

An Author Visit from Michelle Mulder



I am the author of eight books for children, including *Out of the Box* (Orca 2011) and *After Peaches* (Orca 2009). I love visiting schools to share my enthusiasm for reading, writing, and social activism, and to talk about how an idea becomes a book. My presentations are lively, interactive, and curriculum-linked, and my rate is \$250 for one session, \$475 for two, \$675 for three, or \$900 for four (full-day). Below are some samples of my presentations. For more information, please contact me at michelle@michellemulder.com

Novels (ages 7-13)

I begin by asking what the students like to read and why, and I use this to spring into discussion of the writing process and turning dreams into reality. I talk about how I started writing, how my ideas became stories, how the stories became books, and why I write about kids who are changing the world around them. I share with students items that were useful to me in my historical research (newspaper clippings from 1947; radio broadcasts I listened to; film footage; and photographs that inspired scenes in my books). We also explore the ideas of rewriting, editing and publishing, and I offer a glimpse of the extensive red ink on my early drafts.

My novels focus on social justice. Through anecdotes, thought-provoking questions, and plenty of discussion, I aim to inspire young people to reconsider their place in the world and how they can make their mark.

This presentation lasts about an hour and is designed for up to 70 students. I love speaking in school libraries or classrooms. No gyms, please.

Equipment requirements: a projector/screen and computer for my power point presentation, a table, and a chair

Writing Workshops (for students ages 9 and up who display a strong interest in writing)

I come to each workshop with questions, ideas for brainstorming, a handful of writing exercises, and plenty of flexibility. Led and fed by the experiences and interests of the students, I explore the idea of inspiration, where to find it and how to keep it; how to develop characters, plot and setting; and revisions. I aim to spark lively discussion and excitement about reading, writing, and the power of story.

My workshops last two hours and work best with up to thirty students.

Equipment requirements: white board, chalk board or flip-chart, a table, and a chair.