

School Visit Information for

Schools, Libraries, Book Stores and Book Clubs

Did you know that I've worked in libraries for as long as I've been an author? And before that I worked in a bookstore? I have many years of experience in the business of connecting kids to books. I love visiting schools and talking about author life. I love connecting with kids in writing workshops. I love bringing book-themed craft and storytelling programs to libraries and bookstores. Here's a quick rundown of what I offer. Please note: I am flexible and I am happy to work with you on schedule and components for optimum results.

Author Presentation:



My author presentation is a quick moving presentation with lots of pictures, videos, interaction and graphics. I focus heavily on the process of writing (and re-writing) as we discuss where imagination can take you. Some touchstones along the way:

- My connection to books and writing as a kid.
- What mistakes I made in my own writing from grammar errors to major social faux pas.
- What lies I told and how I eventually found a way to use that creative energy for good
- What inspired my first book
- How I sold my first book
- How I revised my first book
- How I revised my first book even more
- How it came into the world
- And where it went from there with a peek at the Portuguese book trailer

Writing Workshops:



I love hosting dynamic writing workshops that include writing, drawing, storyboarding, memory prompts, mind mapping, group work and more. I rarely have kids JUST write. Instead, we work on how to get a story out of your brain, which requires many different methods. All my writing workshops usually have a takeaway. Some popular workshops include:

- **Speculative Fiction:** What is spec fic, anyway? In this workshop we use memory prompts to bring us to a big inciting incident that sends us into a whole different reality.
- **Villainous Masterminds:** Get ready to feel evil! In this workshop we dive into the shoes of some evil villains, build their character backstories and create puppets to bring home.

- **Heroes vs. Villains:** Good or evil, you decide! In this workshop, we do immersion prompts to get into the skin of our characters, then develop them through multiple exercises and finally make our own hero trading cards.

Library, bookstore and book club programs:



I have worked in libraries as a programming librarian for many years. I love to create book-related programs from escape rooms to DIY craft projects. Check out all I do at #dplteenprograms on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. One of my favorite things to do is go to book stores, book clubs and libraries for small group activities that relate to my books. Some recent favorites include:

- *Tracing Stars* glow in the dark sand art
- *Flutter* butterfly soaps
- *Keepers of the Labyrinth* medallions
- *Chasing the Milky Way* moon rocks
- *Winter Magic Party Wands and Pendants*

Testimonials

I saw students who dread writing pick up their pencil and write two full pages!

-- Jennifer Mathieu- Principal

Your visit was such a great learning experience for our students and staff.

—Dorothy Stebbins-Language Arts, 5th and 6th grade

Thanks for such a fun visit! The kids loved the soaps.

—Amanda Hogue-Lavallee, Librarian

*The kids loved **Tales from the Cloudland** and are still talking about it!*

—Jude, 1st Grade Para

Erin's visit was fantastic! The kids were engaged for the entire presentation.

—Kathy Smith, Media Specialist

The students and teachers were truly engaged. We'd love to have you back.

—Beth, Middle School Librarian