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.

John Archambault .............................................................................. (714) 655-2909
Monica Linda, CA
jachickaboone@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 book, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and the recently released, Boom Chicka Rock. 50 minute assemblies to K-1, 2-3, 4-5 or 6th grade as well. See website for details. Fee: $1,250 – $1,500/ day

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

She's the author of more than 100 books. Her slide presentation focuses on the writing and illustrating process, sources of ideas, 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.

Frank Beddor .................................................................................... (323) 935-1800
Los Angeles, CA
Fax (223) 935-8090
automatafrstudio@gmail.com
www.lookingglasswars.com


Betty G. Binney .................................................................................. (818) 752-6344
Pasadena, CA
bettybinney@bettybinney.com
www.bettybinney.com

She's the author of the popular Humphrey 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. Grade 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.

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

Eric DelaBarre is an award winning writer/director who began his career with Dick Wolf on NBC's mega-hit drama, Law & Order. He has been a professional writer since 1995 and is a member of the Writers Guild of America. He has adapted NY Times best sellers for 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment and ghost written for Random House/Harmony Books. Eric's presentation will include reading pages from Saltwater Taffy and then talking with students about what it takes to write a book. Grades: 2-7. Fee negotiable.

Stacia Deutsch .................................................................................. (949) 689-0103
Irvine, CA
btftpbooks@cox.net
www.blashtothepastbooks.com

She's the author of the Blast to the Past series. She offers two presentations. Fact and Fiction in the Historical Novel teaches the differences between what is true and what is not true in a historical fiction novel. The Making of a Book covers the entire writing process from concept to bookshelf. Each presentation is 45 minutes and interactive, with overheads or PowerPoints. Grades: 2-5. Contact for fee.

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

After seeing how her grandmother, a science fiction author, could make the characters in her books come to life whenever she wanted, Kathryn decided that she, too, wanted to become a writer. As a past teacher one of Kathryn's favorite things to do is to visit schools and libraries. She has experience in managing and presenting to large groups of adults and students, as well as small groups under thirty. She can tailor any presentation to meet the needs of specific individual groups as well. Grades: All. Fee negotiable.

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

She’s the author and illustrator of Stars Walk On! A Guide for Babies of All Ages, Santa Claus: The World’s Number One Toy Expert, Roller Coaster and A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever. She is also the illustrator of the Clementine series of chapter books, The Seven Silly Sisters, and Everywhere Babies. Her slide presentation or classroom visit focuses on telling stories with pictures and a drawing demonstration using students as models. Grades: 1-5 and/or evening family programs. Fee varies.
Mary Ann Fraser
maryafraise@aol.com
www.maryannfrasen.com

I love nothing more than customizing my presentations to each school’s needs. Cooking up a Story explores the wonderful process of developing a story through illustration. The audience actively participates in selecting the ingredients that I then use to sketch out a tasty and satisfying tale. 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. See website for details. Fee: $1000-$1200/day.

Toni Gallagher
Silverlake, CA
tonnific@sbcglobal.net
www.tonigallagherink.com

Toni grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has been writing for most of her life. At 15, she moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio (which is why Cleo is from there). She attended Northwestern University outside Chicago, Illinois, and majored in journalism (writing for newspapers specifically), but moved to Los Angeles right after graduation to pursue a career writing for TV and movies. Grades: 3-6. Currently no Fee.

Stuart Gibbs
Los Angeles, CA
stuartgibbs.com
nicole.russo@simonandschuster.com

He is the author of Belly Up, Poached, Spy School, Spy Camp, Evil Spy School and Space Case. 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 the ideas for his books, or he can 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
Agoura Hills, CA
JoanBransfieldGraham@sboglobal.net
www.joanbransfieldgraham.com

Joan’s award-winning books, Splish Splash and Flicker Flash, both 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
Hermosa Beach, CA
stevegray1@yahoo.com
www.stevegray.com

Steve Gray’s cartoon characters have been seen in digital media, broadcast, and print publication, including There Was a Coyote Who Swallowed a Flea. His interactive school presentation shows students how a picture book 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
Venice, CA
dianegreenseid@aol.com
www.dianegreenseid.com

She is the illustrator of picturebooks including: Wynetta and the Comstock, Barn Stomp, 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.

