



Caroline Carlson
children's book author
GUIDE TO SCHOOL AUTHOR VISITS

I love visiting schools, talking to young readers, exploring the writing process with students, and helping kids and adults get excited about books! I've spoken at schools, book festivals, and community events across the country and connected with kids and teachers around the world through virtual author presentations. If you're interested in hosting me for an in-person or online event with your school group, please review this document first. Then contact me at caroline@carolinecarlsonbooks.com to set up a visit!

IN-PERSON AUTHOR VISITS

I offer a number of different presentations for school groups. Like my novels, these presentations are most suitable for children in grades 3-6. If you are hosting me for multiple sessions, I can deliver the same presentation more than once, or you can mix and match two or more presentations.

Large-group presentation: How the Heck Do I Write a Book?

In this interactive talk, I show students how I turn the glimmer of a story idea into a full-fledged book—and how they can use brainstorming, drafting, and revision techniques to turn their ideas into reality, too! I read from my work and share photos from the writing process, volunteers play a story-building game, and there's plenty of time at the end for student questions.

Writing workshop: Intrepid Heroes and Vile Villains

In this workshop suitable for classroom-sized student groups, we explore how conflict between protagonists and antagonists drives the action of a story. We work as a whole group, in smaller teams, and independently to discuss heroes and villains in the stories we love, create our own heroes and villains, and write or draw scenes in which our new characters are put into conflict. There's time at the end for student sharing and a quick

Q&A about the writing life. Worksheets are provided; students should have access to pens or pencils, extra paper, and a good writing surface.

Writing workshop: Brave New Worlds

In this workshop suitable for classroom-sized student groups, students explore concepts of setting and let their imaginations run wild as they create fantastic worlds for their stories. We talk about our favorite fictional universes, answer brainstorming questions about a world we'll create from scratch, draw maps, and write descriptive paragraphs about our new worlds and the characters who live there. There's time at the end for student sharing and a quick Q&A about the writing life. Worksheets are provided; students should have access to pens or pencils, extra paper, and a good writing surface.

Writing workshop: The Plot Thickens!

In this workshop suitable for classroom-sized student groups, we'll learn about key elements of story plotting through the lens of mystery fiction. Using my novel *The World's Greatest Detective* as a model, we'll talk about rising action, climax, and resolution; draw our own mystery scenario on a plot chart; brainstorm clues and red herrings; and write "turning point" scenes about the sleuths and criminals we've created. There's time at the end for student sharing and a quick Q&A about the writing life. Students should read *The World's Greatest Detective* in advance of the workshop—there will be spoilers! Worksheets are provided; students should have access to pens or pencils, extra paper, and a good writing surface.

Custom presentation or workshop

I'm happy to tailor an existing presentation or create a new one to meet the needs and interests of your students and your curriculum. If you would like me to talk about a writing or literacy topic not included above, please contact me to discuss this option further. *Since I will be creating new material specifically for your group, additional fees may apply.*

VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISITS

I offer free 20-minute virtual visits (via Skype or Google+) to student groups and book clubs that have read at least one of my books. Visits follow a question-and-answer format. In order for everyone to get the most out of our short time together, I ask that students come to the visit prepared with questions to ask. When you schedule a virtual author visit, we'll arrange a time for a brief test chat in advance of the visit to troubleshoot any technological problems we might encounter.

FEES, TIMING, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

My fees for the current school year are as follows:

Virtual 20-minute visit: Free

Half-day in-person visit (1-2 presentations): \$500 + travel expenses

Full-day in-person visit (3-4 presentations): \$1000 + travel expenses

Payment is due on the day I visit your school. For schools within a 1-hour drive of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, travel expenses are waived.

It's important to me that all children get a chance to meet authors in their schools, so if your school budget can't accommodate these fees, my rates are somewhat flexible. Please contact me to discuss your particular school's needs.

I recommend that you allow 10-15 minutes between presentations, as well as time at the beginning or end of our day together for me to sign books if you have held a book sale in conjunction with my visit. If I'll be visiting your school for a full day, please feed me! I'm always happy to have lunch with a group of students.

BOOK SALES

If you'd like your students to have the opportunity to order my books before my visit, I recommend partnering with a local bookstore that can help you create order forms for students, place book orders, and deliver books to the school. If your school doesn't have an existing relationship with a bookstore, I'm happy to help make recommendations and connections. And I love signing books for students on the day of my visit, including any books of mine that students might bring from home.

I look forward to visiting your school and celebrating books, writing, and imagination with you and your students! If you have further questions about my books or events, please visit carolinecarlsonbooks.com or write to me at caroline@carolinecarlsonbooks.com.