

Dana Perri Presents

SCHOOL Visits

Using lessons from the books which incorporate the Pillars of Character and learning activities aligned to Common Core, Dana engages the students in discussions about the story and how to use the Think then Jump™ concept in their own lives. Each example is a reinforcement for building strong character traits. Dana also includes a variety of verbal, visual and sensory exercises to enhance their language arts and imagination skills.

Below are several sample Author Day Presentations from which to choose, depending on the age of the students. However, Dana's specialty is customizing a workshop depending on the grade, objectives and skills. She works closely with school principals and PTA tailoring presentations to specific curriculum. Book a visit: dana@2fishinc.com

Option # 1

Language Arts / Life Lessons

Geared toward Pre-K– 2nd Grade

20–35 minutes reading/interaction per class

Maximum of 6 classes/day

Dana reads her books then engages the students in an active conversation about the stories and how books can teach us life lessons. In discussing the concept of Think...then Jump™, the everyday examples given demonstrate that being thoughtful doesn't mean they can't have fun in life. Dana follows up by discussing the importance of details and illustrations using visual examples of the process and teamwork needed. She concludes with fun exercises that help expand their imaginations and see the many possibilities the world has painted for us.

Option # 4

Story Cube Workshop

Geared toward Grades 3–4

40 minutes of reading/interaction, review of story & cube elements (student hands on activity)

Maximum of 5 classes/day

The story cube workshop focuses on the importance of gathering the basic elements of a story to help guide a writer through the writing process. After reading one of her stories, Dana will demonstrate (with the help of the students) how her story has all the basic elements needed to create a solid story. This exercise also shows the students how to create their own story cube by showing examples of characters, a setting, a plot, conflict, etc. The students are given story cubes and asked to come up with ideas for their own story. Dana, along with the teacher(s)' assistance, will guide the students through the work process. At the end of the session, several students who have completed the task will be asked to share their ideas with their fellow students.

Option # 2

Character Building:

"Thoughtful Me - Special You"

Geared toward Grades 2-3

15 minutes reading & 20 minutes of class activity

Maximum of 6 classes/day

This approach includes the reading/discussion portion from above as well as invites the students to partake in a thoughtful exercise. Each student is given a paper lily pad to write their name and place into a bowl. They then pick out a lily pad with another student's name. Quietly thinking, they are asked to write 3 nice characteristics about that student. Then one by one each is read aloud, bringing pride and joy to all.

Option # 5

Writing Workshop Assembly & Small Group

Geared toward Grades 3–5

40 minute assembly to review writing elements, followed by 30–40 minutes of small group workshop with student writing

Maximum 1 assembly with 3–4 small groups/day

This workshop requires that two periods of school day be dedicated to the students' involvement in writing. The teachers, along with Dana, will also need to participate in helping the students write and edit their stories. The workshop begins with the assembly. Dana reads from her books and then discusses the storylines, the author's motivation and purpose. The next part of the presentation focuses on reviewing the essentials needed to write a good story. All students will be given a writing guideline packet for their small group workshop. Dana will then visit the students in small group setting to review the basics and conduct rhyming and imagination exercises to help spark their creativity. The students then will have the opportunity to write their own stories. Dana and the teacher will assist and edit their work. At the end of the day, the classes come together to hear 3-5 selected stories to be read aloud by the "authors." The students then ask the new authors what motivated them as writers.

Option # 3

Author Purpose - What's the Point?

Geared toward Grades 1-3

10 minutes of reading & 25 minutes interaction

Maximum of 6 classes/day

This approach would include the reading and discussion portion from Option #1 as well as a deeper discussion about the author's purpose and inspiration. Dana will share several anecdotes about how she was inspired to write her stories. "What is the author trying to convey? Is the message obvious or hidden? Why use animals vs. people in a story?" The students will have ample time for these questions and others, engaging in a dialogue about the writing process.