

AB ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOPS

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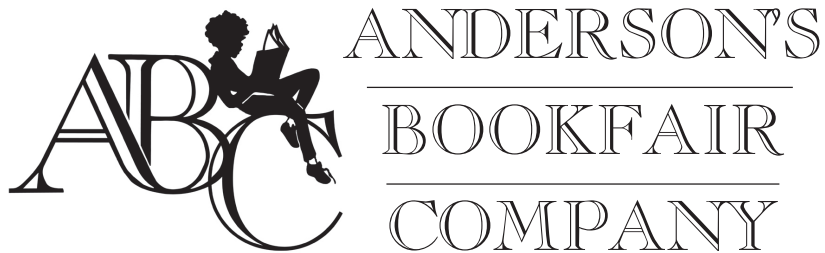
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Guide to Author/Illustrator School Visits

Illinois Authors



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email - mail@abcfairs.com

2008 - 2009

When it comes to adding zing to classrooms and libraries, perhaps there is no power like the power possessed by bookpeople. Authors craft the stories that grab our students, the stories that sometimes hug and console young readers, sometimes intrigue or puzzle them, and sometimes shake them inside out. Illustrators draw the pictures that make students giggle and gasp. Authors and illustrators also create the informational books that turn students into wide-eyed investigators, bursting with curiosity, tingling with the thrills of learning. Storytellers weave webs that enmesh children and whisk them off to other realms where they become one with the characters and situations enacted. What resources! Recognizing those resources, schools and libraries all over the country have been exploring ways to tap into their power.

(Terrific Connections, Toni Buzzeo and Jane Kurtz)

Author Visits

Having an author or an illustrator visit a school is fun for children and adults. Students enjoy hearing how authors feel about writing or how illustrators learn to draw. They often learn tips that help them improve their own written work. Teachers and parents like participating, too. An author visit can be a touchstone for parents and children. Young readers (and listeners) enjoy having parents and other caretakers read stories aloud to them. The opportunity for book discussion is created if middle school and junior high school students and their parents all read the author's work. When an illustrator has been chosen to visit, students can explore and discuss different art styles. Many students look forward to an author/illustrator visit because it's a break from class work. They are surprised to discover that what they perceived as "an escape from the classroom grind" was a valuable learning experience. Although a school author visit may seem like a lot of work, it really isn't. Here are some tips that make the job easy.

The First Step: Organize Your Thoughts

- ◆ Decide on the date(s) for the author visit. It's wise to pick two or three different dates so you can give the author some flexibility. Some authors are booked six to twelve months in advance, so get your request in early.
- ◆ The size and grade levels of the intended audience.
- ◆ The dollar amount your group is prepared to offer as an honorarium.
- ◆ Get advance approval from your school or group to authorize payment for the author or illustrator's travel, lodging, and personal expenses associated with the visit.

The Second Step: Take Action

- ◆ Contact the author (or publisher). If your query is via mail or a phone message, give the author (or publisher) a “respond by” date. Make sure you give him/her a contact name, address, and phone number for future reference.
- ◆ Be specific about what you want a visit to include: Speak, show examples of artwork, hold a workshop, autograph books, attend a potluck dinner, etc.
- ◆ Discuss the number of presentations you would like.
- ◆ Ask if the author expects or requires that books be available for student/parent purchase.
- ◆ Send a letter stating what you and the author/illustrator discussed. Include a simple contract, that both of you will sign, agreeing to the terms agreed upon.

The Third Step: Let the Children Know Who is Coming!!!

- ◆ **Familiarize students with the author’s work.** This is the **MOST IMPORTANT THING** you can do toward assuring a productive visit. Students ask much more detailed questions when they know the author’s work.
- ◆ The best way to do this is by having copies of the author’s books on display in the Learning Center or another “high visibility” area. It’s an excellent idea to purchase a “traveling set” of the author’s books.
- ◆ Teachers can use them in their classrooms to familiarize students with the author’s work.
- ◆ You can buy books written by your visiting author from us. Just call us at **ANDERSON’S at (800) 728-0708**. We’d be delighted to let you know what titles are available. Discounts are available.

