



Bios of Children's and Adolescent Authors Available for School Visits

Grades K – 5

Balint Zsako <https://enchantedlion.com/balint-zsako>

Bunny and Tree

Balint Zsako was born in Budapest, Hungary to a textile artist mother and a sculptor father. His family immigrated to Canada when he was ten years old. At university, he studied photography, but for the last 20 years, he has been exhibiting paintings and collages. *Take This Waltz*, a film by Sarah Polley, features his drawings, and his illustrations have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's* and *The New York Times Magazine*. *Bunny & Tree* is his first picture book. He lives and works in Los Angeles.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: Not required

Grades K – 5

Andrea Wang <https://andreyawang.com>

Watercress

Luli and the Language of Tea

Andrea Wang is an acclaimed author of children's books. Her book *Watercress* was awarded the Caldecott Medal, a Newbery Honor, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, a New England Book Award, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor. Her other books, *The Many Meanings of Meilan*, *Magic Ramen*, and *The Nian Monster*, have also received awards and starred reviews. Her work explores culture, creative thinking, and identity. She is also the author of seven nonfiction titles for the library and school market. Andrea holds an M.S. in Environmental Science and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing for Young People. She lives in Colorado with her family.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$250/presentation; Waived for Title I schools

Grades K – 8

Benson Shum <https://bensonthum.com>

Anzu and the Great Kaiju

Anzu the Great Listener

Benson Shum is a children's book author and illustrator. The idea that an image or painting can evoke emotions and movement is what brought him to the world of picture books and animation. Benson uses watercolor, ink and digital tools to create his illustrations. His newest book, *Anzu the Great Kaiju* received a starred review from *School Library Journal* and was selected for the Kid's Indie Next List for Jan/Feb 2022 by American Booksellers Association.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: None

Grades K – 5



Cynthia Harmony <https://www.cynthiaharmony.com>

Mi Ciudad Sings

Cynthia Harmony is an author and educational psychologist, originally from Mexico City. She has published for the educational market and was awarded the 2020 WNDB Mentorship. Her debut picture book MI CIUDAD SINGS, in Spanish MI CIUDAD CANTA is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. Her board book OUR WORLD: MEXICO published by Barefoot Books, releases Spring 2023. Her upcoming picture book A FLICKER OF HOPE (2024) will be released simultaneously in English and Spanish by Viking PRH.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$75

Grades K – 5

Dan Yaccarino <http://www.danyaccarino.com>

City Under the City

The Longest Storm

I am a Story

Children the world over know Dan Yaccarino's children's books and award-winning animated series. In addition to his own stories, Dan's bold, stylized illustrations add wit and energy to the work of such distinguished authors as Margaret Wise Brown, Jack Prelutsky, and Kevin Henkes. He's also the creator and producer of several animated series based on his books, Doug Unplugs (AppleTV), Oswald (Nickelodeon), Willa's Wild Life (NBC and Qubo), as well as the character designer behind The Backyardigans (Nickelodeon).

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$500/day (up to 3 presentations)

Grades K – 5

David LaRoche <https://davidlarochelle.com>

See the Dog

See the Cat

How to Apologize

David LaRoche is the author or illustrator of over 30 books for young people. His titles include SEE THE CAT: THREE STORIES ABOUT A DOG illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka (Theodor Seuss Geisel Award), ABSOLUTELY POSITIVELY NOT (Sid Fleischman Humor Award), THE END illustrated by Richard Egielski (Golden Kite Honor Award for picture book text), and THE BEST PET OF ALL illustrated by Hanako Wakiyama (BookSense Top Ten selection). His books have received starred reviews in Booklist, School Library Journal, the Horn Book, Kirkus, and Publishers Weekly. A former elementary teacher, David enjoys visiting dozens of schools each year to talk to students about writing and illustrating.

Availability: Friday, March 3

Honorarium: Yes, contact for rates

Grades K – 5



Emma Smith <https://emmabsmith.com>

Marvelous Mallards: The Making of Make Way for Ducklings
How Science Saved the Eiffel Tower

Emma Bland Smith is the award-winning author of *Journey: Based on the True Story of OR7, the Most Famous Wolf in the West*, as well as other fiction and nonfiction books for children. Many of Emma's books include animals—wolves, dogs, pigs, even alligators! Emma is a librarian and author and lives in San Francisco with her husband, two kids, dog, and cat—but no wolf or pig.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No

Grades K – 5

Zahra Marwan <https://zahramarwan.com>

Where Butterflies Fill the Sky

Zahra grew up in two deserts which vary drastically and have many similarities in culture. One close to the sea, the other close to the mountains. She studied the visual arts in France, and continues various pursuits to further educate herself. She currently lives in the Barelak neighborhood of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and works in her studio at the Harwood Art Center, where she incorporates Kuwaiti tendencies into her daily life.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$500