Brian Hastings
bimb@insomniacgames.com

Brian works as the Chief Creative Officer at Insomniac Games and is a first-time author with the novel Song of the Deep. He was one of the three original members of Insomniac, developing little-known Disruption. Over the last two years, Brian has helped create nearly thirty games, including their latest one, Song of the Deep, available on Xbox One, PS4 and Steam. Song of the Deep was a very special project for Brian’s team. It is about the great lengths we will go to help the people we love, and originally inspired by his then ten-year-old daughter. It’s the story of a girl whose father disappears at sea, so she builds a submarine to search for him and in doing so discovers a secret underwater world. Brian states he is very grateful to have had the opportunity to write this book, as he used to dream of being an author when he was a kid. Grades: 3-5. No Fee.

Mary Hershey
(805) 682-2105
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) 950-6406
www.kathrynhevitt.com

She is the 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
valhobbs@cox.net
www.valerielhobbs.com

She 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 Holzner
La Grescoenta,(201) 995-9353
tholzner@artthink.net
www.tracyjholzner.com

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

Jennifer L. Holm
lisle@aol.com
www.jennifholm.com

Jennifer L. Holm is the NEW YORK TIMES bestselling children’s author of THE FOURTEENTH GOLDFISH. She is the recipient of three Newbery Honors for her novels OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA, PENNY FROM HEAVEN, and TURTLE IN PARADISE. Jennifer collaborates with her brother, Matthew Holm, on two graphic novel series — the Eisner Award-winning Babymouse series which has more than 2.3 million books in print and the bestselling Squish series. Jenn and Matt’s newest graphic novel, SUNNY SIDE UP, was published by Graphix/Scholastic in August 2016.
The Kixture books are about a cute bulldog and the adventures he has as he is adopted into a loving home and goes to school. Engaging presentations include a book reading with enlarged copies of the illustrations, as well as discussions with visuals on the writing and publishing process. She usually spends a full day at a school presenting to grades preK-5. She donates profits from her book sales to Kids N Cancer camps and other child-related charities. Fee: negotiable.

Derek Taylor Kent
Los Angeles, CA
derek@scaryschool.com

Derek the Ghost is an eleven-year-old ghost who haunts the classrooms and hallways of Scary School, writing down all the spine-tingling, often hilarious things that go on there. He is the author of Scary School, Scary School *2: Monsters on the March, and Scary School *3: The Northern Frights. Derek discusses the importance of reading and writing in his fun and interactive presentations. Presentations can last anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour. Grades: K-8. Fee: $2000 per day.

Kazu Kibuishi
Alhambra, CA
nancy@boltcity.com

Kazu Kibuishi is the author/illustrator of the New York Times Bestselling Amulet graphic novel series and the award-winning graphic novel Daisy Kutter: The Last Apprentice. He is also the lead artist and co-creator of the Explorer and Right comic anthologies. During his presentation, Kazu will set up his electric drawing tablet and paint/draw for the group as he speaks. He will talk for about an hour then take questions and sign books. Grades: 3-7. See website for details. Fee: $1,800 per day.

Leslie Margolis
Los Angeles, CA
leslie.margolis@gmail.com
www.lesliemargolis.com

Leslie Margolis is the award-winning author of a bunch of books for young readers, including the Maggie Brooklyn Mystery Series, and five Annabelle Unleashed novels. The first, Boys Are Dogs, was turned into the Disney Channel movie Zapped last summer. Leslie’s latest book, IF I WERE YOU, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in May of 2015. Leslie has spoken at schools, libraries, book festivals, graduations, and more. She offers a fun and lively multi-media presentation that includes an interactive mystery-writing workshop. She can speak for 30-60 minutes, depending on your time frame. Grades 2-8. See website for details. Fee: $1,800 per day.

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

Michelle’s books span a variety of genres: fiction, nonfiction (alphabet and biography), and creative nonfiction. She is a founding member of The Children’s Authors Network and teaches classes in writing for young people for UCLA Extension’s Writer’s Program. Michelle’s presentations go behind the scenes of the publication process. She will talk about the fun of research, challenges of revisions, and working with illustrators and editors. Grades: K-6. Fee: $700 for a full day.

George McClements
Glendale, CA
rgmclements@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 with 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

She is the author of the Keeper of the Lost Cities series for the 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/library setting. Shannon will also be offering Skype sessions with schools, libraries, and book clubs. Grades: 3- High School. Fee: negotiable.

