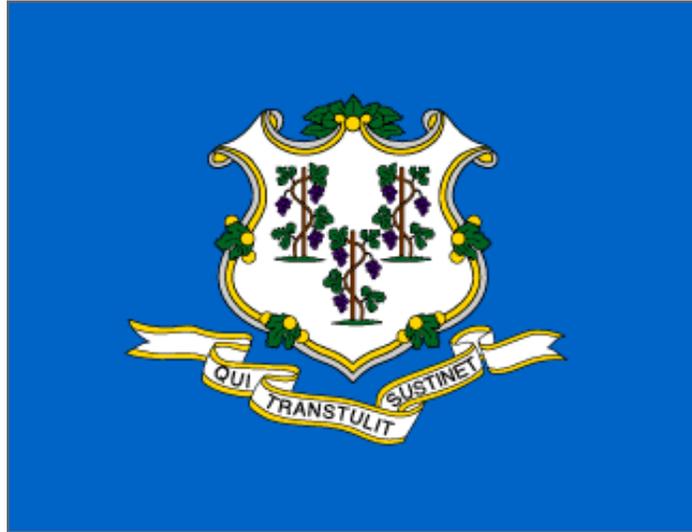
Author and Illustrator Presentations

Published and Listed Members of the Society of Childrens Book Writer and Illustrators MD/DE/WV Region in partnership with SCBWI Mid-Atlantic MDDEWV.scbwi.org

Approximate prices are for informational purposes; please contact authors and illustrators directly to negotiate presentations and rates to fit your needs.

This directory is for your convenience, but is not a comprehensive list of available authors in the mid-Atlantic region. Find even more children's book authors and illustrators with school/library presentations by browsing the SCBWI Speakers Bureau (<http://www.scbwi.org/speakers-bureau/>)

Connecticut Presenters



Sarah Albee (author), Watertown, CT

<http://www.sarahalbeebooks.com/author-visits/> | sarahalbee@taftschool.org | twitter: @sarahalbee

elementary and MG Nonfiction history/science/biography

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle School

Book Titles: Alexander Hamilton: a Plan for America. 2018 (HarperCollins)
Dog Days of History. 2018 (National Geographic) Martin Luther King: A Peaceful Leader. 2018 (HarperCollins) George Washington: First President. 2017 (HarperCollins) Poison: Deadly Deeds, Perilous Professions, and Murderous Medicines. 2017 (RH/Crown) Why'd They Wear That? 2015 (National Geographic) Bugged: How Insects Changed History 2014 (Walker)
Poop Happened: A History of the World from the Bottom Up 2010 (Walker)
(More new titles coming out 2019/20/21)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, writing workshops, library visits, panels, professional development, and (limited free) Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

Large Group Presentation: Research, Write, Revise!

Grades 3 and up: 45 – 60-minute presentation, no limit to size of audience
Grades K – 2: 30 minutes plus time for Q and A (the modified version for younger kids will include more personal details about the life of a writer, and where writers get their ideas.)

In this highly interactive and visual presentation, geared toward larger groups, Sarah discusses how writers choose a topic, and then delves into her research process, which often takes an “unconventional” turn, given the unusual slant on history that her books focus on. To demonstrate how stories from the past may be told from many different perspectives, she uses costumes, props, photographs, and volunteers to help dramatize what life in the fourteenth, sixteenth, and eighteenth centuries might have been like. Young writers will also learn how a professional author faces many of the same revision challenges they do, and Sarah gives tips for improving a piece of writing and creating clear, interesting prose.

Make it Snappy! A Nonfiction Revision Workshop

Grades 3 – 9, 45 – 60 minutes; best for groups of up to 35 students.

Using intriguing images, real props, and student participation, Sarah draws on the content of all her middle grade nonfiction titles with a lively discussion about the writing process, from the idea phase all the way to the completed book. She then models ways kids can develop their own unique writer’s voice, using mentor texts and by demonstrating her own revision strategies. Kids then apply what they’ve learned to revise their own writing.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: \$1500 for a full day visit (three presentations, lunch with kids, book signing) plus travel expenses to be discussed.

Maryland Presenters



Mary Amato (author), Hyattsville, MD

maryamato.com | info@maryamato.com | [@maryamato](https://twitter.com/maryamato)

Chapter Books, Middle Grade & Young Adult

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle, High School

Book Titles: *News from Me*, *Lucy McGee* (Holiday House, 2018); *Open Mic Night at Westminster Cemetery* (Carolrhoda Lab, 2018)

Types of visits offered: interactive bookstore experiences for all ages; K-12 assemblies, residencies, and classroom visits; Skype visits; open mic hosting for teens.

Programs Offered:

Author Visit

Mary takes students on a journey through the writing process. Where do ideas come from? How do journals, webs, and outlines help? Why is revising so important? How does a book get published? Mary concludes with an improvisational “revision” game.

Interactive Songwriting Workshop

Songwriting is a great way to get reluctant writers excited about the writing process. Mary uses her tested technique to help the audience create a collaborative song on the spot. In the process, students learn about brainstorming, rough drafts, revisions, metaphor, rhythm, imagery, point of view and more. Can adapt for bookstore, library, or school.

