

Laura Murray

Children's Book Author

www.LauraMurrayBooks.com

Author Presentation Summaries

Laura is an award-winning author. She writes picture books and is also currently working on a middle-grade novel. Being a former teacher, her presentations are fun, lively, interactive, and educational. She strives to make sure that the students not only enjoy the presentations, but that they also come away with new ideas and skills to apply to their own creativity, reading, and writing, that connect with grade-level curriculum as well. The audience grade-levels stated below are guidelines; the presentations can certainly include other grade levels with students close in age.

Please visit the **VISITS** page on Laura's website for testimonials, pictures, and further details. There are also *many* extension ideas, reader's theater, mentor text lessons, printables, CC/Standards-linked Teacher's Guides, and fun activities for student connections on the **EDUCATORS** website page.

- **Smart Cookies Read, Write, & Imagine**

Audience: **Geared towards PreK-1st**

Length: 45 minutes (including GB Man Quiz Show Game at the end)

Laura will celebrate reading and writing with an enthusiastic, energetic, and educational presentation that includes a little about Laura as a child, teacher, and author; an interactive call & response book-reading with PowerPoint slide show, simple ideas on how to find story ideas, and an audience-participation "*Gingerbread Man Quiz Show*" as well as a preview of the next Gingerbread Man adventure. May include Q & A or sharing "connections" time.

- **Story Ideas Fresh from the Oven**

Audience: **Geared towards grades 2-3**

Length: 50-60 mins (including GB Man game or Reader's Theater)

In this interactive presentation, Laura provides a sneak peek at a writer's journey. She builds on the presentations for younger audiences, but also incorporate tricks to come up with ideas, character motivations and problems, and ideas on how to craft those elements into a story. She encourages audience participation through an interactive reading, a Gingerbread Man game or reader's theater, and an idea-generating exercise for the next Gingerbread Man adventure (which can often turn into a fun classroom creative writing activity afterwards.) Question and answer time will follow.

- **Sweet Success: Tips & Tools for Creative Writing**

Audience: **Geared towards 3- 4th grade (If you are interested in including 5th grade, I can send you additional information.)**

Length: 60 minutes (including Think Quick Trivia game)

This presentation is geared towards older children, incorporates the same engaging and educational elements as presentations for younger audiences, with a concentration on skills to help young authors grow. Laura will share *5 Tips and Tools for Young Writers* on creating ideas, character motivation and

conflicts, revision and perseverance, as well as contests that accept young author's work. Laura will guide students in the recognition of these techniques from one of her GB Man books, as well as a popular middle grade novel or her middle-grade novel "in progress." A fun "Think Quick Trivia" game will close the presentation. Q & A will follow.

- **Small Group Writing Workshops for 4th or 5th graders**

Length: 60 mins.

Laura also presents *small group* class writing workshops for grades 4 and 5. A workshop can be for a single class or a small group of students from similar grades. Workshops are focused around one or two specific story elements, such as Characters Traits, Point of View, Unusual Adjectives & Vivid Verbs, Sensory Details, Showing vs. Telling, or Literary Devices such as rhyme, alliteration, consonance, repetition, metaphor & simile, hooks, etc.

Students will get the most out of a workshop if they are interested in reading and writing, would like to interact with Laura and one another, and are supported by teachers who are engaged and present during the workshops. In order to help tailor the workshop to the class, Laura will reach out to classroom/ Language Arts teachers about the books students are reading, and the writing skills they are working on.

Students will need paper, pencil, and a hard surface to write on. Our goal will be to generate ideas, and the beginning of a piece of writing (hopefully to expand on later in the classroom or at home ☺.)

- **SKYPE Visit Presentations**

Audience: Any age group

Length: 30-45 minutes, depending on age group

Author Skype visits are fun & educational, and are a wonderful lower-cost alternative if an in-person visit isn't possible. These virtual visits mirror the content of Laura's in-person presentations, with an interactive book reading for younger audiences, and lots of "show & tell" about finding story ideas, the writing process, revision, publishing, and ending with Q & A with the students. Please email for details and honorarium.

- **Free 15 minute Skype Q & A Sessions**

Laura is also happy to do 15 minute free Skype sessions during the year as well. Each school year, she announces 3 available dates for these sessions and uses her **Activities Newsletter** as a way to spread the word to teachers & librarians about the dates. The dates are first come, first served until the schedule is full. If you are interested, please feel free to join the **Activities Newsletter** at the top of Laura's website pages.

- **Classroom Visit Q & A Sessions**

For Grades 2 and up

Length: 30 minutes

If a class or small group of students has several questions for Laura, consider a Classroom Visit Session. Most large group presentations usually only allow for about 10 minutes of questions. A Classroom Visit Session gives a class or small group of students and teachers the chance to interact with Laura and ask questions about the writing process and the publishing process in a more personal setting, with time enough to answer all questions. Brainstorming & writing down questions ahead of time works well.

(Scroll down for a few other presentation scheduling details.)

A Few Other Details about in-person presentations:

- **Laura can offer up to 3 presentations/workshops/sessions in one school day.** Sometimes a 4th presentation can be added, depending on schedule and travel, feel free to ask. (My presentations are enthusiastic and energetic, and I find that my voice holds up well for up to 3, one-hour. long presentations.)
- When considering a schedule, please refer to presentation lengths, with a 15 minute reset time between presentations.
- **Maximum number of students at a large group presentation is 250.**
- If a full day is booked, lunch will need to be worked into the schedule too. ☺
- If your school is interested in ordering books to be signed, Laura will be happy to sign books after all the presentations are done.

For Honorarium Fees or Questions, please email Laura at: LauraMurrayBooks@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest in a school author visit!