

Full-day Visit Details

I offer four different large-group presentations and four different 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:** Geared toward 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:** Geared toward 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:** Geared toward 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*, and *The Canyon's Edge*. 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. **The Importance of 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.
2. **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.
3. **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 believable dialogue. Several writing activities are included.
4. **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.