

Author Visit Frequently Asked Questions

Questions About the Day's Schedule

How many programs can you do in a day?

I can do up to four programs plus an autographing session during a full-day visit or two programs plus an autographing session in a half-day visit. If you like, I can also do an after-school workshop or evening family program for an extra fee. Book signing does not count as a session.

What size groups can you work with?

In assemblies, I can work with groups of any size, limited only by the space you have available. My writing workshops are only for smaller groups of no more than 70 students. When working with elementary students, I prefer to present to primary students separately from intermediate students so that my program can be tailored to the age of the children.

Can you do writing workshops for our students?

Yes. My *assembly* programs have a large writing component. Typically half of the assembly is spent writing with the students. If you would like to schedule a separate writing *workshop* for your students as well, I always enjoy working with smaller groups of students in grades 4-5 (no more than 70) in a workshop setting after they have seen the assembly.

Do you require payment in advance or a deposit?

I do not generally require a deposit or payment in advance. However, please keep in mind that I do pay for my travel expenses ahead of time, so timely payment is appreciated. It is customary to provide a check by the end of the day of my visit. If your district is unable to cut a check until after my visit, please send it as soon afterward as you can.

Can you do an all-school assembly?

I recommend separate assemblies for primary and intermediate students. The writing lesson I do with primary grades is simpler than what I do with older kids. If your school is only primary or only intermediate, I can do an all-school assembly. In a K-5 or K-6 school, I *can* do an all-school assembly, but I have to leave out the writing portion of the program.

What do you need us to provide for your presentations?

In most cases, I will need you to provide the following:

- A 6- or 8-foot folding table
- A dry erase whiteboard with several colors of markers and an eraser. The board does not need to be large — an easel is fine — but it should be at adult height, not a children's easel.
- A bottle or glass of water

I will bring everything else I need with me, including my own sound system. I usually do not need a projector, microphone, extension cords, etc.

Questions About Books

Why are the prices different on the Student and School book order forms?

I offer a 20% discount and free shipping on all books to allow your PTA or library to treat the book sale as a fund-raiser. The Student Book Order Form lists the full prices of the books. The School Book Order Form is for you to aggregate your students orders, and reflects the discounted price, allowing you to earn a few dollars on each book sold.

Can you autograph books before sending them to us?

Unfortunately, no. The books you order will be shipped to you directly from the publishers, which prevents me from signing them ahead of time.

Can we return unsold books after the event?

Absolutely. If you purchase your books from me, simply ship any unsold books back to me after the event.

Other Questions

Can I use your poems in my classroom?

Yes. You are welcome to use the poems from my books and website in your classroom activities. You may photocopy them, enlarge them, illustrate them, or do just about anything you like with them to help prepare for my visit.