Interactive Story-Inventing Workshop

Students learn the three-part trajectory of the classic story. Using a theater game, they learn how to construct a story—often with hilarious results. Especially helpful for young, reluctant writers. Can adapt for bookstore, library, or school.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$325; half-day \$625 (A limited number of discounted programs available annually.)

Lenore Appelhans (author and MFA), Olney, MD

Lenoreappelhans.com | Lenore.appelhans@gmail.com | @lenoreva

Picture Book humorous, & Young Adult speculative fiction

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle, High School

Book Titles: Chick-O-Saurus Rex (Simon & Schuster, 2013); The Manic Pixie Dream Boy Improvement Project (Lerner/Carolrhoda Lab, March 5, 2019)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels

Programs Offered:

I Have a Great Idea for a Story: What Do I Do Now?

Can be tailored to age and needs of audience, either as a presentation or workshop. I talk about how to ask the right questions that take a great idea from spark to finished book. Addresses character, plot, setting, theme and more.

Understanding and Using Tropes in Your Writing

For older audiences (5th grade and up). This presentation discusses commonly occurring literary devices, why they exist, as well as why, how, and when to subvert them. Addresses character archetypes and stereotypes.

Meta-Fiction 101

For older audiences (5th grade and up). Using my latest novel, this presentation discusses the basics of meta-fiction, provides popular examples of the genre, and encourages the audience to think outside the narrative box.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$300; half-day \$750 (A limited number of discounted programs available annually.)

Veronica Bartles (author), Catonsville, MD

vbartles.com| vbartleswrites@vbartles.com | @vbartles

Picture Book fairy tale retelling, & Young Adult contemporary

Programs offered for: PreK, Elementary, Middle, High School

Book Titles: The Princess and the Frogs (Balzer + Bray, 2016); Twelve Steps (Kissing Frogs Press, 2014)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

Never Give Up!: Failure is the Key to Success

Presentation plus Q&A for large or small groups. A look at the failures and bumps along the path to publication. I talk about the ways my biggest successes were only possible because I failed first, and why giving up is never an option.

Fractured Fairy Tales:

Making a Familiar Story New by Asking “What If?”

Both of my books include new twists on familiar stories. In this presentation, I encourage students to imagine new paths for stories they already know. (fits with 2nd grade core curriculum fairy tale unit)

The Details Make the Story: Writing with All Five Senses

Small group workshop: bringing flat prose to life. I’ll talk about the editing process, using adjectives effectively, and bringing in all five senses to make the story and characters feel real. We’ll talk about how these skills can enhance all other forms of creative and academic writing. Then, we can work together to create a story with what we’ve learned.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$600 (A limited number of discounted programs available annually.)

Robin Blasberg, Ellicott City, MD

rvblasberg@yahoo.com

Plays for upper elementary school

Programs offered for: Elementary

Book Titles: *It's Elementary! Twelve Short Plays for Upper Elementary School Actors* (YouthPLAYS 2018); *Cake for the Queen* (YouthPLAYS 2018)

Types of visits offered: interactive bookstore experiences and workshops for elementary school age group

Programs Offered:

Interactive Craft Workshop

Participants will first brainstorm ideas as to how the King can guarantee that the Queen will have the most delectable cake in all the land for her birthday. In the play, *Cake for the Queen*, the King invites the entire town to enter a cake-baking contest. Participants will be given cardboard, glitter, and other decorative materials to construct their version of the Queen's birthday cake. The program will conclude with a discussion of how best to determine the winning cake. Ah! If only the King could have heard this discussion.

Custom Presentations Available: No

Approximate costs: 1 hour--materials fee

Jean Diehl (author), Chevy Chase, MD

www.jhdiehl.com/ | jean@jhdiehl.com | @jhdiehl

Middle Grade & Contemporary Fiction

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle, High School

Book Titles: *Tiny Infinities* (Chronicle Books, 2018)

Types of visits offered: Assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

Writers' Workshop

GR3-6 Writers' Workshop: The Secret to Every Great Story

To begin, we explore the question, what makes us tell each other stories? Through highly interactive activities, we hunt for a secret to all great storytelling. With simple, fun writing prompts, we write opening paragraphs for our own short stories. This workshop is a great way to jumpstart writing your own story - or the beginning of your first book!

Author Talk

GR5-8: Word by Word: How An Idea Becomes A Book

In this talk I share how I became a writer, where I get ideas, and how my ideas turn into books. We discuss the research and writing process, the importance of revision, and elements of book design. We examine how books get their covers with a fun look at the fascinating evolution of the artist's ideas for the book jacket of TINY INFINITIES.

Workshop

GR5-8 Writing Intensive: Focus on Friendship

In this session, we explore the topic of friendship while getting practice in writing. We consider how you know when you are a friend or have one, and ways in which friendship can build confidence, expand our world view, challenge us, and provide opportunities to build understanding and empathy. As a model, we look at the three unexpected friendships Alice makes in TINY INFINITIES. A close reading of several short passages serves as our jumping off point for interactive exercises, including a writing prompt to practice putting our observations, thoughts and feelings into words.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: Half-day: \$400 for one presentation or workshop or \$600 for two. Full day: \$800, includes three presentations or workshops plus optional breakfast or lunch with a small group of students. Skype Visits: Free 20-minute visits. Library visits: Please email me for info.

