

Presentation Options

I offer several different large-group presentations and writing workshops from which to choose. At least 15 minutes of Q and A is also included with each presentation time. You may choose three total presentations and/or workshops for your students. All age ranges are only suggested and are flexible. Lunch, book signing, and one extra small-group Q and A session (for a special book club, superfans, voracious readers or writers, etc.) are also included.

Large-group presentations (I will present to as many students as you can fit in your space)

1. **Be a Reader: Kindergarten-3rd grade** (about 45 minutes)
This presentation expands on the importance of reading. I also talk about my Aven Green chapter-book series.
2. **Life in the Desert: Preschool-3rd grade** (about 45 minutes)
This presentation is entirely about my life in the Sonoran Desert, which provides a lot of inspiration for my stories. I also have desert specimens to share with the students.
3. **From Spark to Story: Grades 3-8** (about one hour)
This is my main presentation, during which I discuss the inspiration for my middle-grade novels, including *Insignificant and Momentous Events in the Life of a Cactus*, *24 Hours in Nowhere*, *The Canyon's Edge*, and *Across the Desert*. I also share writing tips and talk about my path to publication. **If you can only pick one presentation for your school, I would recommend this one.**
4. **Encouraging a Love of Reading: Geared toward whole families** (about one hour)
In this presentation, I discuss ways for encouraging a love of reading in children. Great for parents or evening family events.

Workshops and recommended ages (all workshops are about 1 hour)

1. **Finding Your Inner Storyteller** (all ages)
In this workshop, we explore various ways to spark new and creative story ideas. Using music, picture prompts, story prompts, story chains, and conversations, students are sure to come up with something creative. Great for reluctant writers.
2. **The Importance of Having a Clear Story Goal** (ages 7-12)
In this workshop, we discuss why having strong story goal is crucial to making your reader interested in your stories. We also do a fun (and funny) writing activity.
3. **Creating a Vivid Setting** (ages 8-14)
In this workshop, we discuss how to bring our settings to life using important (but not boring) details. Several activities are included.

4. Writing Authentic Characters (ages 10-14)

In this workshop, we discuss what makes characters realistic and relatable, how to bring characters to life, and how to write strong conversations.

5. Poetry for Beginners (ages 10-14)

In this workshop, we discuss the various kinds of poetry and techniques used in *The Canyon's Edge* and other books in verse: Free verse, haiku, acrostic poems, alliteration, metaphor, and rewriting. Several writing activities are included.

6. Story Beats (ages 12-18)

This workshop is intended for slightly older, serious story writers. In this workshop, we go over the 15 beats that make up a solid plot. We then work at fitting our own ideas into the story beats to make a well-paced, well-plotted outline of our stories.