The Fourth Step: A Successful Visit

- ◆ Publicize the visit ahead of time. Let parents know the author is coming. You may want to invite parents to attend a session, if the facility can accommodate the crowd. Contact local newspapers.
- ◆ Arrange for airport pickup, if necessary. If the author is driving, send very specific directions to the hotel (if overnight stay is involved) and to the building where the author will be presenting.
- ◆ Send a copy of the schedule to the author or illustrator *before* the visit. Give him or her another copy when he or she arrives. It’s helpful to include a five/ten minute organizational break between sessions.
- ◆ Show the author/illustrator around the school. Include any displays that feature his or her work. Don’t forget to point out the rest rooms.
- ◆ Make sure requested equipment (overhead or slide projectors or VCRs) is working.

- ◆ Have a glass and a pitcher of water handy.
- ◆ Encourage students to think of questions they would like to ask the visitor.
- ◆ **DO** think about scheduling a visit during Young Author’s Week or Children’s Book Week, etc. Many authors and illustrators enjoy seeing the children’s work and the children love to showcase their work.
- ◆ **DON’T** ask your visitor to judge a writing or art contest.
- ◆ **DON’T** schedule tornado and fire drills during a presentation.
- ◆ Reschedule music, art, or other special classes that might necessitate a group of children getting up and leaving during the presentation. Children always hate leaving “during the good part.”

The Fifth Step: Wow! Was That Inspirational!

- ◆ After the visit, send a thank-you note to the author, as well as any letters, pictures, articles and photos to show the author how much the school enjoyed the visit.

The Authors & Illustrators

Anderson, Leone Castell

Stockton, IL

Recent Titles: *Sean’s Quest; Sean’s War*

Grd. present to: K-8

Asgedom, Mawi

Chicago, IL

www.mawispeaks.com

Recent Titles: *The Code; Of Beetles and Angel.*

Grd. present to: contact author

Aylesworth, Jim

Chicago, IL

Recent Titles: *Little Bitty Mousie; Naughty Little Monkeys; Goldilocks; Burger and the Hotdog; Full Belly Bowl; Tale of Tricky Fox.*

Grd. present to: K-6, Adults

Bailey, Len

Wheaton, IL

lenbailey@yahoo.com

Recent Titles: *Fantasms; Clabbernappers*

Grd. present to: contact author

Balliett, Blue

Contact Publisher: Charise Meloto (212) 389-3785 cmeloto@scholastic.com

Recent Titles: *The Wright 3; Chasing Vermeer*

Grd. present to: contact author

Bardoe, Cheryl

cbardoe@att.net

Recent Titles: *Gregory Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas*

Grd. present to: contact author

Beaty, Andrea

andreabeaty@yahoo.com

Recent Titles: *Iggy Peck, Architect; When Giants Come to Play*

Grd. present to: contact author

Behrens, Andy

Chicago, IL

andy.behrens@gmail.com

Recent Titles: *All the Way*

Grd. present to: 4 - 12

Billingsley, Franny

Lake Forest, IL

Frannybillingsley@yahoo.com

Recent Titles: *The Folk Keeper; Well-Wished*

Grd. present to: K-8

Bostrom, Kathleen

kathleenlongbostrom@comcast.net

Recent Titles: *Josie's Gift; Waiting for Christmas; Why is There a Cross; Who is Jesus; What is Praying.*

Grd. present to: contact author

Brill, Marlene Targ

Wilmette, IL

Recent Titles: *Barack Obama; Veteran's Day; Doctors; Garbage Trucks; Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express; Margaret Knight; Diary of a Drummer Boy*

Grd. present to: All ages

Burleigh, Robert

Chicago, IL

Roburleigh@earthlink.net

Recent Titles: *Napoleon; Stealing Home; Teammates; Tiger of the Snows; Paul Cezanne; Play Ball; Game Day; Toulouse-Lautrec; Martin Luther King, Jr.: Until Justice Runs Down Like Water; Langston's Train Ride; By My Brother's Side; Seurat and LA Grande Jatte*

Grd. present to: K-8

Carton, Rick

Chicago, IL

Contact - sarah.bierig@starfarmproductions.com

Recent Title: *Edgar & Ellen Triple Threat; High Wire; Rare Beasts; Tourist Trap; Under Town; Pet's Revenge*

