

AB ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOPS

Goals of Author in Schools Program

- Encourage children to read and write in a variety of genres
- Provide a memorable experience for students, teachers and author
- Book sales of featured author

Anderson's Bookshop will help you by providing...

- *All arrangements for the author's visit to your school by communication with publicist and school personnel*
- *Book summaries and/or advanced reader's copies of titles*
- *Author information*
- *Fliers/order forms for copying and distribution to students and staff*
- *Tax free sales to schools*
- *20% Educator Discount for staff*

Planning and Preparation for an Author In Your School

- Identify the grade levels best suited for your author. Have a motivated and involved staff.
- Book sales are important! This is the only source of revenue that the author will receive for this visit as there is no honorarium fee charged to schools (normally authors charge anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000 plus expenses).
- Circulate order fliers to students and staff. Have extra copies available in the classrooms and library.
- If your school uses virtual backpacks or has a website, make sure that the flier is posted there.

There may be other students or parents who would love to have a signed copy of a book, but are not attending the presentation.

- Identify one person (staff, Book Fair chairperson or volunteer parent) to be in charge of collecting book orders and money by due date. Checks should be made out to school.
- Provide chair, water and microphone for author, as well as any technology previously requested.
- Desk/table is necessary if there is to be a signing.



Neil Gaiman meets students at Mill Street School, Naperville 203

- Place a post-it on title page with the name for whom book is to be personalized (print neatly).

Generating Author "BUZZ"

- Read portions of chapter books or whole picture book to students
- Connect author's writing style with classroom writing assignments
- Study author's biography and prepare interview questions
- Integrate author's work in Art /Music class (as appropriate)
- Display books in library and classrooms.
- Librarians give book talks (Anderson's staff can help)
- Post projects inspired by books around school
- Make announcements of upcoming author visit over school intercom/display on outside marquee and school website.
- Identify students to greet author upon arrival, lead a tour of the school and introduce to assembly.



Examples of Outstanding Author in Schools Events

The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins (8th grade)

Classrooms were split into the 12 districts from the book. Each district nominated two students as their representatives at the games. The districts decorated their own hallways and helped to decorate the “games arena” - the hallway leading to the gym (where the presentation was to take place). In the gym, students had fashioned a “cornucopia” and filled it with some of the items from the book. Before the presentation a teacher an-

nounced the representatives from each district, and they paraded in, most in costume.

Baseball Great—Tim Green

All staff and students wore baseball jerseys to school that day. One wall of the library was set up to look like stands in a baseball field. The students had made their own heads out of construction paper for the spectators in the seats.

Allie Finkel’s Rules for Girls—Meg Cabot (4th Grade)

The teachers asked the students to come up with their own rules—for parents, teachers, dogs, etc. They were hilarious! The librarian had them posted around the library as well.

Freckleface Strawberry—Julianne Moore (1/2 grade)

Welcome banners and signs were posted throughout the hallway leading from the office to the LRC. Pins of “Freckleface” were worn.

During the Author Visit

- Have staff members or students meet the author at the office
- Have Tech staff available to assist the author in the set up of microphone, computer and other audio-visual equipment.
- Staff or students should be prepared to introduce the author.
- Have chair and water available for the author
- While the author is speaking, teachers and staff should be monitoring the students’ behavior and demonstrating active listening behaviors (no grading papers or computer work).
- Staff should be prepared to assist author in calling on students who are prepared to ask questions during the Q & A period
- Staff will facilitate the orderly dismissal of students
- Author will be escorted to designated book signing area—if students are to be present, staff is to monitor their behavior while waiting in line
- Make sure students have their name neatly printed on a post-it and placed on the title page for signing.
- Take a group photo of the author with those students who purchased a book. Give a copy of the photo to each student.

After the Author Visit

- Send home book order flier for one last shot at book sales.
- Schools are responsible for the return of unsold books within 10 days of the author event. Invoices will be due 30 days after the author event.
- Other Questions? Contact Gail.wetta@andersonsbookshop.com



Author and illustrator Peter Brown