Rebecca Evans (Author/Illustrator), Severna Park, MD

rebeccaevans.net | rebecca@rebeccaevans.net | [@RebeccaEvansArt](https://www.instagram.com/rebeccaevansart/) |

<https://www.instagram.com/rebeccaevansart/>

Picture Books

Programs Offered For: PreK, Elementary, Middle School, High School

Book Titles: *Masterpiece Robot and the Ferocious Valerie Knick-Knack* (Tilbury House Publishers 2018), *Someday I'll Fly* (Red Engine Press 2014)

Programs offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing and/or illustration workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits. A limited number of discounted programs are available annually.

Dreams that Wouldn't Let Me Quit

This large or small group presentation focuses on perseverance by sharing my journey to become an author/illustrator and the many failures that finally led to success. I walk students through the various steps of writing, editing and illustrating, and include them in short exercises along the way. It's an interactive and entertaining presentation that includes behind the scenes photographs of both writing and illustrating allowing students to connect and feel more confident about their own work. The presentation can be tailored to fit your audience, or can focus on writing, illustrating, or both.

Who's your Hero?

Small Group hands-on character illustration workshop - (ILLUSTRATION)

Every book needs a hero, but who is yours? What do they look like? What are they wearing? What would make someone interested in your hero? We will explore what makes a memorable main character using text, fashion, style, diversity, environment and attitude to evaluate famous main characters. Using what we've learned we will then create our own main character/hero. At the end of the workshop, students will have a completed sketch for a main character that can be used for their own stories in later class projects.

Illustration: Stories Without Words

Small group hands-on illustration workshop - (ILLUSTRATION)

Do you love to draw? Paint? Create new friends and characters? Tell stories with pictures? This workshop explores how to use art to tell a secondary story, the story that only an illustrator can tell. As a group we will work with an actual picture book manuscript to look at what the words say and then use our artistic creativity to discover what could be happening in the art above and beyond the text. This workshop focuses on brainstorming, thinking outside the box and the importance of imagination in art!

Editing-Shmediting: So Much More than Spelling

Small Group hands-on Editing Process Workshop - (WRITING)

This in-depth workshop focuses on the part of writing that most of us would rather skip, editing! We will discuss the various parts of the editing process and why they are important. We will review real manuscripts in-process and how they changed during the editing stage. Finally, we will use review real draft manuscripts and apply our new knowledge of the editing process.

Hook Me, Reel Me In, and Leave Me Wanting More!

Small group hands-on story arc workshop - (WRITING)

During this workshop we discuss the basic story arc and review well-known stories to see how they use the arc. We will then apply the story arc concept to our ideas by creating a basic outline. At the end of the workshop, students will have a completed outline that can be utilized in later class projects.

Word-Smith

Small group hands-on writing workshop - (WRITING)

A goldsmith is an artist who works with gold to create beautiful objects. A word-smith is an artist who uses words to create beautiful sentences. Too often we use the first plain-vanilla words that come to mind, being a writer means finding the double-dutch-chocolate-caramel-twist words that will make our story the best it can be. This workshop begins by looking at how famous authors use words in their stories, then transitions to brainstorming how to make plain sentences into amazing sentences. Students will be provided a dummy text which we will word-smith and then share.

Custom Presentations Available: YES

Approximate cost: (a limited number of discounted programs are available annually)

One session: \$350

Two sessions: \$600

Three sessions: \$800

Skype visit: \$150

Laura Gehl (author), Chevy Chase, MD

www.lauragehl.com | laurameressa@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/AuthorLauraGehl | @AuthorLauraGehl

Picture books with humor and heart; board books

Programs offered for: 2-year-olds through Grade 5

Book Title(s): I Got a Chicken for My Birthday, Lerner, 2018; One Big Pair of Underwear, Simon & Schuster, 2014

Types of visits offered: Assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits, talks for educators and librarians

Programs Offered:

When Writing Meets Math

This program is focused around my book ONE BIG PAIR OF UNDERWEAR. We play interactive math and writing games, and kids generate their own story ideas using math and patterns. As a bonus, my gigantic pair of underwear--big enough to fit at least 10 kids--always makes an appearance.

It's Perfect! Now Fix It!

This program focuses on the revision process with real-life examples from my own books and their long journeys to publication.

How to Write a Boring Book...and how to avoid accidentally writing one

This program uses elements of improvisational drama to help kids brainstorm exciting plots, characters, and settings.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: Single 30-minute Presentation: \$300; Additional Presentations at same location on same day: \$100/each; Single 45-minute presentation: \$350; Additional 45-minute presentations at same location on same day: \$150/each; additional fees apply outside of DC metro area.

Lauren Abbey Greenberg (author), Rockville, MD

laurenabbeygreenberg.com | laurenabbeygreenberg@gmail.com | [twitter](#)

@LAGreenberg1 | IG @lagreenbrg

Realistic Contemporary Middle Grade

Programs offered for: Upper Elementary, Middle School

Book Titles: *The Battle of Junk Mountain* (Running Press Kids 2018)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, library visits, panels, Skype/Google Hangout visits

Program Offered:

Writing a Book: A Behind-the-Scenes Look!

