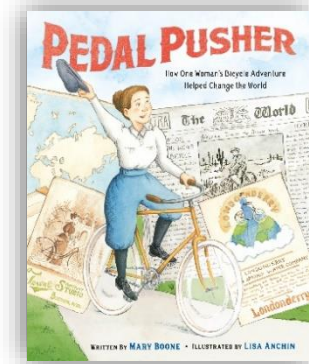
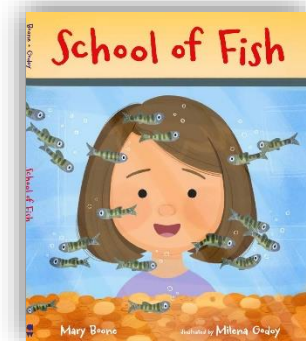


Book a School Visit with Author Mary Boone

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:

School of Fish – Based on my picture book *School of Fish* (Albert Whitman & Co.), this interactive program focuses on biology, habitats, predators, 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.

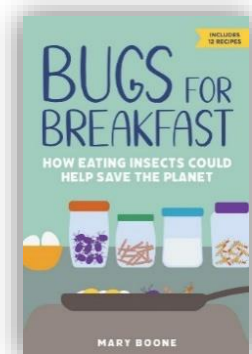


Pedal Pusher – Based on my picture book *Pedal Pusher* (Henry Holt & Co.), this fast-paced program focuses on cyclist Annie Londonderry and the ways in which her journey broke free from Victorian ideals that limited women. Students learn about overcoming obstacles, and the bicycle craze of the 1890s which allowed women to experience freedom, get exercise, and wear more comfortable clothing. Programs include a reading of the book plus insight into the research and revision process. Best for grades K-5.

Primary standard focus: Inquiry-based learning.

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 as food), sustainability, water scarcity, world cultures, 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 food drives; the teacher whose class contributes the most non-perishable goods gets to sample crickets during the presentation. Best for grades K-8.

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, DNA test salmon, 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. Best for grades K-8.
Primary standard focus: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8



2024-2025 School Year Pricing

In-Person

My standard rate is \$400 for a single presentation, \$650/half day (two presentations), or \$900/full day (four presentations plus lunch with teachers or students) **within a one-hour drive of Tacoma, WA.**

Outside my local area, I charge \$1,100 per day plus travel expenses. Discounts may be available and presentation/travel costs can be split between neighboring schools. If, for example, two schools within an hour of one another each want a full-day of programs, they will be charged my *local* in-person rate (\$900 each) and can share lodging costs.

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

In-person visit: \$50 discount for Title 1 or Tribal schools or for schools holding/promoting book sales.

Virtual visit: \$25 discount for Title 1 or Tribal schools or for schools holding book sales.

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

"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



Book Sales Are Easy!

I will work with an independent bookstore in your area or with AuthorVisitCentral.com to coordinate book sales because it's easy for everyone involved. In most cases, orders are web-based so there's no need to collect money or forms.

Regardless of who's filling orders, your responsibility is simply to 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 to 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 work 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 the website 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. I'll work to make sure books get to your school and get them signed ahead of your visit so you can distribute them to students.

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.

The flyer features a circular portrait of Mary Boone, a woman with glasses and a black top. Below the text is a book cover for 'BUGS FOR BREAKFAST' by Mary Boone, which shows a bowl of cereal and a glass of milk. The book cover also includes the subtitle 'HOW EATING INSECTS COULD HELP SAVE THE PLANET'.

How Can We Pay for an Author Visit?

Most schools and school districts aren't flush with cash. I know. I grew up in a less-than-affluent rural district. That's the reason I've worked to make my school visits affordable – plus I offer discounts for Title 1 and Tribal schools, as well as for schools willing to hold and publicize book sales.

I'm always happy to work with principals, librarians, or PTA/PTO representatives to figure out how we can put together a program that works within their budget.

Some additional funding options you may not have considered:

Host a Fundraiser. Schools hold fundraisers all the time, so why not one specifically targeted at paying for an author visit and/or library improvements? Consider a Read-A-Thon, where students get pledges for reading a certain number of minutes or books. How about a bake sale ala Brownies for Books?

A Local Grant. Reach out to your local arts commission, state library association, and area literacy organizations to see if your school might be eligible for a grant that could fund or partially fund an author visit.

Sponsorship. Local businesses are often asked to help sponsor music or sports events. Why not ask if they'd be willing to help cover the cost of an author visit? (Of course, you'll want to mention their support as you promote the event!)

A National Grant or Award. A handful of national organizations and companies provide funding for library and reading-centered programs. Most are awarded annually, so you'll need to plan ahead. A few you might consider:

[American Association of School Librarians Innovative Reading Grant](#)

[Dollar General Literacy Foundation](#)

[Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries](#)

[National Education Association Foundation](#)

[Pilcrow Foundation Grant for Rural and Tribal Libraries](#)

[Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Amber Brown Grant](#)

[Walmart Spark Good Local Grants](#)

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 every single day. But hearing another adult repeat the importance of revision 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 formulating 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 stories live everywhere and we all have the ability to tell them.



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.

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.

Use this schedule to track what needs to be done and when:

Four to Five 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. For example, 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. If I'm speaking about **PEDAL PUSHER**, why not have a Ride Your Bike to School Day? 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

- Last call for book orders. Beyond one final reminder, you don't need to do anything. I'll check in with the independent bookstore handling the sale to ensure they have all the info they need. A box will either be shipped to you or I will pick the books up and bring them with me. 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, revision, or research. 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:
 - a. Where should I park?
 - b. Where should I meet you (or whoever I'm meeting)? If your school is tricky to find, this would be a good time to send directions.
 - c. Track down a microphone (handheld or lapel), screen, projector and cables (I use a Dell laptop and I'll also bring my presentation on a flash drive).
 - d. Make certain I have phone numbers for at least two contacts at the school – just in case



If I'm visiting virtually:

- a. Send me a link.
- b. It's a great idea for us to have a quick tech check in or rehearsal in the days leading up to the visit – just to make sure everything connects smoothly.
- c. 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

- Assign a staff member or parent volunteer (or two) to take photos of the event to share on your school website and/or social media. If you got a grant or sponsorship to fund the visit, you'll also want to share photos with your funders.
- 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.
- For the most part, you just need to sit back and enjoy. All your planning will ensure things go smoothly and students will have fun learning.



Fun + Learning = WINNING