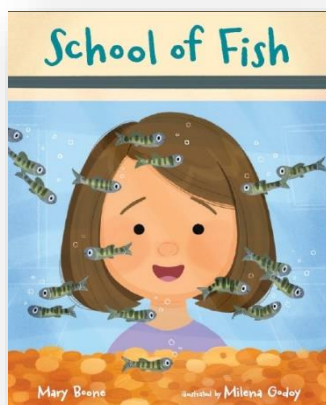


# Book a School Visit with Author Mary Boone

I love to teach and talk with students! I have written more than 70 nonfiction books for young readers on topics ranging from inventors and careers to biomes and sustainability. In addition to school programs, I can present at curriculum nights, teacher in-service days, or family literacy events. I am happy to customize a program to your school's needs or I can present one of these popular programs:

**Bugs for Breakfast** – Based on my book, *Bugs for Breakfast: How Eating Insects Could Help Save the Planet* (Chicago Review Press), this program focuses on entomophagy (the practice of eating insects). It also touches on themes including sustainability, water scarcity, world cultures, innovation, and more. Students will learn that one-fourth of the world's population already eats insects and what's being done to get them on more U.S. menus. (Several schools have promoted this program by conducting school-wide food drives; the teacher whose class contributes the most non-perishable goods gets to sample crickets — in front of the student body.

*Primary standard focus: Next Generation Science Standards.*



**School of Fish** – Based on my picture book *School of Fish* (Albert Whitman & Co.), this interactive program focuses on biology, habitats, conservation, and the salmon life cycle. Students learn how human actions impact salmon in streams, rivers, and oceans. Programs include a reading of the book, behind-the-scenes stories about my research (I learned how to DNA-test fish!!!), and Q&A time. Best for grades K-5.

*Primary standard focus: Next Generation Science Standards.*

**What do You Wonder?** What do clouds feel like? How fast does the world's fastest train go? Those are the sorts of questions that fill my writer's notebook. Curiosity has always driven my book ideas and it's helped me develop a love for research. Yes, sometimes research involves reading through old books and files, but a lot of times it doesn't. My research has required me to taste test cricket cookies, ride an elephant in a circus parade, and hang out backstage with a boy band. This interactive program shows students how my writing has been shaped by curiosity and they'll gain an understanding of the ways in which my work as a nonfiction author relates to the work they do in school.

*Primary standard focus: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8*

## ***What People Say About Mary's Presentations***

"Mary's presentation was very engaging and I appreciate her tie-in to being curious. That is exactly what we want for all our students – to be curious and motivated to learn more about the world around them."

— Tiersa Frasher, principal, Delhi, Iowa

"Mary's enthusiasm and humor make for a completely engaging presentation. Not only did she share her passion for reading and writing, she brought a 'snack'... BUGS! The way she helped my students make a connection from her book to real life was the talk of the class for the rest of the year. I am excited for Mary's visit every year."

— Tammy Bentley, 4th grade teacher, Tacoma, Washington

## **2023-2024 School Year Pricing**

### **In-Person**

My standard rate is \$300/presentation, \$575/half day (two presentations), or \$875/full day (max four presentations plus lunch with teachers or students) within 60 miles of Tacoma, WA.

Outside my local area, I charge \$1,000/day plus travel expenses. Discounts are available if I'm already traveling to your area or you may split travel costs with neighboring schools.

Programs can be presented in large assemblies or in smaller workshop settings. I'm always happy to work with schools to come up with a visit plan that fits your needs and budget.

### **Virtual**

It's not always practical to have an author travel to your school. And, yes, you can talk to students about research and the importance of reading, but sometimes they need to hear it from someone else. I'm happy to be that "someone else." Visits (30-40 minutes + Q&A) can be scheduled for \$175. Up to three classes in one group. Discounts for additional visits within the same school.

**Hold a book sale (it's super easy!) and you'll receive a \$30 discount on any in-person or virtual visit. Plus, I'll sign books or send book plates!**

➡ **Discounts are available for Title 1 & Tribal Schools.** ⬅

## ***What People Say About Mary's Presentations***

"Mary's presentation inspired students to think differently about how we use one of our Earth's resources — BUGS! Mary encouraged and answered all questions during Q&A time. Students connected with her as they understood even published authors face challenges, setbacks, and eventually the rewards of perseverance."

— Beth Janiec, 3rd grade teacher, Neshanic Station, New Jersey

"Mary instantly had my active and energetic group of third graders enthralled with her conversations about not only research and the writing process, but also a variety of topics like biomimicry and entomophagy. My students have repeatedly been asking when Mary can come back and for me to read aloud another one of her books!"

— Carmen Cooke, 3rd grade teacher, Manchester, Iowa

“Mary Boone's presentation was not only engaging and interesting, it was also unlike any other assembly we've had! Her knowledge, interest and passion for sustainable resources and protecting the earth are evident. She not only engages the students with real-life research, but provides pictures, questions, and relatable experiences in getting the students' attention. And really, any time a kid can eat a bug for fun - it's a win!”