Presentation plus Q&A for large or small groups. I share my early love of reading, where my story ideas come from, and the important ingredients needed to create a finished manuscript. I also give a behind-the-scenes look at how a manuscript becomes bookshelf-ready.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$400

Kathy MacMillan (author), Owings Mills, MD
kathymacmillan.com | info@kathymacmillan.com

Picture books & young adult fantasy

Programs offered for: PreK, Elementary, Middle, High School

Book Titles: *Nita's First Signs* (Familius, 2018), *Dagger and Coin* (HarperTeen, 2018)

Types of visits offered: Signing storytimes, assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

Little Hands Signing

Theme-based interactive storytimes that introduce useful signs for family communication.

The SIGN-a-long Sing-a-long

A hands-on exploration of American Sign Language through music and stories for all ages.

Storybuilding

Writing workshop. Learn how to focus on the specifics you need at each stage of the writing process to build your characters' world without ever losing sight of the story at its heart.

Choices and Consequences

Writing workshop. Learn how to analyze your story through the lens of choices and consequences to create coherent plots, compelling characters, and satisfying endings.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$600. A limited number of discounted programs are available annually.

Susan Stockdale (Author/Illustrator), Chevy Chase, MD

www.susanstockdale.com; susan@susanstockdale.com; @susan_stockdale

Books: Nonfiction picture books about nature

Programs offered for: PreK-Grade 5

Book Titles: *Fantastic Flowers*; *Stripes of All Types/Rayas de todas las tallas*; *Bring On the Birds*

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, library visits, panels, Skype visits

Program Offered:

Creating Picture Books about Nature: A Wild and Wonderful Adventure!

Presentation plus Q & A. I demonstrate how I research, write and illustrate my nonfiction picture books through rigorous research with scientists, manuscript drafts, storyboards, sketches and final illustrations. Students also learn amazing facts about nature, the theme of my books. A seamless integration of language arts, visual arts and science that enhances any classroom curriculum.

Spotting Spectacular Spots and Stripes

Presentation plus Q & A. Students learn the many ways in which animals benefit from their spots and stripes as presented in my bilingual English/Spanish books, *Spectacular Spots/Magnificas Manchas* and *Stripes of All Types/Rayas de todas las tallas*. I share my bookmaking steps as we explore the patterns on mammals, fish, birds, insects, reptiles, mollusks, and crustaceans in the books. I can read the books in both English and Spanish upon request.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 program \$700; 2 programs \$850; and 3 programs \$1000. A limited number of discounted programs available annually.

Timothy Young (author/illustrator), Easton, MD

creaturesandcharacters.com - tim@creaturesandcharacters.com - [@TimSYoung](https://www.instagram.com/timothyyoungauthor)
- [instagram-timothyyoungauthor](https://www.instagram.com/timothyyoungauthor)

A unique author/illustrator with great stories to tell!

Programs offered for: PreK, Elementary, Middle,

Book Titles: *I'm Looking For A Monster!* (2008 Random House - Out of Print), *They're Coming!* (2012 Schiffer Books), *Shadows On My Wall* (2012 Schiffer Books), *I Hate Picture Books!* (2013 Schiffer Books), *The Angry Little Puffin* (2014 Schiffer Books), *Do Not Open The Box!* (2016 Schiffer Books), *Am I Big Enough?* (2016 Schiffer Books - illustrator), *Just One Thing!* (2016 Schiffer Books - illustrator), *I'm Going To Outer Space!* (2017 Schiffer Books), *Creatures And Characters: Drawing Amazing Monsters, Aliens and Other Weird Things* (2017 Schiffer Books), *If You Give The Puffin a Muffin* (2018 Schiffer Books), *More Creatures And Characters: Drawing Awesomely Wild, Wacky, and Funny Animals* (2018 Schiffer Books),

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on character creation workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

Assembly Presentation

This presentation can be done for grades K through 6. Includes reading a number of books, an interactive drawing demonstration and a Q and A section that covers how books are made, the creative process as well as touching on toy design, animation and other creative arts. There is no maximum audience size. *This works best combining grades K-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th or 4th-6th.*

