



# Local Authors & Illustrators

## Book Fair Company

The following talented authors and illustrators are available to speak at your school book fair or special event. Remember to plan ahead—they have full schedules and often book a year in advance.

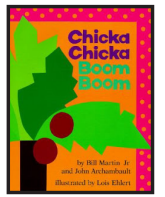
**Need Books? Please call (909) 865-8550** Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair Company can provide books for author/illustrator visits. Your school can earn either 10% of the net sales, or, in lieu of making a profit, offer a 10% discount on all sales. To provide books for an event, we appreciate at least six weeks notice.



**Roda Ahmed**.....(917) 678-2404  
roda@rodaworld.com  
www.rodaworld.com

Stories shape who we are and how we see ourselves. They influence our dreams and what we become. Roda wants kids growing up knowing about Mae Jemison, a little girl who worked really hard to fulfill her dream about becoming an astronaut and eventually became the first African-American woman in space. Roda's presentation is

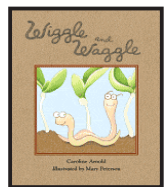
followed by a Q&A. Grades: K-3. Fee varies.



**John Archambault**.....(714) 655-2909  
Yorba Linda, CA jachickaboom@hotmail.com  
www.johnarchambault.com

John's assemblies move across the grade continuum with rhythm, rhyme, repetition and the joy of language stressed in K-2 assemblies highlighting the well-known favorite, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and the recently released *Boom Chicka Rock*. 50-minute assemblies are available. Grades:

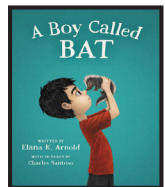
K-6. Fee: \$1,250 - \$1,500/day.



**Caroline Arnold**.....(310) 838-1039  
Los Angeles, CA Fax (310) 838-1921  
csarnoldbooks@yahoo.com  
www.carolinearnoldbooks.com

The author of more than 100 books, Caroline's slide presentation focuses on the writing and illustrating process, idea sources, and the excitement of research.

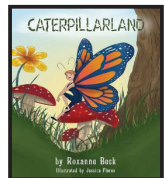
Popular books include *Wiggle and Waggle*, *Super Swimmers*, and *Giant Sea Reptiles of the Dinosaur Age*. Grades: K-6. Fee varies.



**Elana Arnold**.....  
Southern California saraha@thebookingbiz.com  
www.elanakarnold.com

Elana offers a range of presentations, from her journey as an author and the publishing process to craft-based workshops. She loves speaking with kids, teens, and adults, and always focuses on encouraging emerging writers. Grades: K-adult. Fee: \$450/single presentation; \$750/half day; \$1500/full day;

plus travel expenses.



**Roxanne Beck**.....(323) 377-6366  
Los Angeles roxannebeck1@yahoo.com  
www.roxannebeck.com

Roxanne reads from her book *Caterpillarland* and talks to the children about its theme of change, growth and transformation. Presentation followed by a Q&A, in which Roxanne encourages kids to write their own stories. Grades:

2-6. Fee negotiable.



**Frank Beddor**.....(323) 935-1800  
Los Angeles, CA Fax (323) 935-8040  
automaticstudio@gmail.com  
www.lookingglasswars.com

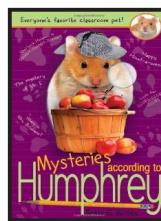
He's the author of the trilogy *The Looking Glass Wars*, *Seeing Redd*, and *Princess Alyss of Wonderland*. He provides large audience multimedia presentations about writing, publishing, producing movies, and making soundtracks.

Grades: 5-8. Fee varies.



**Mike Bender & Doug Chernack**.....  
Los Angeles, CA mike@awkwardfamilyphotos.com  
www.awkwardfamilyphotos.com

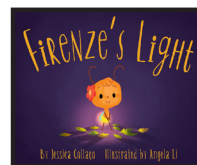
Mike & Doug's presentation includes a talk that teaches us to embrace the not-so-perfect moments in life, a slideshow presentation with hilarious photos and interactive audience participation, where kids are invited to share their own awkward experiences. Grades: K-3. Fee negotiable.



**Betty G. Birney**.....(818) 752-6344  
Pasadena, CA bettybirney@bettybirney.com  
www.bettybirney.com

Betty is the author of the popular *Humphrey the Hamster* series and *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*. She offers two presentations. "How I Learned to Think, Talk and Act Like a Hamster" demonstrates how to create a unique voice for a character through research, writing and rewriting. Grades: 2-5. "The Seven Wonders of Sassafras

Springs" illustrates how one family's oft-told tales inspired a fictional book. Grades: 3-6. Fee varies.



