

Jen Bryant: Presentations FAQs

Q: How long have you been doing school visits and other author events?

A: Since 1991, when my first books were published. I've spoken to all age groups and in just about every context imaginable. Before that I was a classroom teacher, so I'm used to speaking with, and listening to, young people.

Q: How long is your typical presentation?

A: That varies with each visit, but the average is about 50 minutes per group. Most full-day author visits include 3 group presentations, an author lunch, and a book signing. A half-day visit is 2 group presentations and a book signing. At the end of this FAQ section are descriptions for a few of my basic Author Presentations.

Q: What if my school/ library/ book group wants something different?

A: That's fine. Be as specific as you can about your "vision" for the day/ event, and we can usually work it out. Some examples: your class/ school has read *The Trial*, and would like Jen to focus on her research and writing for that novel; your school has visited the Wyeth museum and would like to discuss *Pieces of Georgia*; you want Jen to do two group presentations and one small-group writing workshop; you want an evening event for families or for adults; you want Jen to talk about her research & writing process and her classroom ideas for teachers; you'd like Jen to focus on one of more of her picture books.

Q: We have a limited budget for our author programs. Do you have any suggestions for fundraising?

A: Every school, library or community organization does this differently. Many schools ask their Parent-Teacher or home-and-school organization for funds. Others write grants and receive funding from their local, county, or state governments. Others hold specific fundraising events such as food sales at sporting venues or at school plays & performances. Tell us what your budget is, and we'll do our best to work with you.

Q: What special equipment will you need for your presentations?

A: I use Power Point slides (don't worry they're not the boring kind!) to share my research and writing process and also the illustrations for my picture books. I'll need an LCD projector, large screen or blank white wall, a projector remote to advance the slides (or a human volunteer to do so), and a microphone if the group is large. The room should be able to be darkened for the slides to be viewed properly.

Q: Whom should I contact to request a school visit?

A: Jean Dayton at Dayton Bookings (jean@daytonbookings.com) handles Jen's author visits. If, however, you have done repeated, specific programs with Jen before, you can simply email her (jen@jenbryant.com) and ask for the same/similar program the next year.

The school is responsible for providing the following:

1. Laptop with PowerPoint software and flash drive portal
2. Remote control to forward slides (or volunteer/staff to do this)
3. LCD projector and extension cord
4. Screen and ability to darken the room
5. Table for book display
6. Microphone (for large group talks) ... podium is nice, but optional
7. Directions to the school and any parking regulations
8. Written schedule for the day, including times, approximate group size, grade levels

