



SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS

Westchester

25-26 Directory of Westchester County Regional Authors & Illustrators Who Visit Schools & Libraries

For descriptions of specific presentations and presentation fees, please consult authors' websites for the most current information.

When you contact authors, be sure to let them know you saw their name in this Directory!

Questions: westchesterny-ra@scbwi.org

Name	Author/ Illustrator	Genre	Grade	Book Titles	School Visit Information	Contact	Short Bio
Jason Edwards	Author	MG	Elementary, Intermediate and Middle School	Chronicles of the Monster Detective Agency - INITIATIONS ISBN: 9780978951267, Will Allen and the Great Monster Detective ISBN: 9780978951207, Will Allen and the Ring of Terror ISBN: 9780978951221, Will Allen and the Hideous Shroud ISBN: 9780978951245, Volume 4: Will Allen and the Terrible Truth ISBN: 9780978951269	My school visits involve captivating, hands-on educational enrichment activities in which the KIDS are the stars of the show. In my History Mystery Library Quest, kids build knowledge, observation, and research skills as they hunt for a lost historical artifact just like Indiana Jones or Carmen Sandiego! They follow mysterious trails, uncover hidden clues, decode secret messages, and overcome challenging obstacles to recover a priceless treasure, identifying historical landmarks, employing deductive reasoning, and developing cooperative learning skills along the way. Every child takes part, every child succeeds in finding clues, and every child plays a vital role in locating the treasure. In my ComicCrafting 101 Workshop, kids create their own comics, using elementary storytelling and illustration techniques to build observation, illustration, and storycrafting skills. Through simple exercises and procedures, participants produce characters, settings, and plot, employing simple shapes and lines to convey distinctive traits, actions, and feelings. Available as individual lessons or as an ongoing workshop, with program variations for both elementary and middle grades. No previous writing or illustrating experience is needed.	Email me at MonsterAuthor@outlook.com or Programs@RogueBearPress.com	Jason Edwards is an award-winning author and educator with over 30 years of experience developing innovative ways to engage, empower, and inspire young learners. His talent for cultivating the intellectual, emotional, and creative growth of children and adults alike has earned accolades at hundreds of schools, libraries, conferences, and reading festivals across the nation, and has been featured in all forms of media including Knowledge Quest Magazine, NY Daily News, and WCBS TV. Jason's work has been honored with the Mom's Choice Award for Family Friendly Media, the LitPick Top Choice Award, an endorsement from the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, and has been showcased by the Children's Book Council.
Melissa Clare Lawson	Author/ Illustrator	Non-fiction picture book	Elementary	Gerald Grasshopper Moves to New York City	My school/visit presentation begins with a group breathing exercise and an animated reading of Gerald Grasshopper Moves to New York City. I can play a video presentation of the reading for larger groups. The children will learn about my writing process and see some of the original paintings for the book and storyboard. They also get to see some of my artwork from childhood. An art portion is also available if the children are able to draw in the space (K-3) and for grades 4 and 5, a simple lesson in creating a storyboard. https://melissaclarelawsonbooks.com/authorillustrator-visits	https://melissaclarelawsonbooks.com/contact or email: melissaclarelawson@yahoo.com	Melissa Clare Lawson is an artist and a children's yoga instructor. Born in Thailand, Melissa has lived throughout Southeast Asia, the Southern United States, and now calls New York home. After attending both Parsons School of Design and graduating from The Fashion Institute of Technology, Melissa worked in the Fashion Industry as a knitwear and print designer and later became a certified Yoga instructor for children and adults. Living in Westchester, NY, she is a mother to three amazing adults and a grandmother to three more. In 2020, she founded Mindful Masterpieces with Melissa; a business dedicated to teaching young children about fine art and making it relatable to them as individuals. She has taught yoga and art in New York area schools for over 20 years. Gerald Grasshopper Moves to New York City is her first book.
James McLeod JR.	Author	Children's Personal Development	K-4, 3-8	"The Boy behind the face". My Daily Superpowers"	I provide school assemblies and classroom workshops focused on confidence, identity, and resilience using my book The boy Behind the Face as a foundation. For more information: http://thatvilligoguy.com	Email James@thatvilligoguy.com	James McLeod is a Transformational Speaker, Author, and Youth Mentor who partners with schools to help students build confidence, resilience, and self worth through storytelling and interactive presentations.
A.Jude Perillo	Author	Childrens	K-4	Max the Slipper Clipper - Book1	I would like for someone that the children are familiar with to read my book to them! I have found this is more comfortable to the little ones to have it read by someone they know!!! It works! I will give away book marks and other reading related items that say I love to read to encourage the children! Can be purchased at all major retailers.	Email ajperillo109@optonline.net or phone: 914 979 0050 please leave a message if no answer!	I am a retired tradesman/carpenter who always thought that my many life experiences would be worth putting to paper. Max the Slipper Clipper is book 1 of a 7 book series about our wonderful boxer puppy that just loved to steal/clip our slippers and hide them! The children love this story and adore the colorful images in my book!