Character Creation Workshops

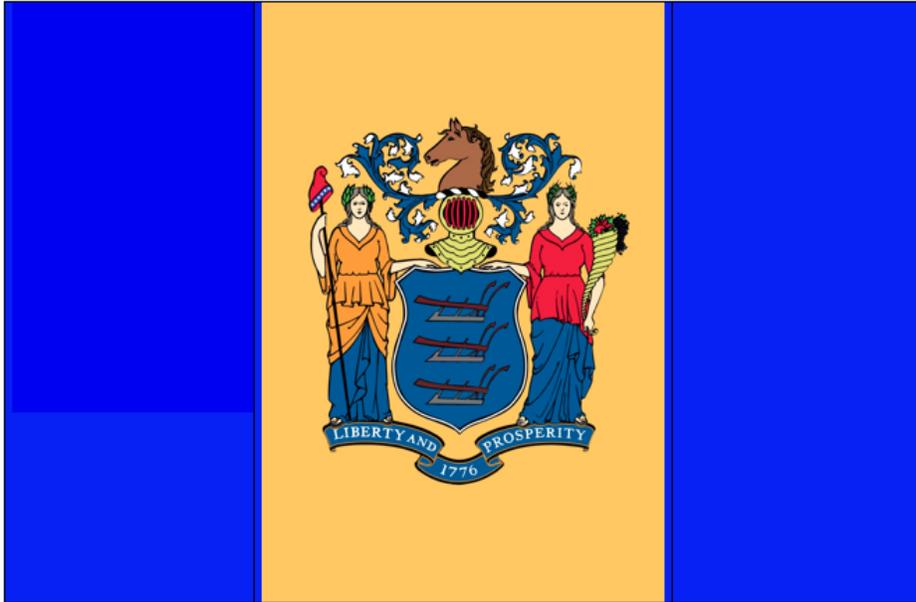
These workshops have been done for students in Pre-K through 8th grade. Tim introduces participants to his books and talks about creating interesting, unique characters. As a group, using different techniques, brand new characters are created. Participants then use those techniques to create their own characters. This workshop can also work as a prompt for creative writing. Maximum audience is 40 students.

Evening Family Program

A similar program to the daytime assembly but the Q and A can include discussions of literacy and delve further into the publishing process. Preferred maximum audience size: as space permits. Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$300; full-day \$1000 (Cost may be adjustable on a case-by-case basis. Discounts for multiple day visits within the same district)

New Jersey Presenters



Paul Czajak Farmingdale, NJ

paulczajak.com@PCzajak

Picture Books

Programs offered for: Elementary

Book Titles: The Book Tree (Barefoot Books 2018); (Mighty Media Press)

Monster Needs A Costume 2013

Monster Needs His Sleep 2014

Monster Needs A Christmas Tree 2014

Monster Needs A Party 2015

Monster Needs Your Vote 2015

Seaver The Weaver 2015

Types of visits offered: interactive bookstore experiences for all ages; K-5 assemblies, classroom visits; Writing Workshops; Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

Author Visit

For Paul's presentation, he will read two of his books and explain the process of how a book is made. Show original and edited manuscripts, character sketches, galleys, proofs, and original artwork so that students can see all the pieces that go into creating a book. Paul will discuss where ideas come from and will talk about the writing process and the importance of rewriting and editing, nobody gets anything right the first time and it is important to understand that!

- Visual presentation ~ 20 min
- Read two books ~ 10 min
- Create your own story exercise with kids ~ 15 – 20 min

Kids create their own beginning, middle and end based on the first line Monster Needs... This is a great exercise where kids learn how a story can be about anything and how easy it is to come up with its basic structure.

Writing Workshop

For older students/beginning writer's: Using the Monster and Me™ series as inspiration as well as their own experiences each student will come up with what Monster needs and why.

Then they get to write their own story!

Paul will walk through the steps of creating a beginning, middle and an end.

Stress what they are writing is the first draft and not to worry about mistakes and to let their ideas flow. Revision is an important part of writing! 45 minutes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$200; half-day \$600

Anna Olswanger (author), Fair Lawn, NJ

olswanger.com | anna@olswanger.com | @AnnaOlswanger

| www.facebook.com/ShlemielCrooks | www.facebook.com/GreenhornBook

Elementary historical fiction, Middle grade historical fiction

Programs offered for: Middle, High School

Book Title(s): *Shlemiel Crooks* (NewSouth Books, 2005 and 2009);

Greenhorn (NewSouth Books, 2012)

Types of visits offered: classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits

Programs Offered:

Themes in Greenhorn

Anna can address some or all of these themes in *Greenhorn*: the feeling of not being able to fit in, the meaning and value of friendship, the many forms bullying takes, how others perceive us, how we perceive ourselves. Anna screens the 25-minute film adaptation of *Greenhorn* and asks the audience to discuss the differences between the book and the film.

What Agents Look For

Given her experience as a literary agent, Anna talks about what agents are looking for in a book, a few of the differences between publishing houses and what writers can expect from both agent and publisher.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes.

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$500 plus expenses (usually gas mileage, train or airfare, meals, and the performance rights fee to screen the film). Anna also offers Skype chats for a small fee. A 30-minute chat is \$100 and can also include screening of the *Greenhorn* film (trailer available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNo5tx3q_3c).

Janet Slingerland (author), Mount Laurel, NJ

www.janetsbooks.com | janet@janetsbooks.com | www.facebook.com/janetsbooks, twitter.com/slingsong

nonfiction (including STEM and history)

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle, High School

Book Title(s): Explore Atoms and Molecules! With 25 Great Projects (Nomad Press, 2017)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on workshops, library visits, panels

Programs Offered:

Atoms and Molecules and Alchemy

This interactive program explores atoms, molecules, and elements. With the help of an assistant, we discover how alchemy played a role in the discovery of one element.

The Life of an Author

Ever wondered what the life of an author is really like? This presentation looks at the joys and challenges faced by the author of more than 20 books. Includes a look at some of the skills authors need to succeed.