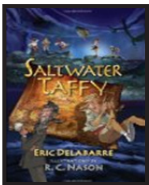
**Jessica Collaco**.....  
Ventura, LA & Orange County, CA  
firefly@gmail.com  
www.shineyourlightbooks.com

*Firenze's Light* encourages kids to be kind, share their gifts with the world and speak positively about themselves and others. Jessica's 30-45 minute presentation starts with an interactive book reading and introduces kids to daily affirmations using song and movement. Grades: K-3. Fee negotiable.



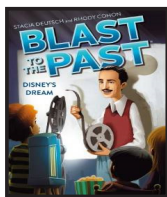
**Chef Gino Campagna**.....  
 ginocampagna@mac.com  
 http://www.chefgino.club  
 http://chefginolivevents.webs.com

Recipes in this book are simple, easy to follow, and best of all—TASTY! They're also open-ended so you can add your favorite flavors and creative flair. Inside, young cooks will find delicious and nutritious dishes, from basic pasta and pizza dough to Ginestrone (minestrone) soup and Guac Amore (guacamole)! Presentations include a fun and energetic food demo that requires pretty much nothing more than a table. All ages. Fees vary. Grades: K-6. Fee negotiable.



**Eric DelaBarre**.....  
 Santa Monica, CA seven@sevenpublishing.com  
 www.whatagreatbook.com

Eric DelaBarre is an award winning writer/director who began his career working on NBC's mega-hit drama, Law & Order. He has been a professional writer since 1995, has adapted books for films and ghost written for Random House/Harmony Books. Eric's presentation includes a reading from *Saltwater Taffy* and then talking about what it takes to write a book. Grades: 2-7. Fee negotiable.



**Stacia Deutsch**.....(949) 689-0103  
 Irvine, CA btpbooks@cox.net  
 www.blasttothepastbooks.com

Stacia Deutsch offers two presentations. "Fact & Fiction in the Historical Novel" teaches the difference between what is true and what is not. "The Making of a Book" covers the entire writing process from initial concept to bookshelf. Stacia's presentations are interactive and 45 minutes long, with overheads or PowerPoints. Grades: 2-5. Contact for fee details.



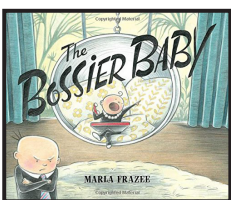
**Sheri Fink** .....  
 sheri@sherifink.com  
 www.SheriFink.com

Sheri's presentations focus on social-emotional learning with topics which include anti-bullying, being authentic, personal empowerment, the importance of reading and writing, and how to become an author. Sheri encourages kids to overcome adversity, believe in themselves and ALWAYS follow their dreams. Grades: PreK-3. Fee varies.



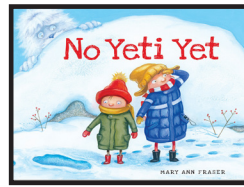
**Kathryn Fitzmaurice**..... (949) 291-6671  
 Orange County, CA fitzmaurice4@cox.net  
 www.kathrynfitzmaurice.com

Inspired by her author grandmother, Kathryn decided that she, too, wanted to become a writer. Formerly a teacher, one of her favorite things to do is visit schools. She is comfortable with speaking to both large and smaller groups of students, and tailors her presentation to meet the specific needs of individual groups. Grades: all. Fee negotiable.



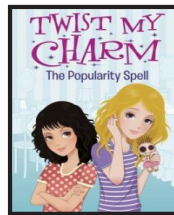
**Marla Frazee**..... (626) 797-0612  
 Pasadena, CA marla@marlafrazee.com  
 www.marlafrazee.com

Marla is the author and illustrator of numerous books including *Bossier Baby*. Her classroom visit or slide presentation focuses on telling stories with pictures and a drawing demonstration using students as models. Grades: 1-5 and/or evening family program. Fee varies.



**Mary Ann Fraser** .....  
 maryafrase@aol.com  
 www.maryannfraser.com

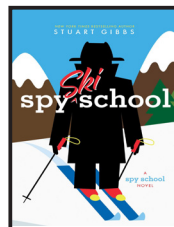
Mary Ann customizes her presentations to each school's needs. "Cooking up a Story" explores the process of developing a story through illustration, with audience participation in selecting the story ingredients. Story structure and characterization are all part of the mix. This is a fun and interactive presentation that is sure to get those creative juices bubbling. Grades: K-5. Fee: \$1000-\$1200/day.



**Toni Gallagher**.....323-356-7350  
 Silverlake, CA tonirffc@sbcglobal.net  
 www.tonigallagherink.com

Toni grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has been writing for most of her life. She attended Northwestern University outside Chicago and majored in journalism (writing for newspapers, specifically), but moved to Los Angeles right after graduation to pursue a career writing for television and movies.

Grades: 3-6. Currently no fee.



