

An Author Visit from  
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Thank you for your interest in having me visit your school and speak to students about the joy of reading and creating written works. This flyer provides information that will be useful to you in scheduling and preparing for an author visit. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

### **Bio**

Karyn Tunks is passionate about sharing her love of reading and writing. Through interactive presentations, Karyn describes her evolution as an author and encourages students to begin their own writing journey. To effectively present her message, she prefers meeting with students in groups of approximately 100 in settings such as the school media center where she can interact directly with the audience. Karyn tailors presentations to suit the school's objective for the author visit and the ages and interests of the students.

### **Presentations**

My presentations are designed so that I am talking *to* the students instead of *at* them. Therefore, I prefer a meeting area that will accommodate no more than 100-125 students (approximately 3 to 4 classes) per presentation. Usually the school's media center is adequate. This arrangement is preferred over large, whole group assemblies in a gym or auditorium.

Currently, I'm offering presentations to grades 2-5:

**A presentation on *JUBILEE!* is tailored to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.** Through a PowerPoint presentation, I share background information on myself as a reader and writer growing up and how and why I decided to write my books. We will have a Readers' Theatre in which teachers will play the parts of characters in the book and read aloud from a printed script. (I will need to know in advance which teachers will be playing the roles of: Newt and Thelma, Brother Nathan, and Miss Mettie. (The students in the audience will repeat Caroline's line.)

**A presentation on *USS ALABAMA: Hooray for the Mighty A!* has been designed for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders** due to their study on Alabama History. Through a PowerPoint presentation, I share background information on myself as a reader and writer growing up and how and why I decided to write my books. Students are encouraged to think of themselves as authors and use writing as a tool for communication and entertainment outside of the school setting. My presentations are also directed at teachers in hopes they will be inspired to try new teaching ideas and rekindle their enthusiasm for teaching writing.

### **Scheduling**

Below is a *sample* half-day schedule. Please feel free to adjust as needed to coordinate with the school schedule (time school starts, lunch schedule, and dismissal). Half-day or full schedules can be arranged. Presentations are approximately 35-40 minutes. I can adjust length of

presentation as needed. When scheduling, please allow enough time for one group of students to exit the media center and the next group to get settled before the presentation.

8:00 a.m. Arrival, unload, and set up for presentation (Media Center)

8:30 a.m.-9:10 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> presentation

9:30 a.m.-10:10 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation

10:30 a.m.- 11:10 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation

11:10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (Break/lunch)

11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> presentation

Other activities during the day may include:

Personalizing and signing books

Taking photos with classes

Meeting with a small group of preselected students to talk about writing. (Use my visit as a reward!)

Talking with small groups of teachers (perhaps by grade level) for informal Q & A on teaching writing.

Please feel free to ask if you have other ideas!

### **Payment and Additional Information**

- My fee varies based on various factors such as schedule and travel required.
- My hope is to inspire students in their own reading and writing and therefore do NOT want to spend our limited time managing their behavior. Please remind teachers to sit where needed to ensure behavior management of their class. (By the way, I don't expect the children to be perfect!)
- Order forms will be provided to the school for students to PREORDER and PREPAY for books. Payments for individual student orders should be made to the school (not me). Before books are distributed on the morning of my visit, I will accept a check from the school for payment for the entire order. (No sales tax will be charged according to these arrangements because public schools are non-profit entities.)
- I will provide the school with an invoice and accept payment on the day of the visit.

### **Preparing Students for Author Visit**

Get everyone excited about the upcoming author visit! Familiarize students with my books by reading them aloud, making them available in the classroom library, and allowing students to check out my books prior to the visit. Create a display, bulletin board or welcome banner prior to my visit to generate student interest. Assign projects related to my books. (See my website for ideas: [www.karyntunks.com](http://www.karyntunks.com)).

### **Preparing the Setting and Technology**

I will bring a laptop (using Windows) OR a flashdrive for the PowerPoints used in the presentation. I can also email the presentations to be uploaded on the school's computer. Please be prepared to attach laptop to a projector or have a computer ready for loading the flashdrive. A large screen for projection, extension cords, small table to hold personal items (bottle of water, notes, and copies of both books) are also needed.