The Nonfiction Challenge

This assembly program examines what makes this author love writing nonfiction. We'll investigate some of the amazing things she found while researching a few of her books. Includes game-show style activities for added fun.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: full-day \$950, half-day \$500, 1 session \$260

Yvonne Ventresca (author), Chatham, NJ

YvonneVentresca.com | Yvonne@YvonneVentresca.com | @YvonneVentresca

Genre: YA suspense

Programs offered for: Upper Middle School, High School

Book Titles : BLACK FLOWERS, WHITE LIES (Sky Pony Press, 2016); PANDEMIC (Sky Pony Press, 2014)

Types of Visits Offered: classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype Q&A, book club visits. Educator guides for both novels (aligned with Common Core standards) can be downloaded for free from Yvonne’s website.

Programs Offered:

Keep the Pages Turning: Maximizing Suspense in Your Fiction

Learn how to create suspense at the story, scene, and sentence level. Topics include raising the stakes, creating cliffhangers, and developing a suspenseful writing style. Participants will leave with tools they can use in their own writing.

Revision Techniques

You’ve finished a draft. Now what? Learn techniques for reviewing the big picture challenges of your work-in-progress as well as fine-tuning the final draft. Workshop participants will discover several methods for reviewing what they’ve written, gather a checklist of questions to ask about their writing, and receive a handout of further resources.

Judging a Book by Its Cover

Many readers select books because of their covers. But how accurately do these images represent the actual story? Based on various author and book designer interviews, learn behind-the-scenes information about the author’s role and the cover design process. With lots of anecdotes and cover images, this presentation appeals to a variety of students.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$600. Book club Q&A with students who’ve read Yvonne’s novels are negotiable.

Nancy Viau (author), Mullica Hill, NJ

nancyviau.com | nancy.viau336@gmail.com | @nancyviau1

Picture Book rhyming fiction AND Middle Grade contemporary

Programs offered for: Pre-K, K, Elementary

Book Titles: First Snow (Albert Whitman 2018), City Street Beat (Albert Whitman 2014), Beauty and Bernice (Schiffer Publishing 2018), Just One Thing! (Schiffer Publishing 2016)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, writing workshops, story time, library visits, panels

Programs Offered:

Rock ‘n Roll into Reading and Writing: Gr K-1

Using the rhyme and rhythm in my picture books, students experience each book’s unique theme in a lively, interactive way. From natural habitats to urban settings, they discover how to use their five senses to search for inspiration in their daily surroundings. Looking at examples of changes I had to make in my titles and content, and to emphasize the importance of rewriting first drafts, they become “Super-Duper Fixer-Uppers.” Children are encouraged “add a little crazy” in their writing with the addition of onomatopoeia, sensory details, rhyme, rhythm, and fun.

Rock the Rhyme and Rhythm, and Write: Gr 1-2

Using the rhyme and rhythm in my picture books, students experience each book’s unique theme in a lively, interactive way. From natural habitats to urban settings, they discover how to use their five senses to search for inspiration in their daily surroundings. Looking at examples of changes I had to make in my titles and content, and to emphasize the importance of rewriting first drafts, they become “Super-Duper Fixer-Uppers.” Children are encouraged “add a little crazy” in their writing with the addition of onomatopoeia, sensory details, rhyme, rhythm, and fun.

Step into My Writing World, and YOURS: Gr 3-6

From the point of inspiration to the final draft, students discover the process involved in creating picture books and novels. All of my titles are highlighted so students get an understanding of the similarities and differences involved in writing a 200-word story verses a 35,000-word one. They’re put to work as my editors and find out which parts of my books required editing and rewriting. We explore how to create interesting characters and how characters’ actions and dialogue enhance plot. Mini writing activities are sprinkled throughout the presentation to help even the most antsy students stay focused and involved.

Let’s Read Together: PreK

Choral reading and stretches first to engage the senses, then we sit “criss-cross-applesauce” for a lively story time.

Custom Presentations: Sometimes

Approximate costs: Full day: \$975.00-\$1200

Laurie Wallmark (author) Ringoes NJ

www.lauriewallmark.com | laurie@lauriewallmark.com | @lauriewallmark

Picture book biographies of women in STEM

Programs offered for: Elementary

Book Title(s): Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code (Sterling Children's Books, 2017); Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine (Creston Books, 2015)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, library visits, panels, Skype visits

Programs Offered:

BEING A WRITER (assembly or classroom: grades K and up)

What does it take to become a professional writer? Laurie will first share the non-traditional steps she took on her own writing journey. After showing students that there are many paths to becoming a writer, she'll explain what it's like to have a writing career.

FUN WITH MATH AND TECHNOLOGY (classroom: grades K and up)

Children can't wait to participate in Laurie's interactive math- and technology-related activities. In this exciting workshop, students will participate in hands-on experiences. After taking part, students will be eager to learn more about math and technology.