Grd. present to: 3-7

Chamberlin, Richard & Mary

Naperville, IL

richnmary@prodigy.net

Recent Title: *Mama Panya's Pancakes; A Market Day in Kenya*

Grd. present to: contact author

Chapman, Fern Schumer

Lake Bluff, IL

Fernschumer@aol.com

www.fernschumerchapman.com

Recent Title: *Motherland*

Grd. present to: 6-12

Chocolate, Debbi

Wheaton, IL

Recent Titles: *Pigs Can Fly; Kente Colors; A Very Special Kwanza*

Grd. present to: PreS-8

Codell, Esme' Raji

Children's Literature Specialist

Evanston, IL

esme@ripco.com

www.planetesme.com

Recent Titles: *Vive La Paris!; Hanukkah Shmanukkah; Diary of a Fairy God-mother; Sing a Song of Tuna Fish; How to Get Your Child to Love Reading; Sahara Special; Educating Esme' Diary of a Teacher's First Year*

Grd. present to: contact author

Cooper, Ilene

Highland Park, IL

Recent Titles: *Oprah Winfrey; Sam I Am; Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy*

Grd. present to: 4-7

Cordell, Matthew and Julie Halpern

Gurnee, IL

Recent Titles: *The Moon is LaLuna; Return to Gill Park; Toby and the Snowflakes*

Grd. present to: contact author

Crawford, Laura

lacra4rd@aol.com

Recent Titles: *The Pilgrim's Thanksgiving From A to Z*

Grd. present to: contact author

Crimi, Carolyn

Evanston, IL

Recent Titles: *Where's My Mummy?; Louds Move In; Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies; Get Busy, Beaver; Boris and Bella; Tessa's Tip-Tapping Toes; Don't Need Friends; Kidding Around Chicago*

Grd. present to: contact author

Day, Larry (Illustrator)

Downers Grove, IL

larry@dayhere.com

Recent Titles: *Not Afraid of Dogs; George Did It; Let It Begin Here!; Rosa Loves to Read; Monitor: The Iron Warship that Changed the World; Who was Annie Oakley; Pearl Harbor*

Grd. present to: 3-8

Dunham, Montrew

Downers Grove, IL

mgdunham@ix.netcom.com

Recent Titles: *Downers Grove; Childhood of Famous Americans Series.*

Grd. present to: contact author

Durango, Julia

Ottawa, IL

Recent Titles: *Pest Fest; Angels Watching Over Me; Cha Cha Chimps; Dream Hop; Yum! Yuck!*

Grd. present to: contact author

Erlbach, Arlene

Morton Grove, IL

Recent Titles: *Middle School Survival Guide; Merry Christmas Everywhere; The Kids' Invention Book*

Grd. present to: 3-8

Fama, Elizabeth

elizabeth.fama@chicagoGSB.edu

Recent Titles: *Overboard*

Grd. present to: contact author

Ferber, Brenda

Deerfield, IL

brendaaferber@comcast.net

www.brendaferber.com

Recent Titles: *Julia's Kitchen*

Grd. present to: contact author

Fleming, Candace

Mt. Prospect, IL

candymfleming@aol.com

Recent Titles: *Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School; Tippy-Tippy-Tippy, Hide!; Our Eleanor; Sunny Boy; Lowji Discovers America; This is the Baby; Ben Franklin's Almanac; Boxes for Katje; Muncha! Muncha! Muncha; Who Invited You?*

Grd. present to: K-6, Adults

Fradin, Dennis B. and Judith B.

Evanston, IL

Dennis' Recent Titles: *Hurricanes and Disasters; If It Rains: The Story of Droughts; Jane Adams: Champion of Democracy; Rings of Fire: Story of Volcanoes; With a Little Bit of Luck; 5000 Miles to Freedom; Founders; Let It Begin Here; Fight On: Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration; The "Who was Series"; Signers, The 56 Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence*

Judith's Recent Titles: *Power of One; Fight On; The "Who Was" series; Ida B. Wells; Kansas and others in Sea to Shining Sea series*

Grd. present to: K-6

Young-Fritz, April

Barrington, IL

apriylf@aol.com

www.apriyoungfritz.com

Recent Titles: *Prom Diaries; Praying at the Sweetwater Motel; Waiting to Disappear*

Grd. present to: 4-12

Geisert, Arthur (Illustrator) and

Geisert, Bonnie

Galena, IL

Contact publisher

Recent Titles: *Oops; Lights Out; Etcher's Studio; Lessons; Pigaroons; Mystery; Giant Ball of String; Pigs From 1 to 10; Nursery Crimes; Roman Numerals I to MM;*

Grd. present to: 3-8

Gilchrist, Jan Spivey (Illustrator)