Grades K – 5

Saadia Faruqi <https://saadiafaruqi.com>

Marya Khan series

Saadia Faruqi is a Pakistani American author, essayist and interfaith activist. She writes the children's early reader series "Yasmin" and other books for children, including middle grade novels "A Place At The Table" co-written with Laura Shovan (a Sydney Taylor Notable 2021), and "A Thousand Questions" (a South Asia Book Award Honor 2021). Her new book "Yusuf Azeem Is Not A Hero" details the experiences of the Muslim American community twenty years after 9/11. Saadia is editor-in-chief of [Blue Minaret](#), a magazine for Muslim art, poetry and prose, and was featured in Oprah Magazine in 2017 as a woman making a difference in her community. She lives in Houston, TX with her husband and children.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No fee

Grades K-5



Sherri Duskey Rinker <http://www.sherririnker.com/>

Construction Site books

Sherri Duskey Rinker is the author of many bestsellers including, *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*; *Steam Train, Dream Train*; *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site*; *Construction Site on Christmas Night*; *Construction Site: Three Cheers for Kid McGear!*; *Construction Site Mission: Demolition!*; and *Construction Site: Road Crew, Coming Through!* Sherri lives with her photographer husband and two sons in the Chicago area.

Availability: Friday, March 3 OR Monday, March 6 (with AG Ford)

Honorarium: No fee

Grades K-3

A.G. Ford <https://www.agfordillustration.com/work>

Construction Site books

A.G. Ford is the recipient of a NAACP Image Award and has illustrated many award-winning books for children, including *The New York Times* bestsellers *Construction Site on Christmas Night*; *Construction Site: Three Cheers for Kid McGear!*; *Construction Site Mission: Demolition!*; and *Construction Site: Road Crew, Coming Through!* He lives in Dallas, Texas.

Availability: Friday, March 3 OR Monday, March 6 (with Sherri Duskey Rinker)

Honorarium: No fee

Grades K-3

Aida Salazar www.AidaSalazar.com

Jovita Wore Pants

A Seed in the Sun and *Land of the Cranes*

Aida Salazar is an award-winning author and arts activist whose writings for adults and children explore issues of identity and social justice. She is the author of the critically acclaimed middle grade verse novels *The Moon Within*, *Land of the Cranes*, and *A Seed in the Sun* as well as the picture book biography *Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Mexican Freedom Fighter* (March 2023). Aida is a founding member of LAS MUSAS—a Latinx kidlit author collective. She lives with her family of artists in a teal house in Oakland, CA.

Availability: Friday, March 3

Honorarium: \$400 for public schools, free to Title I

Grades K-8

Magdalena Mora <https://www.magdalenamora.com/>

Still Dreaming/Seguimos Sonando

The Notebook Keeper and *Tomatoes in My Lunchbox*

Magdalena Mora is a Minneapolis-based children's book illustrator who has illustrated 5 books as well as created illustrations for magazines and other publications.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$500

Grades K-5



Michelle Nott <https://www.authormichellenott.com/>

Teddy, Let's Go

Michelle Nott is a bilingual, dual-nationality author who finds inspiration in her family, travels, and French and American literature, culture, and art. Born in the U.S, Michelle has lived in France and Belgium. She taught French and creative writing and published poetry before focusing her attention on writing for children. *Teddy, Let's Go* is her debut picturebook. She lives in North Carolina with her family.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No Fee

Grades K-3

Grades 5-8

Arnee Flores <https://www.arneeflores.com>

The Firebird Song

The Spirit Queen

Arnée Flores is the author of the critically acclaimed middle grade fantasy THE FIREBIRD SONG and its sequel THE SPIRIT QUEEN. She has partnered with ALA, Booklist, SLJ, and Disney as a panelist celebrating diversity and highlighting the importance of creating magical, uplifting stories during times of adversity. A Vietnamese American, transracial adoptee, Flores was raised in rural Washington towns by an RN father and a disabled mother. A perpetual student, she has studied everything from piano performance to philosophy.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$500/day

Grades 5-8

David Robertson <https://www.darobertson.ca>

The Barren Grounds, The Great Bear, The Stone Child

David A. Robertson (he, him, his) was the 2021 recipient of the Writers' Union of Canada Freedom to Read Award. He is the Cree author of numerous books for young readers including *When We Were Alone*, which won the 2017 Governor General's Literary Award and the McNally Robinson Best Book for Young People Award. *The Barren Grounds*, the first book in the middle-grade The Misewa Saga series, received starred reviews and numerous awards. The trilogy also includes *The Great Bear* and *The Stone Child*.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$215-\$360

Grades: 5-8



Janae Marks <http://www.janaemarks.com>

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

A Soft Place to Land

Janae Marks is the author of critically acclaimed middle grade novels, *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* and *A Soft Place to Land*, as well as the forthcoming novel *On Air with Zoe Washington*. She has an MFA in Writing for Children from The New School, and lives in Connecticut with her husband, daughter and miniature schnauzer named Cookie. Janae is part of the Renegades of Middle Grade and is a co-founder of Middle Ground Book Fest.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No fee Grades 5-8

