



Lori  
Calabrese



## School visits with author Lori Calabrese

*Lori Calabrese is an award-winning children's author who writes novels, picture books, short stories, articles, crafts and experiments for children. A former Television Producer, Lori is now a full-time author who shares her joy of writing and reading with students in presentations full of visual props and ready-to-use ideas.*

*Where do you get your ideas? What's it like to be an author?*

*Inquisitive minds want to know and what's better than showing children that real people can make a career out of writing? Lori welcomes the opportunity to share her passion of children's books and would be happy to discuss customizing a presentation to your needs.*



Bring the fresh perspective of a working writer to your students by inviting Lori Calabrese to your school. Lori will inspire your students with humor, fun, and hands-on activities. The wide-ranging discussion that takes place also focuses on how the creative writing process can infuse students with a life-long love of reading and a respect for books in addition to tackling the power of the imagination.

- If a digital projector is available, Lori will present a PowerPoint presentation and can project her books so everyone can see the pages easily.
- Using visual props, Lori shows-and-tells her way through personal stories and often enlists students in a demonstration.
- Lori gives students a chance to ask questions.

Cost

*Lori currently visits Connecticut and Eastern New York.*

*\$150 for a single presentation, day or evening, up to one hour; book signing may extend beyond that hour at no additional charge.*

*\$250 for half-day (2 presentations, up to an hour each)*

*\$350 for full-day (3 presentations, up to an hour each)*

*Because of drive time, visits beyond 75 miles will be considered full day (\$350), regardless the number of presentations.*

For more information, contact:

Lori Calabrese

[calabrese.lori@gmail.com](mailto:calabrese.lori@gmail.com)

[www.loricalabrese.com](http://www.loricalabrese.com)

## **ASSEMBLIES**

### **Fun with Books (PreK- Grade 3)**

Lori will have the children involved in an interactive read of her most recent book, *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade*. Children will discuss germs and bugs, two of the topics featured in Lori's award-winning picture book. Using fun props, children will learn that every writer has the same materials (pen, paper, computer), but the results are different. Each person has the ability to create something special using nothing but their own words and imagination.

### **Connecting Kids to Books (Grade 3 and up)**

Lori will inspire students with information about authors and the writing process. Using samples from her most recent books, this presentation follows the road to publication, explaining how a book evolves from an idea in a writer's mind to a finished book for sale in a store. Lori will explain the excitement, and also the bumps, hills and potholes that come along with publishing your writing. Children will learn that every writer has the same materials (pen, paper, computer), but the results are different. Each person has the ability to create something unique and they can create something special using nothing but their own words and imagination. Children will be reminded that everything their teachers ask them to do in their writing is true for professional writers. And even though writing is hard work, it's also rewarding.

Lori's presentations include...

- a Q&A session where Lori will answer questions about the writing process, the life of a writer, the business of writing, and other writing topics.
- an informal lunchtime QA with a small group of students and/or faculty.

### **Presentations length**

K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade are 30 minutes

3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Up are 60 minutes

### **The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: Constructive Criticism**

Want to teach your students about constructive criticism and connect your students to the people who write books? The good form of criticism is known as constructive criticism. It offers valid feedback both positive and negative. Help students understand the complexities of constructive criticism, so that students can better recognize, react to, and reflect on the information they receive from teachers, peers and mentors. Lori enjoys receiving constructive criticism letters from students and it's also a great way to prepare for one of her visits.



## About the Author

### Lori Calabrese



Lori Calabrese is an award-winning children's author. Lori grew up on Long Island and currently lives in Seymour, CT with her husband and two sons. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Communications from St. John's University in Queens, New York, Lori worked in television for Lifetime and the New York Mets. She later went on to become a managing producer at World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. where she wrote scripts for TV shows and DVDs and traveled extensively for ten years.

After the birth of her two boys, she rediscovered her love of writing and made the leap to become a full-time freelance magazine and children's book writer. Since then, she's written about everything from Ancient Romans washing their clothes in urine to peculiar penguins to animals that play dead. It took two years of intense research and honing her writing skills to receive a contract for her first picture book, *The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade*, which was awarded DFP's 2009 Best Children's Book award.