Olympia Fields, IL

Recent Titles: *My America; When the Horses Ride By: Children in the Times of War; Friendly Four; Me & Nessie; In the Land of Words; How They Got Over; Honey, I Love; For the Love of the Game*

Grd. present to: All ages

Gill, Jim

Oak Park, IL

www.jimgill.com

Recent Titles: *May There Always be Sunshine; Moving Rhymes for Moving Times; Irrational Anthem; Do Re Mi, Toe Leg Knee; Jim Gill Makes it Noisy in Boise Idaho*

Grd. present to: early childhood k-1 presentations

Gilson, Jamie

Wilmette, IL

Recent Titles: *Gotcha; Bug in a Rug; Stink Alley; It Goes Eeeeeeee!; Wagon Train*

Grd. present to: 2-6

Gustafson, Scott

Chicago, IL

Recent Titles: *Favorite Nursery Rhymes From Mother Goose; Classic Fairy Tales; Peter Pan; Alphabet Soup; Scott Gustafson's Animal Orchestra*

Grd. present to: K-5

Hays, Michael (Illustrator)

Chicago, IL

Recent Titles: *Some Friends to Feed; Because You're Lucky; Boy Who was Generous with Salt; Abiyoyo Returns; The History of Counting; Kevin and His Dad.*

Grd. present to: K-6

Hearne, Betsy

Urbana, IL

Recent titles: *Hauntings; Drop Dead; Canine Connection; Seven Brave Women; Wishes, Kisses and Pigs*

Grd. present to: K-12, Adult

Hershenhorn, Esther

Chicago, IL

Recent Titles: *Fancy That; Chicken Soup by Heart; Confession\$ and \$ecrets of Howard J. Fingerhut; There Goes Lowell's Birthday Party.*

Grd. present to: K-6

Hunt, Laura Jones

joneslaura@mindspring.com

Recent Titles: *Abernathy Boys*

Lawlor, Laurie

Evanston, IL

Recent Titles: *Two Loves of William Shakespeare; He Will Go Fearless; This Tender Place; Shadow Catcher; Dead Reckoning; School at Crooked Creek; Magnificent Voyages; Helen Keller; Rebellious Spirit; American Sisters Series (9 books)*

Grd. present. to: K-8

Layne, Steven

St. Charles, IL

drread@stevelayne.com

Recent Titles: *P is for Princess; Love the Baby; Preacher's Night Before Christmas; Mergers; Verses for Mom's Heart; T is for Teacher; Over Land and Sea: Story of International Adoption; Principal's Night Before Christmas; This Side of Paradise; Teacher's Night Before Christmas; Life's Literacy Lessons*

Grd. present to: contact author

Lerner, Carol (Author & Illustrator)

Chicago, IL

Recent Titles: *Butterflies in the Garden; On the Wings: American Birds in Migration*

Grd. present to: 3-8

Lichtenheld, Tom

Geneva, IL
tlichtenheld@ameritech.net

Recent Titles: *OK Book; Hugville; What's With This Room; Everything I Know About Monsters; Everything I Know about Cars; Everything I Know About Pirates; What are YOU so Grumpy About?*

Grd. present to: K-5

Luthardt, Kevin

Skokie, IL
luthardt@juno.com

Recent Titles: *Hats; You're Weird; Zoom!; Larabee; Peep*

Grd. present to: K-5

Malone, Patricia

Naperville, IL
pmalone913@aol.com

Recent Titles: *Lady Ilena: Way of the Warrior; The Legend of Lady Ilena*

Grd. present to: 6-8

Martino, Carmela

Naperville, IL 60563
carmelamartino@worldnet.att.net

Recent Title: *Rosa, Sola*

Neimark, Anne

Highland Park, IL
(847) 831-2828

Recent Titles: *Johnny Cash; There Ain't Nobody That Can Sing Like Me; Myth Maker: J. R. Tolkien*

Nikola-Lisa, W.