Michelle Mohrweis <https://www.michellemohrweis.com>

The Trouble with Robots

Michelle Mohrweis is a STEM Educator and space enthusiast. When not writing, they can be found launching paper rockets down the middle of their street. They live with their husband and two dogs in Colorado, where they enjoy hiking and hogging all the best spots beside the heater when it gets too cold.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No, but would require book purchases from the school. Grades 5-8

Kelly J. Baptist <https://www.kellyiswrite.com/about>

Isaiah Dunn is My Hero

Isaiah Dunn Saves the Day

Kelly J. Baptist was born and raised in the great state of Michigan. She's lived in Alabama, Florida, and Minnesota, but somehow found herself right back in her home state. Kelly wrote *Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero* and its sequel, as well as *The Swag is in the Sock*. Kelly is a huge Kobe Bryant fan, and incorporates Mamba Mentality in all aspects of her life, especially writing!

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: Book buy

Grades 5-8

Donna Barbra Higuera <https://www.dbhiguera.com>

The Last Cuentista

Donna grew up in Central California surrounded by agricultural and oil fields. As a child, rather than dealing with the regular dust devils, she preferred spending recess squirreled away in the janitor's closet with a good book. From language to cultural differences, a biracial life can become complicated. So like Donna, characters tackle more than just the bizarre things that happen to them in their lives. Donna won the Newbery award for *The Last Cuentista*.

Availability: Friday, March 3

Honorarium: Yes, but waived for Title I schools

Grades 5-8



Jonathan Case <https://jonathancase.net>

Little Monarchs

Jonathan Case is a cartoonist from the great Pacific Northwest, whose graphic novels for adults have won major awards, including an Eisner. His new graphic novel, *Little Monarchs*, is a sort of a joyful post-apocalyptic adventure book for kids.

Availability: Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No fee

Grades 5-8

Catherine Pearlman

A Child's Guide to Digital Responsibility, Safety and Etiquette

Dr. Catherine Pearlman is the founder of The Family Coach and a licensed social worker who works with families and children, advising on all matters of parenting. She is the author of *First Phone*, for children and also writes parenting books. She is the mom of two teens.

Availability: Friday, March 3 or Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$1000

Grades 4-8

Grades 8-12

Guadalupe Garcia McCall <https://ggmccall.com>

Echoes of Grace

The Keeper

Born and raised in Eagle Pass, Texas, Guadalupe García McCall is the award-winning author of several young adult novels, some short stories for adults, and many children's poems. Guadalupe has received the Prestigious Pura Belpre Award, a Westchester Young Adult Fiction Award, the Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Award, and was a finalist for the William C. Morris Award and the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy, among many other accolades. She is an advocate for literacy, diverse books, and Own Voices. In her travels, she is always looking for a good taco place and she never met a chocolate mole sauce she didn't love! She lives in the San Antonio area with her husband and sons. She likes to cook, garden, write, draw, and play with her granddaughter

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: Willing to discuss fair rate that works for school

Grades 8-12



Ari Tison <https://www.aritison.com>

Saints of the Household

Ari Tison is an award-winning Bribri (Indigenous Costa Rican) American poet, essayist, educator, autoethnographer, and author of YA hybrid novel SAINTS OF THE HOUSEHOLD (2023) + Untitled YA (TBD) with FSG/BFYR. She is also forthcoming in anthologies including Latine YA anthology OUR SHADOWS HAVE CLAWS with Algonquin Young Readers (2022). Her poetry and essays have been published in various literary journals including *POETRY*'s first issue for young people. She has her MFA from Hamline University and teaches creative writing. She lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No fee

Grades 8-12

A.G. Howard <http://aghoward.com>

Shades of Rust and Rain

Splintered and Ensnared

A.G. Howard is the #1 NYT & International Bestselling author of young adult retellings/spinoff novels and adult gothic paranormal romances. Her dark Alice in Wonderland inspired Splintered series has been published in over a dozen languages and has hit bestselling lists both internationally and domestically.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: \$500

Grades 8-12

Jarod Shusterman and Sofia Lapuente

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Retro/Sofia-Lapuente/9781665902755>

Retro

Sofía Lapuente is an author, screenwriter, and avid world traveler who immigrated from Spain to the United States to realize her dream of storytelling. Since then, she has received a master's degree in fine arts at UCLA, worked as a producer and casting director on an Emmy nominated show, and received coauthor credits in *Gleanings*, from the bestselling Arc of a Scythe trilogy, with her partner, Jarrod. Together, the couple writes and produces film and television under their production company Dos Lobos Entertainment. Jarrod Shusterman is the *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of the novel *Dry*, which he is adapting for a major Hollywood film studio with Neal Shusterman. He is also the coauthor of the accoladed novel *Roxy*. Sofi Lapuente and Jarrod are partners in every sense, with love and multiculturalism as an ethos—living between Madrid, Spain, and Los Angeles, California. If they are not working, it means they're eating.

Availability: Friday, March 3; Monday, March 6

Honorarium: No fee

Grades 8-12