WRITING BIOGRAPHIES (assembly or classroom: grades 3 and up)

A common school assignment is to write a biography. Your students need to make two decisions before beginning—whom to write about and what should the focus be for the biography. The tips and suggestions in this workshop will give your students the tools they need to write a biography they will be proud of.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: All visits are 45 minutes. One-\$350, Three-45 minutes-\$950, One Skype-\$250

New York Presenters



Judy Bradbury Author, East Amherst, NY

Contact Info: www.judybradbury.com | judywrites@bluefrog.com

www.instagram.com/judy_bradbury

Literacy-related, practical professional resources for educators; picture books

Programs Offered for: Pre-K—Grade 8; In-service for Educators

Publications: Empowering Families: Practical Ways to Involve Parents in Boosting Literacy (Routledge, 2015); The Read-Aloud Scaffold: Best Books to Enhance Content Area Curriculum, Grades Pre-K-3 (ABC-CLIO/Libraries Unlimited, 2011)

Types of Visits Offered: In-service for educators, classroom and library visits, hands-on writing workshops, assemblies, panels, Skype visits

Programs Offered:

Empowering Families:

Practical Ways to Enlist Caregivers in Boosting Students' Literacy A hands-on, materials-provided workshop that equips faculty and staff to go from ideas to effective, efficient programming for parents and caregivers. Complete details on my website.

Social-Emotional Learning: Teaching It by the Book Educators explore rich children's literature—both fiction and informational books—that scaffold instruction while deepening understanding of others, build character, provide solid role models, and strengthen social-emotional skills.

Parent Presentation:

Why Should I Read to My Child? Interactive, focused, lively, engaging, and inclusive, this workshop brings parents and caregivers accessible information on the importance of reading to our children.

What Does An Author Do All Day?

A lively, interactive visual presentation suitable for small to larger audiences, Grades 2-8. See complete listing of children's presentations on my website.

Custom Presentations Available: I customize presentations to fit the needs of the group.

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$500; full-day \$850

Nancy Castaldo (author/illustrator), Hudson Valley, NY

nancycastaldo.com |nancycastaldo@nancycastaldo.com | @NCastaldoAuthor

Book Title(s): SNIFFER DOGS: How Dogs (and Their Noses) Save the World (HMH - middle grade), THE STORY OF SEEDS (HMH - upper MG-YA - Eco justice), BACK FROM THE BRINK: Saving Endangered Species (HMH- MG)

Types of visits offered: [Assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing/research workshops, library visits, STEM, panels, Skype visits]

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle, High School :

Programs Offered:

Nancy offers workshops on digging into research, presentations on specific books (is. Sniffer Dogs), and science inquiry

Custom Presentations Available: Yes!

Approximate costs: 1 hour \$250; half-day \$600 (A limited number of discounted programs available annually)

Aline Alexander Newman, author, Turin, NY

www.alinealexandernewman.com |aanewman@northnet.org| Facebook: Aline Alexander Newman, Twitter: @alinenewman, Instagram: aline_newman, Goodreads: Aline Newman
animal/nonfiction

Programs offered for: PreK—Adult

Book Title(s): Cat Tales (National Geographic, 2017), How To Speak Dog (National Geographic, 2015)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits, conferences, keynotes, CILC video distance learning programs

Programs Offered:

Does your Pet have a story?

This lively program combines a slide show with dancing (for the little kids), a game show style animal quiz, surprising facts, and true anecdotes in support of humane values, ethology, and story-telling. My collection of animal furs adds hands-on fun.

'N Character:

Through an introductory slideshow, students analyze various media characters and platforms, learn the value of fact-checking, and test one way of judging media credibility. They then use props to create their own character with personality, goals, and a problem.

Ask, Look, and Listen:

Fu Manchu, the orangutan escape artist, baffled his keepers by repeatedly breaking out of the zoo. Students take a game show style quiz. Then, using props supplied by the author, they act out skits demonstrating the research methods I used when writing "Ape Escapes!"

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: half-day, local visit: \$500 Full-day visit: \$900 plus expenses

Andrea Page (author), Rochester, NY

www.WriterAndreaPage.com | writerandreapage@gmail.com |

@WriterAPageNonfiction Mid-Grade

Programs offered for: ages 10 and up (Elementary, Middle, High School)

Book Title: Sioux Code Talkers of World War II (Pelican Publishing Company, 2017)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits

Programs Offered:

What do Authors Do?

Workshop for small groups. A guided lesson from asking questions and researching, then writing...following a process just as authors do.

Sioux Code Talkers

Presentation plus Q&A for small or large groups, explaining details about the Sioux Code Talkers of World War II.

Top Secret Honor: Sioux Code Talkers of WWII

Presentation highlighting my 20-year journey from novice to published author, including some secret details about code talking that are not found in my book.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: \$150 per hour plus travel / lodging costs outside the Rochester Area, as well as Free 15-minute Skype or Zoom visits (Q&A).

Dee Romito, (author), Buffalo, NY

deeromito.com | dee@deeromito.com |blog:writeforapples.com

Twitter: @writeforapples

Nonfiction picture book, Contemporary Middle Grade

Programs offered for: PreK, Elementary, Middle

Book Title(s): Postcards from Venice (Aladdin/S&S, 2018), Pies from Nowhere: How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott (Little Bee Books, 2018)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits, conference presentations

Programs Offered:

What a Character!

Every little thing a character does, says, wears, and loves tells us something about him—if we’re paying close attention—just like these things tell people who WE are. With the help of a handful of brave students to assist me, we’ll make characters come alive and learn to both read and write in a whole new way.

But What Goes Wrong?

