

Gail Nall

Author Visits

I would love to visit your school, library, book club, or Scout troop! All workshops can be tailored to your specific group. Rates are listed on the second page. Questions? Contact me at gailnallwrites@gmail.com.

Large Group Presentation:

HOW A BOOK BECOMES A BOOK: THE BOOK ROAD TRIP

Best suited for larger groups, this interactive presentation takes students from idea to bookshelf. Using a road trip analogy, we'll talk about how a book is written, revised, and published. We'll brainstorm ways to find inspiration, discuss what to do when we get lost or bored with writing, and how to handle criticism. The goal of this presentation is to both inspire students and to show them how similar writing a published book is to the writing they do in the classroom. I use examples of my own work to show how even published authors have to work with critiques and fix punctuation. (Duration: 45 min – 1 hour)

Classroom-Sized Workshops:

SHOW DON'T TELL

Little secret: even the pros wrestle with this one! It's an abstract concept that can be difficult to grasp, so this workshop shows kids (instead of telling them) exactly what it means, using active participation from the audience. After looking at some written examples of how showing through detail can enhance a story and the importance of including all five senses in writing, we'll try out our theory by sending an adult out of the room so s/he can't hear us while we draw a character in a specific environment. Based on visual clues (like what the character is wearing, what he is holding, or where she is hanging out), we'll have the adult guess who we've created. We'll discuss ways we can accomplish the same goals in written form. Each member of the group will put what they've learned to use by writing a paragraph based on an image shown to the group. If time allows, volunteers can share what they've written. This is my most popular writing workshop! (Duration: 45 min – 1 hour)

GET ACTIVE

Action scenes are some of the most fun – and most challenging – to write! Using examples, we'll discuss how to make an action scene more than simply a catalog of actions. We'll try out what we've learned with a volunteer, who will do jumping jacks or another “action” while the group describes the action – incorporating not only what they see, but also what the volunteer might be thinking, feeling, and sensing. After, each member of the group will test out what they've learned by writing a short action scene based on a choice of prompts. (Duration: 45 min – 1 hour)

WHAT'S IN THE TRASH?

This workshop is all about characters! Using examples, we'll discuss all the elements that make a great character in fiction and what it is about these characters that makes them people we like, identify with, and root for. Then, participants will have the opportunity to pick through a “stranger's” trashcan (no smelly banana peels – promise!) Piecing together crumpled letters, movie ticket stubs, and a slew of other items, along with what they've learned about creating great characters, they will use those scraps to write a short script or piece of fiction about the character they've glimpsed. If time allows, volunteers can share what they've written. (Duration: 45 min – 1 hour)

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Presentation and Workshop Rates

- One Presentation/Workshop (up to 1 hour) – \$350, includes a classroom set of my middle grade books (one of each title)
- Half-Day (two consecutive presentations/workshops) - \$600, includes two classroom sets of my middle grade books (two of each title)
- Full Day (up to four presentations/workshops, lunch with students, and book signing) – \$1100, includes 30 paperbacks and a signed bookmark for each student

*Additional books can be ordered and signed for students through Carmichael's (in the Louisville area) or your local independent bookstore. If no local bookstore is available, I can coordinate orders through Carmichael's ahead of time.

**Travel expenses will be added on to events outside the Metro Louisville area (Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Bullitt Counties in Kentucky; Clark and Floyd Counties in Indiana). Some destinations may require an overnight stay.

On a tight budget? Let me know, and we can try to work something out.

