

**AUTHOR VISIT DETAILS**

As a middle grade author, I love talking to students about books, and I’m happy to visit schools and libraries within an easy drive of Boston, and on a more limited basis, in other parts of New England and in the New York City metro area.

I have two main presentation options, both of which can be customized for younger (3 rd grade to 5th grade) or older (6th grade to 8th grade) age groups. Both presentations address the Common Core standards for English Language Arts.

My honorarium is $400, plus travel expenses for a visit that includes presentations for up to three groups, each ranging from 30 to 50 minutes depending on the age of the students and the needs of the teacher or librarian. The honorarium is due the day of my visit, and is negotiable for low-income schools.

If you’d like to provide books for students to purchase, I can work with your local bookstore to coordinate book sales or direct you to my publisher for a discount. I’m also happy to sign books during the school day. Additionally I can have lunch with a group of students, if they’d like, or speak to the school newspaper in advance of the visit.

I’m also available for 20-40 minute Skype visits with classrooms, after school clubs, and other groups at no cost.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**NO CARBON COPIES! CREATING UNIQUE CHARACTERS**

Most writers start out by writing characters just like themselves. But it’s also important to be able to write about people who are different – whether it’s an older character, a character from a different country, someone with a disability, or something else. How do you approach writing characters that aren’t just like you? What’s the best way to add characters from different backgrounds to your work without resorting to stereotypes? What are some of the steps you can take to develop characters take are fully formed and complex, the way real people are? (This session writing prompts for exploring how to write different characters and examples of books that include a variety of characters)

Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.6/4.6/5.6; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.6/7.6/8.6;

**REVISION IS WRITING, WRITING IS REVISION**

For many young – and not-so-young—writers, the hardest part of writing a story is revisiting the first draft. And yet that is so often where the truly great story begins to emerge. What are some of the ways that authors can approach revision? What are techniques authors use to revise and improve their work? How can a writer use these techniques to look at their writing in a new way? (This session includes a group exercise that revises a specific piece of writing)

Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.5/4.5/5.5; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.5/7.5/8.5

**REAL LIFE, REAL FICTION**

Writing personal stories is an important step for young writers. But how do you use real life experiences to improve an inform fiction writing? What are some books that show how authors use autobiographical experiences to create new and unique stories? (This session gives starting points for turning true events into fictional stories)

Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3/4.3/5.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3/7.3/8.3