A story isn’t about all the wonderful things that happen to a character; it’s about that character’s challenges, rough spots, and obstacles on the journey. A character has a goal she wants to reach, and things must go wrong along the way to that goal to make the story exciting. We’ll work as a group to add in plenty of fun and accomplishments for our main character, but we’ll also ask, “What goes wrong?”

Become an Information Detective!

Most people think of research when it comes to nonfiction, but writers need to find information for all types of writing. Whether you’re working on an essay or a novel, you’ll need details, facts, and info you don’t have yet. We’ll learn how to be “Information Detectives” and where to find details to make your settings more real, your characters more well-rounded, and your story more engaging!

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: \$700.00 for local school visits. \$900 for visits outside the Buffalo area, plus transportation and lodging fees (if needed). Program and conference stipends vary.

Jan Siebold (author) – East Aurora, New York

www.jansiebold.com (email jansiebold@roadrunner.com)

Upper Elementary/Middle Grade Fiction

Programs for: Elementary, Middle, High School, Adult

Book Titles: Doing Time Online (Whitman, 2002), Rope Burn (Whitman, 1998)

Types of visits: classroom visits, small group assemblies, writing workshops, book-binding/paper arts workshops

Programs Offered:

My Journey as an Author

a 45-minute program in which I talk about my writing journey and the path to publication. I use many visual aids including edited manuscripts, objects which relate to my writing, photos, personal artifacts and more.

(includes time for Q&A)

Creating a Hand-bound Journal

a 45-minute workshop in which each participant creates a blank journal using the Japanese Stab bookbinding technique

Words + Art: Haiku Poetry and Matchbook Binding

a 45-minute workshop in which each participant learns about Haiku poetry, composes several poems and creates a Haiku poetry book using the matchbook method of bookbinding

(Other “Words + Art” workshops available)

Custom Presentations? Absolutely!

Costs: \$400 for half-day, \$750 for full-day, or \$250 per individual workshop (plus material, travel costs)

Peggy Thomas (author), Middleport, NY

Peggythomaswrites.com | Pegtwrite@gmail.com | @pegwrite

Picture Books & Nonfiction PB to YA

Programs offered for: Elementary and Middle School

Book Titles: Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation (Calkins Creek, 2015), Snow Dance (Pelican, 2005)

Types of visits offered: grade-level assemblies, writing workshops, library, panels, Skype visits

Programs Offered:

To Tell the Truth

From the first idea to the final edit I'll lead students through the process of writing nonfiction. I'll share my top tips for turning the most boring subject into an exciting story, reveal my secrets to finding primary resources, and share the "fear factor" research it takes to get them.

Retelling Tall Tales

After reading *Joshua the Giant Frog*, a tall tale from the Erie Canal, the students and I will write "The Further Adventures of Joshua." Together we will set the scene, create characters, develop dialogue, tension, and s-t-r-e-t-c-h the truth (it's a tall tale after all!).

How to Mail a Moose (and other tales from the founding fathers)

Agriculture is the foundation of our country, and nobody knew that better than our founding fathers. I'll share stories from researching *Farmer George Plants a Nation*, and *Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation*, and we'll play "The Founding Fathers' Feud."

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: Full day (up to 5 presentations) \$900, plus travel if more than a 3 hour drive. (A limited number of discounted programs available annually.)

Vivian Vande Velde (author), Rochester, NY

www.VivianVandeVelde.com | VandeVeldeVivian@gmail.com |

easy reader, middle grade, and young adult fantasy

Programs offered for: Elementary, Middle

Book Titles: The Princess Imposter (Scholastic, 2017); Squirrel in the House (Holiday House, 2016)

Types of visits offered: assemblies, classroom visits, hands-on writing workshops, library visits, panels, Skype visits.

Programs Offered:

From Idea to Book

Presentation plus Q&A for large or small groups. Where do ideas come from? Revision is part of the process. Everyone in this room is different, and everyone has a story.

Small Group Writing Workshop

Use bits of your personal experience to make characters real. Bring setting alive using all 5 senses. I provide photographs and ask questions to determine: Who are these people, and what do they want? Depending on how much the event organizer wants covered and the age of the students and if the students will be sharing their own work, the workshop can go from one hour to an all-day session.

Custom Presentations Available: Yes

Approximate costs: For visits in the Rochester, NY area - \$1,300 a day or \$600 a half day; for locations more than 50 miles from Rochester - \$1,800 per day + hotel and mileage (or air or train fare).

Diane Zahler (author), Wassaic, NY

www.dianezahler.com | dlzahler@gmail.com | Twitter: @dianezahler;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/zahlerdiane>

Middle grade fantasy and fairy tale retellings

Programs offered for: Elementary

Book Titles: The Marvelwood Magicians, Boyds Mills Press, 2017; Baker's Magic, Capstone, 2016

Types of visits offered: classroom visits, library visits, Skype visits

Programs Offered:

Baking a Book

PowerPoint, talk, and Q&A about the path to publication for Baker's Magic

Good Guys and Bad Guys and Monsters, Oh My!

PowerPoint, talk, and Q&A about the villains in The Thirteenth Princess, A True Princess, Princess of the Wild Swans, and Sleeping Beauty's Daughters

Approximate costs:

Local: one presentation \$250; two presentations \$400

15-minute Skype: free

40-minute Skype: \$200