



Authors Who Visit Schools: Finding the Best Match for Your Site

Visiting authors have a powerful impact on students. Authors show real-life applications of what students are learning about reading, researching and writing. Long after an author visit, students can have an extra surge of motivation to read, write and revise. And the personal connections that students make in a day's visit can change lives. Here's how to find the best author for your school.

- **Ask teachers, librarians, parent groups for recommendations**
- **If you admire a particular book, search the author's website to find out more about them**
- **Read reviews of the book by national review sources** to find out what critics say and note starred reviews. (You can usually find these at the author's website or on Amazon.) Examples:

School Library Journal

Publishers' Weekly

Kirkus

The Horn Book

The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Library Media Connection

Booklist

- **Note any awards or special recognitions the book has received.** Examples:

State Awards

Best Books lists (i.e. Bank Street College)

Junior Library Guild selection

American Library Association Awards (i.e. "Oscar" status -- Batchelder Award, Belpré Medal, Caldecott Medal, Carnegie Medal, Geisel Award, Newbery Medal, Odyssey Award, Sibert Medal, Wilder Medal; YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction)

Children's Books Notable Lists (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>)

Subject-area notable books lists:

Social Studies: <http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/notable>

Science: <http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/>

- **Consider your budget:** Median fees for experienced authors tend to be about \$1,000 for a day, but can range much higher depending on their reputation. If the author lives at a distance, your school will be responsible for travel and lodging. If your budget is absolutely fixed, it is best to tell the author the amount upfront if you choose to negotiate a price.
- **Find out if the author does SKYPE visits.** Expect to pay a fee for this.

Author visits are a great way to build school spirit and community while motivating your students to read and write. Authors who write for children and young adult are all around you! For more information, check with your local library for helpful lists or to search by state, go to <https://www.scbwi.org/speakers-bureau/>