

Author appearances

My presentations are visual and kid-friendly, with lots of drawings, photos and images from my books. I offer free activity guides to help you integrate my books into your curriculum in advance of an appearance. They cover subjects like math, geography and creative writing.

Most of my programs are for grade school kids, but I also have presentations for high school students and adult groups.

Any presentation can be modified to fit your needs.

Programs

How is a book created? 30-40 minute presentation / grades 1-8

The question I hear from readers most often is "How did you get started as an author?" In this presentation, I tell the story of how I wrote my first book (by accident!), how I come up with ideas for books, and how I create sketches and final illustrations. It includes an overview of three books. I finish up by doing a drawing for the kids (with their input, which they LOVE), and some Q & A.

Let's create a book! 60-90 minute workshop / grades 2-7

This is a fun art and writing workshop where each child creates a book of their own. I present a quick overview of how I create books, and give the kids some starting points for their story. Then I help the kids as they create their own books.

Kids get a lot out of this workshop, but please note that it requires tables or desks, art supplies and more time than the usual class period.

How to make a living by making stuff up 30-40 minute presentation / grades 8 and up

I've been very fortunate to make a living with my creativity for over 25 years. It wasn't easy at first, but I eventually worked my way into jobs in advertising and publishing that let me use my imagination every day. Now I like to share my story with young people to demonstrate that creativity is not just a novelty, but has real value in the professional world. Perfect for middle and high school kids.

Nurturing our creative side 30-40 minute presentation / teachers and librarians

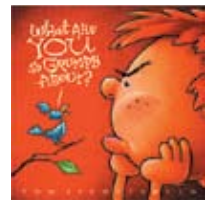
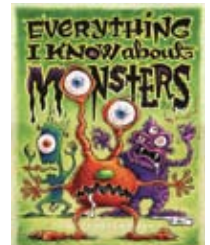
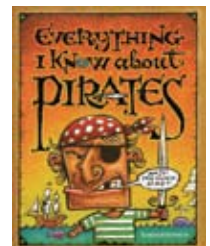
Creativity is becoming more important in our culture and our economy, but how do we teach it? Speaking from personal experience, I talk about what inspired me as a kid and how we can encourage kids to think creatively.

honorariums and scheduling

For information about honorariums and scheduling, contact me at tlichtenheld@ameritech.net



I'd love to come to your school!



Planning an event

My goal with school and library events is to help you get kids excited about books and reading and, of course, to let everyone have some fun along the way!

This is the nuts-and-bolts part about creating that excitement.

INITIAL INQUIRIES

After reviewing my programs and the details about appearances, contact me at tlichtenheld@ameritech.net Include as much information as possible:

- Your name
- Name of venue (school, library, etc.)
- Sponsor (if different than venue)
- Type of program you're interested in
- Time required
- Date preferred
- Special requests
- Your contact information

I will respond within 3 working days.

IN ADVANCE OF AN APPEARANCE

Contracts

Unless you have a contract that needs to be used, I have a standardized contract that spells out all the details. Once the particulars are worked out, we put them in the contract and it's signed by both parties. Then we're in business!

Honorarium

Please contact me for honorarium information for full-day and half-day events.

Out-of-pocket expenses

Sponsors are generally not responsible for travel expenses when appearances are in the greater Chicago area, unless there are unusual circumstances. For further distances, I ask the sponsor to pay reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, including but not limited to mileage/airfare, lodging and meals. Receipts will be presented for reimbursement.

To save costs, I encourage you to partner with other schools or libraries in your area to organize multiple appearances. That way, you can collectively cover the honorarium or travel expenses. If I'll be appearing at more than one location, I might need transportation between venues.

The audience

It's hard to effectively connect with a group of disparate grades, so please try to limit the range to three grades.

Please confirm the age ranges of the audience, and the size of each group in advance.

Getting the kids (and parents) excited

Please read my books to the children so they'll be prepared for the event. You can also download free activity guides from my web site that include classroom/library activities to get kids in the spirit of pirates, cars, messy rooms and grumpiness. By the way, these activity guides were written by a real teacher, so although they're silly, they're educationally silly.

Spreading the word

If you'd like to include information about my appearance in newsletters, e-mail, posters, bulletin boards, etc., I can provide graphics of book covers, sketches, and my photo for that purpose.

Equipment

Depending on the kind of presentation I'm giving, you may need to supply a PowerPoint projector and screen, an easel with an 18 x 24 pad of paper, art supplies for each child, etc. This will be worked out in advance, specified in the contract, and confirmed prior to my appearance.

Book Sales

Some sponsors like to offer book sales and signings. Please know that I do not personally sell books, but I'm always happy to sign books.

To order my books for you to sell, contact your local book seller or, in Illinois, contact:

- Anderson's Bookshops, Barb Fessler (630) 355-2665 / barb@anderbook.com
(books are discounted, and can be picked up at their warehouse or shipped to you).

To schedule a book fair that will feature my books and also include many other titles, contact:

- Anderson's Book Fair Company, Angie Gaul (630) 820-0044 / angie@andersonbookfairs.com
- Books on Parade, Paula Pettersen (815) 282-1510

Outside of Illinois, contact your local book seller for referrals in your area.

THE DAY OF AN APPEARANCE

Classroom etiquette

Is that an oxymoron? Surprisingly, not. I've found most classrooms have a set of rules and a way for the teacher to remind the kids when the rules need be observed. Please let me know in advance what the rules are and how I can be consistent with them.

Photos

I might bring a camera and ask a teacher or other adult to snap some pictures of me while I'm presenting. These photos would be used on my web site or promotional materials. Please let me know if you'd rather not have pictures taken in your school.

Lunch Hour

If an event goes over the noon hour, lunch would be appreciated. I never got to eat school cafeteria food when I was a kid, so it's kind of a treat for me. And I enjoy breaking bread with the kids or the staff.

Book signings

Please provide notepaper for people to write the name of the person they want their book(s) signed to. This expedites the process, ensures correct spelling, and allows me to spend a moment chatting with the book buyer instead of just making sure I get their name right.

Payment of honorarium

Payment is usually made at the end of an event. Let me know if you'd like to make other arrangements.

Feedback

Comments and criticism help me improve my presentations. I will hand out feedback forms before a presentation, which can be filled out and returned to me either before I leave or by fax.

Thank you for considering me for your event!