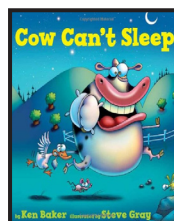
**Stuart Gibbs**.....  
 Los Angeles, CA c/o Nicole Russo  
 nicole.russo@simonandschuster.com  
 www.stuartgibbs.com

Stuart is the author of the Funjungle, Spy School and Moon Base Alpha series. He's written screenplays, worked on animated films, and helped develop TV shows for Nickelodeon, Disney Channel, ABC, and Fox. Stuart delivers a humorous, informative, riveting presentation on how he gets his ideas. He is also available to teach writing seminars, conduct lively Q&A sessions, and even customize a speech for special events, like awards ceremonies or literature festivals. Grades: 2-6. Fee negotiable.



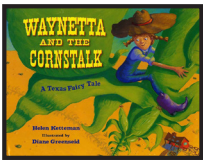
**Joan Bransfield Graham**.....Ph/Fax (818) 991-7878  
 Agoura Hills, CA joanbgraham@sbcglobal.net  
 www.joangraham.com

Joan's award-winning books, *Splish Splash* and *Flicker Flash*, both consisting of shape poems about water and light, inspire students to write their own poetry. A former teacher, Joan loves encouraging children to think creatively. Her personalized programs feature poetry, slides, audience participation, an ocean drum, rain and thunder sticks, puppets, a poem in sign language, poetry writing workshops, and teacher idea sheets. Grades K-6. Fee varies.



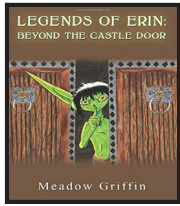
**Steve Gray**..... (310) 318-3844  
 Hermosa Beach, CA stevegray1@yahoo.com  
 www.stevegrayschoolvisits.com

Steve Gray's cartoon characters have been seen in digital media, broadcast, and print publication. His interactive school presentation shows students how a picturebook is illustrated from rough pencil sketches to the final, slick, full-color book. Steve gives students a hands-on drawing lesson designed to build confidence and encourage students to feel positive about themselves when pursuing creative endeavors. Grades K-6. Fee: \$500/one session, \$950/ two sessions, \$1,300/ three sessions.



**Diane Greenseid**.....Ph/Fax (310) 392-5694  
Venice, CA dianegreenseid@ca.rr.com  
www.dianegreenseid.com

Diane is the illustrator of several picturebooks including *Waynetta and the Cornstalk*, *Barn Storm*, and *Teeny Weeny Bop*. Her program includes a step-by-step demonstration of the book-making process, sketching, and a PowerPoint slide show. Grades: K-5. Fee negotiable.



**Meadow Griffin**.....(714) 333-7225  
Orange County, CA meadowgriffin@yahoo.com  
www.legendsoferin.com

Meadow is the author of the *Legends of Erin* series. For younger students, her presentations focus on storytelling with props and puppets. For older students, she discusses the elements of writing (characters, setting, plot, and revision), discusses how she became an author and reads from her book. Grades: K-8. Fee \$50/assembly.



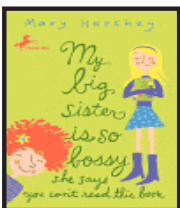
**Joel Harper**.....(909) 447-5320  
info@freedomthree.com  
www.joelharper.net

Joel's presentation consists of a reading, Q&A session, movie screening (<https://youtu.be/sZW2ByM623g>), and a musical component. His books inspire children and adults around the world to protect the marine environment and stop pollution from entering storm drains and local waterways. Grades: K-6. Fee varies.



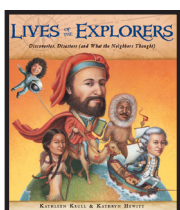
**Brian Hastings**.....818-729-2407  
Flintridge, CA bdh@insomniacgames.com

Brian works as the Chief Creative Officer at Insomniac Games and over the last twenty-two years, has helped create nearly thirty video games. One of these was *Song of the Deep*, a project inspired by his then ten-year-old daughter. Brian then adapted this story about the great lengths we will go to for the people we love into a book about a girl whose father disappears at sea. She builds a submarine to search for him and discovers a secret underwater world. As a kid, Brian wanted to become an author and now his dream is a reality. Grades: 3-6. No fee.



**Mary Hershey**.....(805) 682-2105  
Santa Barbara, CA mlhrshy@aol.com  
www.maryhershey.com  
www.maryhershey.livejournal.com

Mary Hershey, the author of *My Big Sister is So Bossy She Says You Can't Read This Book* and *The One Where the Kid Nearly Jumps to His Death and Lands in California*, is a devoted student of the funny bone and its powerful connection to creativity. Her energetic presentations help students mine and excavate their own unique sense of humor for problem solving and inspiration. Her work has been described as "hysterical" and "unforgettable". Grades: 3-8. Fee: \$750. (Fee reduced by \$25 for homemade chocolate chip cookies.)