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Name	Author/ Illustrator	Genre	Grade	Book Titles	School Visit Information	Contact	Short Bio
Gail Schlenger	Author	Children's fiction picture books	Elementary (K-4); Pre-school ages 4-5	Papa Boar Snored, Riley's Perfect Hat, The Night Raiders, Little Chipmunk's Big Night, Tree Hugger	<p>For first and second graders, after some questions and answers that promote engagement, I read Riley's Perfect Hat aloud, projecting the illustrations, and guiding the students in a discussion about the feelings Riley experiences throughout the story. Together, we identify and name emotions, which helps students build emotional vocabulary and recognize how feelings can change during and after a challenge. Students are encouraged to remember that while we feel what we feel, we can decide what to do with those feelings. After the reading, students create their own hats, encouraging self-expression, and reinforcing the book's message that there's more than one way to solve a problem. The hat-making craft also provides many opportunities for agency and choices, as well as the application of vocabulary such as frustration, disappointment, discouragement, and pride.</p> <p>For third and fourth graders, I let the students know that although they are beyond picture books as independent readers, picture books are an excellent tool for examining how stories work. I distribute a Story Mountain and use my books to model narrative structure, character development, emotional arc, and the idea of "showing rather than telling." I read one book, Tree Hugger, excerpts from Riley's Perfect Hat, and the ending of Papa Boar Snored to show how each story begins, builds, and resolves, how language choice is used to convey feelings and ideas, and what changes they notice at the end. They are encouraged to notice that there are different characters, different stories, but a similar structure. The students then either work alone or with a partner to brainstorm story ideas, preferably starting with character and setting.</p> <p>If time permits, I invite students to join me for an "ask the author" Q&A (often during a lunch period), where I answer questions about story ideas, the writing process, and how a book travels from idea to publication.</p> <p>My goal is for students to leave feeling inspired, not only to read and write, but to recognize that their thoughts, feelings, and ideas matter.</p>	Email me at gailschlenger@gmail.com	<p>Gail Schlenger is a children's picture book author and retired special education teacher. She writes stories that blend humor and heart, centering on problem-solving, empathy, resilience, and emotional growth—all woven into engaging, read-aloud storytelling that invites connection and conversation, sometimes with surprise endings!</p> <p>Gail is the author of five children's picture books and has had two short stories published in Highlights High Five magazine. She writes with the hope of inspiring a love of reading while reassuring children that their feelings matter.</p> <p>In addition to writing, Gail enjoys connecting with young readers through library story times, school visits, and community events.</p> <p>A proud mom and grandma, Gail enjoys reading, word games, travel, musical theater, dancing, and personal fitness, as well as spending time with family and good friends - especially if dark chocolate is involved!</p>