James Mihailey
Los Angeles, CA
jmihaley@yahoo.com
www.jamesmihailey.com

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

Bethanie Gaulia
Sonoma, CA
bethanie@aquapup.com

She’s the author of Zoe’s Room, Zoe’s Jungle, Zoe Gets Ready, Snippet the Early Riser, Baglette the Messy Sleeper, and I Feel Five. Her presentations are very visual and somewhat interactive. Bethanie keeps her presentation focused on imagination, generating ideas, and details about her life as an author/illustrator. Grades: K-2. Fee: $1,000 per day for up to three presentations.

Michael Mullin
Pasadena, CA
michael@geminight.com
alt: mmullin@me.com

Larry and Pete’s travels take them to Los Angeles, and once again Larry gets lost! But not to worry—there’s plenty to do in this new city. As he searches for Pete, Larry visits some amazing places, from wild Venice Beach to stately Beverly Hills, from exciting Disneyland to the iconic La Brea Tar Pits. Eventually, the two reunite, but not before Larry and the reader has had a great adventure. Fee: $350 doesn’t increase regardless of how many groups I talk to. Grades: K-2.
Alexis O’Neill
Ventura County, CA
(805) 581-1908
alexis@alexisoneill.com
www.alexisoneill.com
She is the author of *The Kite that Bridged Two Nations, Loud Emily, and The Recess Queen*. During her presentations she demonstrates the many ways to express stories 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 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 500 media outlets including Good Morning America, National Public Radio, LA Times, and USA Today. She mixes dazzling skateboard tricks with an inspiring presentation on the importance of reading and writing. Students never forget her finale, a (safe) skateboard lesson for the principal or librarian! Grades: All. Fee: $550-$1,275.

Nicola O’Byrne
nicky.obyme@gmail.com
www.nicolao Byrne.com

Antoinette Portis
Southern California
a_portis@aboglobal.net
www.antoineteportis.com
Antoinette’s first book, *Not a Box*, was a New York Times Best-seller, a New York Times Best Illustrated Book, and a 2007 Theodore Seuss Geisel Honor Book. Her school presentations include reading from one of her books and an activity tailored specifically to that book. For grades 2-5, Antoinette will prepare a talk and slide presentation. Grades: K-5. Fee: $500 for half a day in up to 3 classrooms, $500 for a 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’s debut novel, *Starters*, is an international bestseller published in over thirty countries, with praise from Kat Garcia and Harlan Ellison. Dean Koontz called this young adult futuristic thriller “a smart swift inventive, altogether gripping story.” Starters has appeared on many Best Of... lists and won top awards in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Grades: Middle School & High School. Contact for fee.

James Matlock Raney
Los Angeles, CA
jraneyj1@gmail.com
www.jamesmatlockraney.com
James Raney grew up in Europe, Latin America, and Africa, leaving him with a lifelong love of adventure that shines through his Jim Morgan Trilogy, a critically-acclaimed swashbuckling, magical, pirate romp, 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. Best for Grades 3 – 8. Fee Negotiable. See website for details. Fee: $1,800/day.

Chris Robertson
Pasadena, CA
booksbychhr@aboglobal.net
Chris Robertson is an author/illustrator of Children’s Picture Books. His most recent book is *Giraffes Rain Everything* from Bloomsbury and is set for an August 16 release. Chris’s other books include *Harry and the Hot Lava*, *My Yellow Umbrella*, *11 Trade My Peanut-Butter Sandwich*, and *Little Miss Liberty*. Chris’s whimsical cartoon style feels light-hearted and carefree which seems to perfectly match his humorous writing style. $500 (fee may vary in exchange for opportunity to sell books), 25 mi radius from Pasadena.

Barney Saltzberg
Los Angeles, CA
(310) 933-9754
b/o Susan Strick
780 S Strains Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90035
Fax (323) 932-8296
barney@saltzberg.com
Barney is a children’s author/illustrator and musical performer whose book titles include *Crazy Hair Day*, *Chengdu Could Not!*, *Would Not Fall Asleep*, *Beautiful Oops*, and *A Little Bit of Comph*. He offers assemblies for grades K–8 which inspire students to write stories, create art and make music. Contact for fee.

Kirk Scroggs
Los Angeles, CA
(714) 378-4191
c/o Catherine Balkin
catherinebalkinbuddies.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 the new *Troop* series. His presentations include slide shows, a talk and draw, and the opportunity for the kids to create a chapter of their own. He also offers workshops where he will teach the kids how to draw their own comic book characters. Grades: 1-5. Fee: $500-$700 (depending on the number of sessions and the location of the school).