**Kathryn Hewitt**..... Ph/Fax (310) 450-6406  
Santa Monica, CA khewitt3@msn.com  
www.kathrynhewitt.com

Kathryn is author and illustrator of twenty-three books. Some of her titles include the *Lives of...* series (*Musicians, Writers, Artists, Extraordinary Women*, etc.), *Sunflower House*, and *Flower Garden*. She offers a humorous slide presentation about making books and how to inspire writing through drawing. Grades: K-6. Fee: \$1,000/ day.



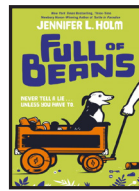
**Valerie Hobbs**.....(805) 966-4292  
Santa Barbara, CA valhobbs@cox.net  
www.valeriehobbs.com

Valerie is the award-winning author of middle grade and young adult novels like *Defiance* and *Sheep*. She offers classroom presentations that make reading come alive for the students. Grades: 4-8. Contact for fees.



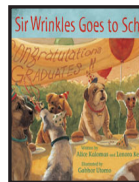
**Tracy Holczer**.....(201) 945-9353  
La Crescenta, CA tholczer@earthlink.net  
www.tracyholczer.com

Tracy is the author of *The Secret Hum of a Daisy*, an Indies Introduce New Voices Pick and Bank Street Best Book of 2015. She has fun and interactive presentations on voice, characterization, and first pages, as well as small-group writing classes. She also gives inspirational talks about the journey to publication and fostering story ideas for both adults and children. Grades 5 and up. Fee negotiable.



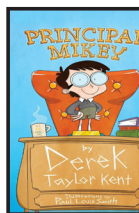
**Jennifer L. Holm** .....  
liske@aol.com  
www.jenniferholm.com

Jennifer Holm is three-time Newbery award-winning author of *Full of Beans*, *The Fourteenth Goldfish*, and *Turtle in Paradise*. She also collaborates with her brother, Matthew Holm, on popular graphic novels such as the *Babymouse* and *Squish* graphic series. Please contact for details.



**Alice Kalomas**.....(949) 487-2133  
alicekalomas03@yahoo.com

The *Sir Wrinkles* books are about a cute bulldog and the adventures he has as he is adopted into a loving home and goes to school. Alice's engaging presentations include a book reading with enlarged illustrations, and discussions (with visuals) on the writing and publishing process. Alice usually spends a full school day on presentations. Grades: PreK-5. Fee negotiable.



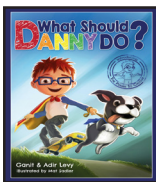
**Derek Taylor Kent**.....(310) 592-0340  
Los Angeles, CA Derek@DerekTaylorKent.com  
www.DerekTaylorKent.com  
www.WhimsicalWorldBooks.com  
www.scaryschool.com

Derek can meet has several interactive presentations geared around different books, so they can meet any school's needs. Presentations range between fifteen minutes to an hour in length, and is followed by a Q&A and book signing. Popular titles include *Principal Mikey*, *El Perro con Sombrero*, *Simon and the Solar System*, and the *Scary School* series. Kids are left feeling excited about reading and writing, and also with a desire and understanding of how to be a better person. Grades: PreK-8. Fee varies.



**Kazu Kibuishi**.....  
Alhambra, CA nancy@boltcity.com  
www.boltcity.com

Kazu Kibuishi is the author and illustrator of several books, including the New York Times Bestselling *Amulet* graphic novel series and the award winning graphic novel *Daisy Cutter: The Last Train*. During his 60-minute presentation, Kazu will set up his electric drawing tablet and paint or draw for the group as he speaks. Presentations are followed by a Q&A and book signing. Grades: 3-7. Fee: \$2000/day.



**Ganit Levy** .....  
 whatshoulddannyydo@gmail.com  
 www.whatshoulddannyydo.com

Ganit delivers a high energy presentation of the Power to Choose, and a reading of *What Should Danny Do?* This innovative, interactive book series empowers kids with the understanding that their choices will shape their days, and ultimately their lives. Grades: K-5. Contact for fee information.



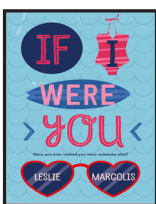
**Deborah Lytton** .....  
 deborahlytton@gmail.com  
 www.deborahlytton.com

Deborah Lytton is the author of the *Ruby Starr* series, *Jane In Bloom* and *Silence*. She gives presentations for large groups on becoming an author and using your imagination to improve writing techniques. Deborah also offers smaller, interactive presentations for classrooms, using writing prompts and improvisational exercises to enhance creativity. Grades 3-12. Fee negotiable.



