

Claire Rudolf Murphy, presenter at the fall Arkansas Reading Conference, is available for school visits November 17-19th. The author of fifteen fiction and nonfiction books for children and young adults, Claire has enjoyed presenting at schools for almost twenty years. Possibilities include assemblies, writing workshops and slide presentations tied to school curriculum. A former teacher leader with the Alaska State Writing Project, she is now a faculty member with Hamline University's Writing for Children and Young Adult creative writing program. Her recent books include *Children of Alcatraz: Growing Up on the Rock* and *I Am Sacajawea, I Am York: Our Journey West with Lewis and Clark*.

Check out her website for information on her books and presentations or contact her directly with questions and to request a school visit packet.

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Teri Sloat will be coming to Little Rock, Arkansas for the Arkansas Reading Conference in November and will be available for school presentations from November 17-19. Teri has written and illustrated over 20 books for children, winning awards from New York Times, CBC, Sesame St., ABA and the American Library Association. She will be on the faculty at Hollins University next summer teaching the art of picture book writing.

Her presentations show how she turns ideas stimulated by thoughts, words and pictures into stories, and her workshops teach young writers how to hang on to their imaginations long enough to share their stories with others. For more information please visit her web-site at www.terisloat.com.

Some of her recent books include BERRY MAGIC, THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A TROUT, and I'M A DUCK!

Ron Boren is available for school visits. Standards Based Assemblies- Ron uses shared reading and other literacy strategies while engaging students and staff in a high energy assembly using original music. There are 3 assemblies to choose from:

We Are Ready to Learn Featuring *We Won't Stress When We Assess* **2-6th grade**

Those Tender Kinders(*First Graders Too!*) This assembly is geared for the little ones. **K-1** This assembly can accompany *We Are Ready to Learn*

Character of a Great Nation Featuring *Character Trait Shout Out* (Character education) **K-6th grade**

For scheduling, assembly shirts, and other information please visit: www.boren2tchtunes.com.

Michael Shoulders, a retired teacher and Title I Director, is the author of eight nonfiction books including *N is for Natural State - An Arkansas Alphabet* and *Natural Numbers - An Arkansas Number Book*. He also wrote *D is for Drum - A Native American Alphabet* which won the Teachers' Choice Award from Learning Magazine as the best social studies book for 2008. *Say Daddy!* stresses the importance of reading aloud to children.

Mike uses magic as he covers the entire writing process from ideas to book publication. He provides up to four presentations per day. You can find Mike on the web at www.michaelshoulders.com.

Dr. Danny Brassell is an Associate Professor in the Teacher Education Department at California State University-Dominguez Hills. He is an experienced classroom teacher who has worked with students ranging from preschoolers to rocket scientists, and he has published numerous articles and books, including *Readers for Life: The Ultimate Reading Fitness Guide* (Heinemann, 2006). A reformed reluctant reader now dedicated to creating passionate readers, he founded the Lazy Readers' Book Club, www.lazyreaders.com,

Google's #1-ranked website for cool, short "book club recommendations" for all ages. Using humor, music and games, Dr. Brassell has motivated audiences across the country to create cultures in homes, schools and businesses that stimulate innovation through widespread reading. To learn more about booking Danny to visit your school, business or organization, e-mail danny at danny@lazyreaders.com.

Kimberly Willis Holt will be available for school presentations on November 19th or November 21st. Kimberly's presentation covers the journey that she traveled to become a published writer. It includes information about where Kimberly finds the inspirations for her books and her writing process. This presentation is for an audience of any size. Kimberly also offers writing workshops for small groups. She loves working with reluctant writers. For more information please contact Kimberly at kwhevents@suddenlink.net.

Sarah Weeks will do as many school visits each year as her schedule allows. "Because of the wide range of my work I am able to provide presentations appropriate for a variety of age groups. My programs include picture books and early readers for the younger grades, humorous chapter books for middle graders and discussions about novels and the writing process for older grades. I am also available for regional IRA's, young author conferences and author-in-residence programs for schools interested in a hands-on writing experience for grades 4–8. To discuss or arrange a school visit, please contact me directly at authorweeks@aol.com or you can contact the School and Library Promotions Department at HarperCollins Publishers at 212- 261-6777. For testimonials, visit the AUTHOR VISIT page at www.sarahweeks.com."