Erin O’Byrne
Los Angeles, CA
(323) 223-4810
ericas521@yahoo.com
Erica Silverman has been featured in over 200 media outlets including Good Morning America, National Public Radio, LA Times, and USA Today. She won top awards in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Grades: Middle School & High School. Contact for fee.

June Sobel
Westlake Village, CA
(805) 995-0626
june@junesobel.com
www.junesobel.com
Some of her 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 would also be available for older students. Grades K–8. Contact for fee.
Tracy Trawas
Southern California
(213) 698-2711
trawas@gmail.com
www.trawas.com

Tracy grew up in Connecticut and attended Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. After college she moved to Los Angeles where she wrote for McGraw-Hill. The Wish Stealers is her first book for children. Tracy is available for school presentations in all areas. Her presentation is suited for grades 1-6. Contact for fee.

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

Janet does lots of school visits, giving group presentations for grades 9-12. Most often, Janet comes to schools where the students have read at least one of her novels. She usually does a PowerPoint presentation that covers how she became a writer, the different novels she's written, how she came up with stories and characters, her writing process, and how she came to love research and revising—really! Most schools require two presentations, usually in the morning. See website for details. Fee: Negotiable.

Frans Vischer
Glendale, CA
(818) 929-1419
fransvischer@sbcglobal.net
www.fransvischer.com

Inspired by the antics of his enormous and lovable cat Frans created Fuddles, a story about a pampered, fat cat seeking an adventure, and A Very Fuddles Christmas. Frans is also an animator at the Disney studio. During his presentation he will show students drawings he has done. Presentations can be geared towards any age group. Fee: $500 for a full day.

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

She is a former teacher-turned-author of 25 award-winning books including 101 Ways to Buy Your Parents, 101 Ways to Buy Your Teacher, Corey’s Fire, and Won Ton She provides lively interactive workshops and presentations for grades K-8. There are also programs available for educators and parents. See website for details. Fee: $1,500/day plus expenses.

Sally Warner
Altadena, CA
(626) 398-8109
www.sallywarner.com

The author of the popular Emma series, and many other titles, offers entertaining and lively classroom and small group presentations that usually include slides, brief readings from books, interactive cartooning/illustrations, and Q&A. Grades: 2-8 and adult Fee: $850/full day, $525/half day, $350/evening parents presentation plus travel.

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

She is a UCLA extension teacher and author of several picturebooks and the award-winning novel in poems for teens and tweens Girl Coming in for a Landing: A Novel in Poems. 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
(213) 389-3772
c/o Stephanie Nooney
snooney@scholastic.com
www.lisajayee.com

Tracy is the author of two novels, The Color of Bones and Soan. He is also part of the acclaimed anthology Been There, Done That: Writing Stories From Real Life. His school presentation highlights how to become a binder and helps students identify local birds. He also presents about the importance of reading, books that inspired him, brainstorming, how he writes first drafts, and revision processes. An educator himself, Tracy is adept at presenting to young audiences. Grades 3-8. Fee: $1,200/ full day. Fee is negotiable.

Lisa Yee
South Pasadena, CA
Fax (805) 962-8043
lisajayee@gmail.com
www.lisajayee.com

She is the author of Millicent Min, Girl Genius (Sid Fleischman Honor Award), Stanford Wong Ranks Big Time (ALA Notable Book), So Totally Emily Ebers, and Warp Speed. 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. Local fee: $1,600/day.

Eugene Yelchin
Topanga, CA
eugenyelchin@gmail.com
www.eugenyelchinbooks.com

This Russian born author/illustrator of children’s books received a Newberry Honor Award for his middle grade novels Breaking Stalin’s Nose and Anancy’s Goal. He also illustrated numerous picturebooks. Eugene will craft a presentation to the needs of the school. He can speak on anything from biographical background to art making and writing. Grades: K-12. Contract for fee.

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

In addition to publishing her new children’s book, Trouble on the Loose (the first in a series), Omaima A. Zayed is also the author of several academic pieces and currently teaches at UC Irvine. Trouble On The Loose is a comical and chaotic story that affords between an older sister and her playfully mischievous younger brother will delight children of all ages. Grades: K-6. Fee: Negotiable.

Mrs. Nelson’s Book Fair Company
We offer an excellent way for students, parents, and teachers to see a wide variety of books in a store-like setting, right on your own campus!

1648 W Orange Grove Ave, Pomona, CA 91768
(909) 865-8550 Fax (909) 865-9060
mrsnelsons@mrsnelsons.com
www.mrsnelsons.com