**D.J. MacHale**.....  
 Southern California djmac@djmachalebooks.com  
 www.djmachalebooks.com

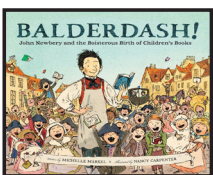
D.J. MacHale is a writer, director, executive producer and creator of several popular television series and movies. As an author, his ten-volume *Pendragon* series became a New York Times #1 bestseller. His presentation includes a 30 minute PowerPoint telling his story of becoming a writer, covering the challenges one faces with a "creative" career, and teaching kids to think outside the box and not take "no" for an answer. Grades: 5-8. Fee: \$1500. Contact for details.



**Leslie Margolis**..... (917) 952-6069  
 Los Angeles, CA leslie.margolis@gmail.com  
 www.lesliemargolis.com

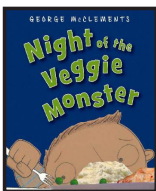
Leslie is the award-winning author of the Maggie Brooklyn mysteries, the Annabelle Unleashed series and *If I Were You*. Leslie speaks at schools, libraries, and book festivals, offering a fun, 30-60 minute multi-media presentation that includes an interactive writing workshop.

Grades 2-8. Fee: \$1,800/day.



**Michelle Markel**.....  
 West Hills, CA markelwrites@earthlink.net  
 www.michellemarkel.com

Michelle's books span a variety of genres: fiction, nonfiction and creative nonfiction. She teaches writing classes for young people at UCLA Extension's Writer's Program. Her presentations cover the publication process, research, challenges of revisions, and working with illustrators and editors. Grades: K-6. Fee: \$700/day.



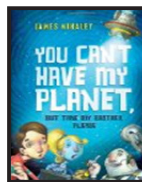
**George McClements**..... Ph/Fax (818) 242-6872  
 Glendale, CA rgmcclements@earthlink.net

The author of *Ridin' Dinos with Buck Bronco*, *Dinosaur Woods*, and *Night of the Veggie Monster* gives book-themed presentations about the writing and development process, followed by a Q&A and a drawing demonstration. Grades: K-2, but can be adapted for older groups. Fee negotiable.



**Shannon Messenger**.....  
 Temecula, CA swmessenger@gmail.com  
 www.shannonmessenger.com

Shannon is the author of the *Keeper of the Lost Cities* series for middle grades, and the *Sky Fall* series for young adults. She can tailor her presentations for a large school assembly or a smaller, more intimate classroom or library setting. Shannon also offers Skype sessions. Grades: 3-12. Fee negotiable.



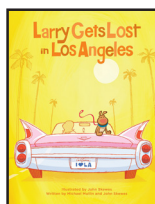
**James Mihaley**..... (323) 620-0832  
 Los Angeles, CA jmihaley@yahoo.com  
 www.jamesmihaley.com

James is the author of *You Can't Have My Planet, But Take My Brother Please*. He is committed to empowering children to make a difference in the world. His presentations are highly entertaining and inspire children to take an interest in their environment. Grades 3-6. Contact for fee details.



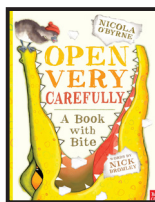
**Bethanie Murguia**..... (415) 235-0509  
 Sausalito, CA bethanie@aquapup.com

Bethanie is the author and illustrator of many picture books, including *Snippet the Early Riser*, *The Too-Scary Story*, and *Cockatoo, Too*. Her presentations are visual and interactive, focusing on imagination, generating ideas, and detailing her life as an author and illustrator. Grades: K-2. Fee: \$1,000/day for up to three presentations.



**Michael Mullin**..... (626)696-9416  
 Pasadena, CA michael@gemiknight.com  
 alt: mrmullin@me.com

Michael Mullin is author of the *Larry Gets Lost in...* series of books. Each title highlights the landmarks and cultural attractions of a unique city across the United States, from Seattle to New York City, teaching young people about geography and history with colorful, retro graphics and simple verse. Grades: K-2. Fee: \$350/day.



**Nicola O'Byrne** .....  
 nicky.obyrne@gmail.com  
 www.nicolaobyrne.com

Nicola O'Byrne's debut picture book, *Open Very Carefully*, made the 2015 Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award List, and won Best Picturebook at the Waterstones Children's Book Awards 2014. Nicola's presentations can be tailored to a specific age group and usually consists of storytime (in costume), an interactive drawing demonstration, and a discussion of how picture books are made. Drawing exercises, basic book making and character development presentations are offered with older age groups. See website for details. Fee negotiable.