-Samantha Odell, 6th grade teacher, Glen Ridge, New Jersey

## Why Author Visits Matter

1. Author visits help foster a life-long love for reading. They bring books to life on a whole new level, and they help students develop a greater appreciation for literature and the written word.
2. Good author visits support in-class learning. Your teachers are doing the hard work day-in and day-out. But hearing another adult repeat the importance of reading or using sensory words or asking hard questions – sometimes that outside perspective is all it takes to make things click for students.
3. Students learn that authors are readers, too. Authors share their reading lives, talk about their favorite authors, and make book recommendations. When they do, watch what happens in the library.
4. Through author visits, students learn that authors often struggle with brainstorming, fine-tuning ideas, editing and revision, and accepting criticism. They learn that first drafts are just that. Real writing takes place during re-writing.
5. Authors help students realize we all have stories to tell.
6. Students see the connection between their own writing and the work being done by real authors. That often kicks creativity into high gear. Even reluctant writers often begin to realize they have the power to write creatively.
7. Author visits help students realize that writing a book is hard work but it's also an achievable goal.

# Book Sales Are Easy!

I partner with [AuthorVisitCentral.com](http://AuthorVisitCentral.com) to coordinate book sales because it's easy for everyone involved. Orders are web-based so **there's no need to collect money or forms**. AuthorVisitCentral places book orders through independent bookstores and has the books shipped directly to the school. Plus, for every 15 books ordered, the school gets a free book for the library or for a student who couldn't order one.


All you have to do is get the word out (Trust me: That's a really, really important part of the process!)

Here's how this works.

**1.** You tell me you want me visit your school in person or virtually and you'd like a book sale to be part of that visit. You get a discount on your visit and I contact AuthorVisitCentral to set up the sale.

**2.** I'll provide a flyer for you to send home with students that tells families about my visit and directs them to AuthorVisitCentral, where they can order books. The online order form allows families to specify how they'd like their books signed. The ordering cutoff date is typically 2 weeks before my visit, to allow enough time for shipping. An email reminder to families a few days before the order deadline is a great reminder.

**3.** The books ship straight to your school. You'll receive an email with a list of students who purchased books so the book signing and distribution goes smoothly. If I'm visiting in person, I'll arrive early to sign books. If I'm visiting virtually, I'll send signed and personalized bookplates for you to put in each book.



Dear families,

**Author  
Mary Boone**

is visiting Mountain View Elementary on May 5th! Students will meet the author to learn about her book **BUGS FOR BREAKFAST** and the many ways in which curiosity drives her research, writing, and revising.

Mary would love to personalize and sign books for any readers who would like to order them!

Orders may be placed online at:  
**AuthorVisitCentral.com**  
with event code: **BUG108**  
**\*Please place orders by: 4/21**

*Purchased books will be signed and delivered to your child's school on the day of the event.*



# You've Booked a Visit ... What's Next?



If you're working with me, I'll handle a lot of the prep work, but I really need you TO BUILD EXCITEMENT FOR THE VISIT.

If my book isn't already in your school library, you'll want to invest in a few copies – a copy for each classroom is even better. Ask teachers and the school librarian to devote some time to helping students learn about me and my books. Encourage them to visit my [website](#).

## Four+ weeks before the visit...

Notify families about the upcoming visit via your school newsletter or weekly phone update. Set up a display in your school library. Work with your local public library; let them know you have an author visiting and make sure they have my books on hand.

Let me know if you need a W-9 form or invoice to process payment.

If you're offering book sales, you'll want to send out your first flyer about the sale.

## Three weeks before the visit ...

Post bulletin boards or posters about the visit. Come up with creative ways to get students excited about the visit. If you're having me come talk about BUGS FOR BREAKFAST, consider holding a can-a-thon for your local food bank; the teacher of the class that collects the most cans will be invited to sample crickets or grasshoppers during the visit. You could do something similar with a read-a-thon. Be creative!

Talk to specialists. Is there a way to incorporate songs or art projects into their classes that are related to my books? If I'm coming to talk about SCHOOL OF FISH, could your students use bubble wrap to paint salmon cutouts? Dozens or hundreds of painted salmon swimming up the school's hallway will make quite an impression.



Keep talking about book sales. Remind families they have just one more week to get orders in.

### **Two weeks before the visit...**

Book orders are due (but you don't need to worry about those at all – a box will come your way, packaged and labeled with students' names/homeroom teachers). If I'm visiting in-person, I'll sign books before my presentation. If I'm visiting virtually, I'll mail you personalized bookplates.

### **One week before the visit ...**

My presentations always include time for Q&A. Teachers may want to work with students to come up with questions about my books or about writing/research/revision. I love to answer questions about the book-making process.

Email me any last-minute instructions. If I'm coming to your school in person, I'll need to know:

1. Where should I park?
2. Where I should meet you (or whoever I'm meeting)? If your school is tricky to find, this would be a good time to send written directions.
3. Track down a microphone (handheld or lapel), screen, projector and connector (I use a Dell laptop).
4. Make certain I have phone numbers for at least two contacts at the school – just in case.

If I'm visiting virtually:

1. Send me a link.
2. It's a great idea for us to have a quick tech check in the days leading up to the visit – just to make sure everything connects smoothly.
3. Make certain I have phone numbers for at least two contacts at the school – just in case.

### **One day before the visit ...**

Send out an electronic/phone reminder to families that an author will be visiting the school. Having families talk about it really does help build excitement.

### **Day of the visit ...**



For the most part, you just need to sit back and enjoy. I may need some help getting set up and ensuring signed books get to the students who ordered them, but that won't take long. All your planning will ensure things go smoothly and students will have fun learning.

Fun + Learning = WINNING