Chicago, IL
nikolabooks@gmail.com

Recent Titles: *Magic in the Margins: A Medieval Tale of Bookmaking; How We are Smart; My Teacher Can Teach...Anyone; Setting the Turkeys Free; Summer Sun Risin'; To Hear the Angels Sing; Shake D'em Halloween Bones*

Grd. present to: K-5

Okorafor-Mbachu, Nned

nnedi@netscape.com

Recent Titles: *Shadow Speaker; Zahrah the Windseeker*

Grd. present to: contact author

Poole, Amy Lowry

www.lowry-poole.com

Recent Title: *Pea Blossom; How the Rooster Got His Crown; The Ant and the Grasshopper*

Grd. present to: contact author

Raczka, Bob

Glen Ellyn, IL
raczkas@earthlink.net

Recent Title: *Who Loves the Fall; 3-D ABC; Where in the World?; Here's Looking at Me; Unlikely Pairs; More Than Meets the Eye; No One Saw: Ordinary Things; Art Is*

Grd. present to: contact author

Aaron Reynolds

Fox River Grove, IL

Recent Title: *Tiger Moth, Insect Ninja; Tiger Moth and the Dragon Kite Contest; Chicks and Salsa*

Grd. present to: contact author

Robinet, Harriette

Oak Park, IL

Recent Titles: *Pest Show on Earth; Walking to the Bus-rider Blues; Twelve Travelers, Twenty Horses; Missing from Haymarket Square*

Grd. present to: K-12, Adult

Robinson, Fay

Evanston, IL 60201

Recent Titles: *Faucet Fish, Wacky Fish; Who Needs Birds When Dogs Can Fly; Creepy Beetles; Amazing Lizards*

Grd. present to: K-4

Roemer, Heidi Bee

Orland Park, IL
hroemer@hotmail.com

Recent Title: *Seeds on the Go!; Come to My Party*

Grd. present to: K-8

Rohmann, Eric (Author & Illustrator)

LaGrange, IL

Recent Titles: *Kitten Tale (01/08); Clara and Asha; My Friend Rabbit; Time Flies; Prairie Train; Pumpkinhead*

Grd. present to: K-5

Rosales, Melodye

Champaign, IL

Recent Titles: *Susie Mae; Leola & the Honeybears; Hopscotch Love*

Grd. present to: K-5

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse

missamykr@yahoo.com

encyclopediaofanordinarylife.com

Recent Titles: *OK Book; One of Those Days; Cookies: Bite Size Life Lessons; Little Pea; Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life*

Grd. present to: contact author

Ruby, Laura

Chicago, IL

Lauraruby@Lauraruby.com

Recent Titles: *Chaos King; Good Girls; I am Not Julia Roberts (adult novel); Wall and the Wing; Lily's Ghost*

Grd. present to: 4-8

Santucci, Barbara

Rockford, IL

bgsantucci@juno.com

Recent Titles: *Abby's Chairs; Loon Summer; Anna's Corn*

Grd. present to: K-5

Schacter, Sara

sfschacter@gmail.com

Recent Titles: *Heading to the Wedding*

Grd. present to: contact author

Schreck, Karen Halvorsen

k.schreck@comcast.net

Recent Titles: *Dream Journal; Lucy's Family Tree*

Grd. present to: contact author

Tarpley, Natasha

Chicago, IL

Natarana@aol.com

Recent Titles: *What I Know is Me; Destiny's Gift; I Love My Hair; Joe-Joe's First Flight; Bippity Bop Barbershop*

Grd. present to: K-12

Amy Timberlake

Chicago, IL

amy@amytimberlake.com

Recent Title: *That Girl Lucy Moon; Dirty Cowboy*

Grd. present to: 2 and up

Turner, Glennette Tilley

Wheaton, IL

Recent Titles: *Apple for Harriet Tubman; Running for Our Lives; The Underground Railroad in Illinois*

Grd. present to: 2-8, Adult

Walker, Sally M.

DeKalb, IL

sallyatander@hotmail.com

Recent Titles: *Rhinos, Shipwreck Search; Mystery Fish; Supercroc Found; Secrets of a Civil War Submarine; Bessie Coleman; Crocodiles; Fossil Fish Found Alive; "Early Bird Physics" series*

Grd. present to: K-12, Adult

Walton, Darwin

Lombard, IL

Recent Titles: *Dance, Kayla!; Kwanza*

Grd. present to: K-5

Weigel, Jeff

jeffweigel@charter.net

Recent Titles: *Atomic Ace and the Robot Rampage; Atomic Ace: He's Just My Dad*

Grd. present to: contact author

Welch, Sheila Kelly

Forreston, IL

Recent Titles: *Something in the Air; Sean's Quest; Shadowed Unicorn; A Horse For All Seasons.*

Grd. present to: PreK-12