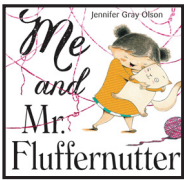
**Alexis O'Neill**..... (805) 581-1906  
 Ventura County, CA alexis@alexisonNeill.com  
 www.alexisonNeill.com

Alexis is the author of *The Kite that Bridged Two Nations*, *Loud Emily*, and *The Recess Queen*. During her presentations she demonstrates the many ways of telling a story, through the use of props, music, and audience participation. She strives to get kids fired up about reading and teaches them how to research, write, and revise their own writing. Grades: K-6. Fee: \$975.



**Barbara Odanaka** .....  
 Laguna Beach, CA barb@skateboardmom.com  
 www.skateboardmom.com

The author of *A Crazy Day at the Critter Cafe*, and *Smash! Mash! Crash! There Goes the Trash!* has been featured in over 200 media outlets including Good Morning America, National Public Radio, the LA Times, and USA Today. Barbara mixes dazzling skateboard tricks with an inspiring presentation on the importance of reading and writing. Students won't forget her finale: a (safe) skateboard lesson for the principal or librarian! Grades: All. Fee: \$550-\$1,275.



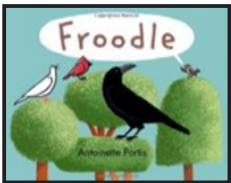
**Jennifer Gray Olson** .....  
 jgrayolson@gmail.com  
 www.jennifergrayolson.com

Creating something where once there was nothing is an empowering element of artistic expression. Whether it is through art, music, storytelling, or any creative endeavor, the act of imaginative self-expression is vital and transformative. Jennifer shares a visual journey of how determination and perseverance turned a childhood love of drawing into a career in picture books. Grades: K-6. Fees vary and are negotiable.



**LeUyen Pham** .....  
 Los Angeles uyen@leuyenpham.com  
 www.leuyenpham.com

LeUyen, the author/illustrator of books such as *The Bear Who Wasn't There* and *The Princess in Black* series, offers 20-45 minute presentations on various topics such as her journey and process as an author and illustrator; her experience as an immigrant; how to make picture books or graphic novels; and the elements of a story. She also conducts a drawing demonstration for at least 15 minutes, after which schools may keep her drawings. Grades K-6. Fee: \$1200-1500 based upon school's economic need.



**Antoinette Portis**..... (818) 760-0948  
 Southern California a\_portis@sbcglobal.net  
 www.antoinetteportis.com

Antoinette's first book, *Not a Box*, was a New York Times Bestseller, a New York Times Best Illustrated Book, and a 2007 Theodore Seuss Geisel Honor Book. Antoinette's school presentations include a book reading and activity tailored specifically to that book; some visits include a talk and slide presentation. Grades: K-5. Fee: \$500/half day in up to 3 classrooms, \$500/talk and slide presentation to an auditorium of up to 300 2nd-5th graders.



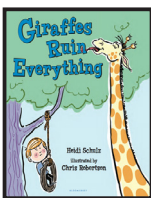
**Lissa Price**.....  
 Southern California lissapriceauthor@gmail.com  
 www.lissaprice.com

Lissa Price offers a 50-60 minute PowerPoint presentation discussing the concept of her *Starters* series, and how it was published and became an international bestseller. Slides from the worldwide book tour broaden students' perspectives. Her 50-minute interactive writing workshop is designed for smaller audiences and encourages students to tap into their own creativity. Grades: 6-12. Contact for fee.



**James Matlack Raney**.....  
 Los Angeles, CA jmraney1@gmail.com  
 www.jamesmatlackraney.com

James Raney's lifelong love of adventure shines through in his Jim Morgan Trilogy. These critically-acclaimed, swashbuckling, pirate romps are filled with danger, laughter, and heart. His presentation on the joy of reading and writing is loaded with humor and audience participation, and concludes with a reading from one of his books. Grades 3-8. Fee negotiable.



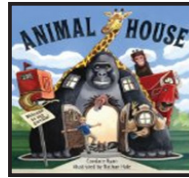
**Chris Robertson**..... (323)493-2497  
 Pasadena, CA booksbychris@sbcglobal.net

Chris Robertson is just a big kid at heart who happens to be an author and illustrator of many children's picture books, including his most recent, *Giraffes Ruin Everything*. His whimsical cartoon style feels light-hearted and carefree which perfectly matches his humorous writing style. He delivers presentations within a 25 mile radius from Pasadena. Grades: PreK-3. Fee: \$500 (negotiable).