John Manders offers a choice of presentations:

Grade 4 & older: a step-by-step overview from the beginning stages of the creative process: manuscript, thumbnail sketches, full-sized sketches—to slides showing stages of a finished painting. He talks about the different people involved—editor, art director, author, illustrator—emphasizing the importance of group cooperation to produce a children's book. He has visuals to pass around so that the students get a close-up view of all the stages being discussed.

Grades 1 - 3: He reads one of his books and does a painting demonstration. He explains the tools & materials he uses, and paints a likeness of one of his characters.

High school, College, & Older: He discusses the business & career aspects of illustration.

Cost: Honorarium for schools in the Pittsburgh area is \$900.00 for a full day, \$600.00 for a half day. This includes two presentations in the morning and two in the afternoon. If you're not near Pittsburgh, the honorarium is \$1,200.00 for a day—please add meals, mileage and hotel.

Johanna Hurwitz would be available to speak during the day on Thursday, November 20th. As the author of almost 70 books for young readers and a former children's librarian, she is comfortable speaking to large groups of students of all grades. Her fee for a full day made up of three talks and book signing is \$1800 but she could go to a school and speak just once or twice at a prorated amount if there is a problem with funds. She is coming into Arkansas to be at the Arkansas Reading Assoc. meeting on the 20th and 21st. Her current plan is to fly in on the 20th to be in town for the late afternoon of that day. Should she be invited to speak at your school, she'd come a day earlier but you'd have to pay for an extra evening at the motel/hotel where the speakers are staying.

Lois Cooper Freeman and **Candy Jean Tennison**, presenters at the fall Arkansas Reading Conference in Little Rock, are available for school in-service workshops and staff development sessions. These presenters are available as college and university guest speakers to pre-service teachers. As authors of the book, *Phonetic Phollies*, the two have conducted workshops across the United States, sharing ways to add “phun” to skill lessons. Both authors are National Board Certified Teachers and have received many awards and grants. Mrs. Tennison has been awarded the 1998 Milken Educator Award and Mrs. Freeman was chosen as the 1994 Arkansas Teacher of the Year. For more information, contact these teachers at ctennison@nettletonschool.net or lo_jo_freeman@hotmail.com.

Rickey Pittman is available for school visits in the weeks before or after the conference. For more information visit his website: <http://www.rickeypittman.com/>. You may contact him by email at rickeyp@bayou.com.

Paul B. Janeczko is available for school visits and teacher workshops. For more information visit his website: www.paulbjanezko.com or contact him by email at poetguy@megalink.net.

Richard Mason is available for school visits and enjoys speaking to groups about Arkansas history, the writing process and environmental issues. Richard is a life-long Arkansan and his book, **The Red Scarf**, is inspired by his childhood. The author can be contacted thru www.theredscarfbook.com or through Mimi Schroeder APR, mimi@maxbookpr.com or 404-447-6242.

Jeanie Franz Ransom is the author of *GRANDMA U*, a 2004 Storytelling World Award Honor Book, and *WHAT DO PARENTS DO? (WHEN YOU'RE NOT HOME)* which was named one of “The Best Children’s Books of the Year” by the Children’s Committee of the Bank Street College of Education. In addition to writing picture books, Ransom visits schools to give presentations and writing workshops, and also speaks at libraries and professional conferences. She utilizes her experience as a school counselor to provide workshops and presentations designed to meet the needs of students and teachers. Her presentation titles include, among others, *So You Want to be a Writer*, *The Birth of a Book*, and *Haiku Workshop*. Ransom lives near St. Louis, Missouri. Visit her website at www.jeanieransom.com. For further information or to arrange a visit with this author, please contact Kenyette Kilpatrick at kenyette@peachtree-online.com or (404) 876-8761 x111.