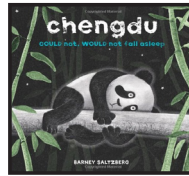
**Betsy Rosenthal**.....  
 BetsyRRosenthal@gmail.com  
 www.BetsyRosenthal.com

Betsy is the author of a number of picture books, including the award-winning *An Ambush of Tigers*, a wild gathering of collective nouns, and her newest book, *Porcupine's Picnic: Who Eats What?* Both of these books can be tied into the STEM curriculum. She has also written a middle grade novel in verse and a poetry collection. Betsy offers interactive presentations, poetry workshops, and slide shows about becoming a writer and finding the inspiration within. Grades: K-8. Fee varies.



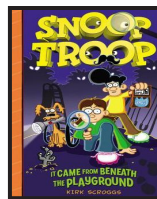
**Candace Ryan**.....  
 Los Angeles thisiscandaceryan@gmail.com  
 www.candaceryanbooks.com

Candace Ryan, author of *Animal House*, *Rabbit Rabbit*, and *Moo Hoo* will engage young audiences in an interactive story time that is simultaneously fun and educational. She can also incorporate an art activity into her visit, customized for your school. Grades: PreK- 4. Contact for fee.



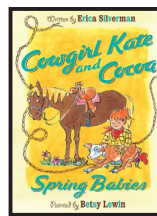
**Barney Saltzberg**..... (310) 433-9754  
 c/o Susan Strick Fax (323) 932-8246  
 780 S Stearns Drive susanpstrick@yahoo.com  
 Los Angeles, CA 90035 www.barneysaltzberg.com

Barney is a children's author, illustrator and musical performer whose book titles include *Crazy Hair Day*, *Beautiful Oops*, and *Chengdu Could Not, Would Not Fall Asleep*. He offers assemblies which inspire students to write stories, create art, and make music. Grades: K-8. Contact for fee.



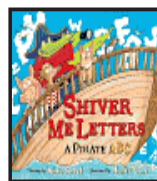
**Kirk Scroggs**..... (727) 378-4191  
 Los Angeles, CA c/o Catherine Balkin  
 catherine@balkinbuddies.com  
 www.kirkscroggs.com

Kirk Scroggs writes and illustrates the popular *Wiley and Grampa's Creature Features* series, the *Tales of the Sixth Grade Muppet* series, and his new *Snoop Troop* series. Kirk's presentations include slide shows, a "talk and draw", and the opportunity for students to create a chapter of their own. He also offers workshops on how kids can draw their own comic book characters. Grades: 1-5. Fee: \$500-\$700.



**Erica Silverman**..... (323) 223-4810  
 Los Angeles, CA ericas521@yahoo.com

Erica is the author of the early reader series *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa*, a Theodore Seuss Geisel Honor Book, and numerous picturebooks including *Don't Fidget a Feather*, which won the California Young Reader Medal. She enjoys speaking at schools, libraries and conferences about the joys and challenges of the writing process. Grades: K-6, parents, teachers, and librarians. Fee varies.



**June Sobel**..... (805) 495-0626  
 Westlake Village, CA june@junesobel.com  
 www.junesobel.com

Some of June's books include *Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC* and *The Goodnight Train*. June offers interactive workshops for children of all ages with props and audience participation. A picturebook writing workshop is also available for older kids. Grades: K-8. Contact for fee.



**Jonathan Stokes**.....  
Southern California jon@jonathanwstokes.com  
www.jonathanwstokes.com

Jonathan is a former music teacher and the author of *Addison Cooke & the Treasure of the Incas*. He gives a 40-minute PowerPoint presentation on the true story of the lost treasure of the Incas, including lots of history and archaeology.

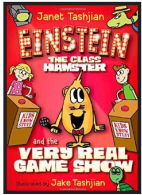
Grades: 2-8, best suited for grades 4-6. Contact for fee.



**Tracy Trivas**..... (212) 698-2711  
Southern California tracytrivas@gmail.com  
www.tracytrivas.com

*The Wish Stealers* is Tracy's first book for children, and was the winner of the 2013 Sunshine State Award, Florida's pick of fifteen books all children in the state should read. Her inspiring presentations stress the importance of positivity, compassion and

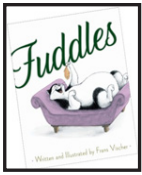
dreams. Grades: 1-6. Contact for fee.



**Janet Tashjian**.....  
Los Angeles, CA Fax (805) 962-7003  
jtashjian@aol.com  
www.lanettashjian.com

Janet has a PowerPoint presentation that covers how she became a writer, the different novels she's written, how she develops stories and characters, her writing process, and how she came to love research and revising. Each session is

followed by a lively Q&A session where students can ask not only about her books, but about how she can help them become better writers. Grades: 3-12. Fee negotiable.



**Frans Vischer**..... (818) 429-4149  
Glendale, CA fransvischer@sbcglobal.net  
www.fransvischer.com

Inspired by the antics of his own lovable cat, Frans created *Fuddles*, a story about a pampered, fat cat seeking adventure, followed by *A Very Fuddles Christmas*. Frans is also an

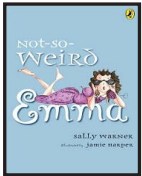
animator at the Disney studios. During his presentation, which may be customized for any age group, he will show students drawings he has created. Grades: All. Fee: \$500/full day.



**Lee Wardlaw**..... (805) 962-8043  
Santa Barbara, CA Fax (805) 962-7003  
author@leewardlaw.com  
www.leewardlaw.com

Lee is an award-winning teacher-turned-author of books that range from picture books to adult novels and non-fiction. She provides lively, interactive workshops and presentations

for children, educators and parents. Grades: K-8. See website for details. Fee: \$1,500/day, plus expenses.



**Sally Warner**..... (626) 398-4109  
Altadena, CA www.sallywarner.com

Author of the popular *Emma* series and many other titles, Sally offers entertaining and lively classroom and small group presentations that usually include slides, brief book readings, interactive cartooning and illustrating, and a Q&A. Grades: 2-8. Fee: \$850/full day, \$525/half day, \$350/evening parent

assembly, plus travel.



**April Halprin Wayland**..... (310) 376-8760  
Hermosa Beach, CA Fax (310) 379-4523  
aprilwayland@aol.com  
www.aprilwayland.com

April is a UCLA extension teacher, poet, and author of several picturebooks and the award-winning *Girl Coming in for a Landing: A Novel in Poems* for teens and tweens. Her zippy, inspiring workshops provide lots of energy and great visuals for big assemblies.

She also loves teaching poetry to small groups of older elementary school, middle school, and high school students. Grades: K-12. See website for fees.



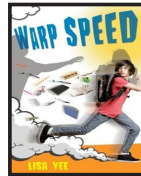
**Tracy Wymer**.....  
twymer41@gmail.com  
www.tracyedwardwymer.com

Tracy is the author of two novels, *The Color of Bones* and *Soar*. His presentation highlights how-to become a birder and helps students identify local birds. He also discusses the importance of reading and brainstorming, inspirational books, and his writing process. An educator himself, Tracy is adept at presenting to young audiences. Grades: 3-8. Fee: \$1,200/day, negotiable.



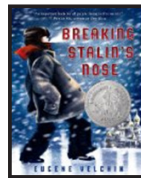
**Maryrose Wood**.....  
Los Angeles, CA MaryroseWood@gmail.com  
www.maryrosewood.com

Maryrose is author of the acclaimed middle-grade series, *The Incurrable Children of Ashton Place*, six award-winning books about a teenaged governess and her three pupils who were raised by wolves. Maryrose puts her Broadway and comedy improvisational background to good use in her energizing, interactive school visits that get students excited about their own boundless storytelling abilities. She also offers writing workshops for kids and keynote talks for adult fundraisers. Grades: 3-8. Contact for fees and details.



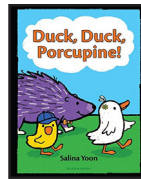
**Lisa Yee**..... (212) 389-3772  
South Pasadena, CA c/o Stephanie Nooney  
snooney@scholastic.com  
www.lisayee.com

Lisa is the author of such books as *Millicent Min*, *Girl Genius*, which won the Sid Fleischman Humor Award, and *Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time*. Lisa's informative and entertaining presentations have garnered raves all across America. Armed with a creative and quirky slideshow, her talks include the amazing, strange, and sometimes painful (ouch!) steps it takes to create a bestselling book. Grades: 5-8. Fee: \$1,600/day for local events.



**Eugene Yelchin**.....  
Topanga, CA eugeneyelchin@gmail.com  
www.eugeneyelchinbooks.com

Eugene is Russian-born author of *Breaking Stalin's Nose*, a Newbery Honor Award-winner. He has also illustrated numerous picturebooks. Eugene will craft a presentation to the specific needs of any school. He can customize his speech and talk about anything from his biographical background to art making and writing. Grades: K-12. Contact for fee.



**Salina Yoon** .....  
salinayoon@yahoo.com  
www.salinayoon.com

Salina has published over 160 books for children. She promotes literacy, learning, and creativity with an interactive, informative, and engaging presentation that features some of her favorites. She leaves her audience excited about reading, writing, drawing, and creating books of their own. Grades: PreK-6. Fee varies.



**Omaira A. Zayed**.....(714) 724-7473  
ozayed@uci.edu  
www.facebook.com/TroubleOnTheLoose

In addition to publishing *Trouble on the Loose*, the first in a series of children's picture books, Omaira A. Zayed is also the author of several academic pieces and currently teaches at UC Irvine. Her presentation includes a reading from the comical and chaotic story about a girl and her mischievous younger brother. Grades: K-6. Fee negotiable.