Lori's publication credits include *Boys' Life*, *Odyssey*, *Appleseeds*, *Focus on the Family Clubhouse, Jr.*, *Turtle Magazine for Preschool Kids*, *Stories for Children Magazine* and *The Institute of Children's Literature's Rx for Writers*. Lori is a graduate of The Institute of Children's Literature, a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, and the National Children's Books Examiner at [Examiner.com](http://Examiner.com). Lori enjoys sharing her passion for children's books at festivals, schools and events. Visit her website to learn more, [www.loricalabrese.com](http://www.loricalabrese.com).

### 2009 Best Children's Book, DFP Awards

*For more information on the Author please visit:*

[www.LoriCalabrese.com](http://www.LoriCalabrese.com)

## **PLANNING MATERIALS**

To prepare your students, it's important to read Lori's books to your class or have the students read them independently. Reading and talking about her work ahead of time will help your students have a richer, more meaningful experience. You can also generate further interest by planning fun activities and contests. (for ideas, please visit <http://thebugbooklaunch.blogspot.com>)

The Teacher's Guides included with this packet will help you:

- Build up to your author visit with activities based on Lori's books.
- Link Lori's books and the information she will present in the programs with your curriculum.
- Continue to use ideas from Lori's presentations and books as a touchstone for the rest of the school year.

### **Schedule**

When you plan your schedule, please allow a minimum of 10 minutes between presentations, so Lori can set up before the next program. And, sometime during the day, please sandwich in a little time for a healthy lunch.

### **Equipment Needs**

Table or podium for laptop

Table for student demonstration

5 Chairs at one table for student demonstration

If the size of the group and room necessitates—a microphone (preferably clip-on)

Digital projector and screen, and someone experienced with the equipment to make sure it runs smoothly

## **BOOK SALE & SIGNING**

When a child takes home a book signed and personalized by an author he or she has met, it confirms for the child that the adults at school and at home respect the author's work and truly believe reading is important!

Book ordering is easy if you start early—at least 6 to 8 weeks before your school's author visit. This should allow plenty of time for ordering and delivery.

Please order books well in advance, either through Lori Calabrese or your local bookstore, which may give a bulk discount. After you talk with your bookseller, you can modify the sample book sale and signing letter (found on the next page) and send it home to parents.

There are 2 simple ways to manage a book sale/ signing in conjunction with Lori's visit:

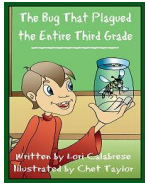
1. Lori will provide books at a discount. Distribute the book sale and signing letter (see next page) to the children then contact Lori with an order tally for each book. Checks can be made out to Lori Calabrese. I'll deliver the books on the day of my visit. I am happy to sign books prior to my visit or before or after the sessions.
2. Partnering with a Bookstore: Team up with your local bookstore. Modify and distribute the book sale and signing letter (see next page) to each student. Collect payment and phone-in order to the bookstore. The store handles the rest. Most stores give a 20% discount for school orders and this can be used for fund-raising, or the savings can be passed through to the kids. Someone from your school will need to pick up the order from the store.

Whichever method you choose, I'm happy to help. Please let me know what you need.



## Book Sale and Signing with Award Winning Children's Author

Author Lori Calabrese will be visiting our school on \_\_\_\_\_.  
If you would like your child to have a book signed by the author or to order books for gifts, please  
complete and return this form with payment to your child's teacher by \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please make checks payable to: \_\_\_\_\_.



"This wonderfully animated and colorful book will have readers turning the pages to see what happens next. The rhyming will send your tongue twisting and bouncing with every word. Parents and teachers will love this book along with anyone who loves a bug adventure. "

--Kristi Bernard, *Kristi's Book Nook Review*



Student's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Book Title</u>	<u># of Copies</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade ( <b>hard cover</b> )	_____	\$22.99	_____
The Bug That Plagued the Entire Third Grade ( <b>soft cover</b> )	_____	\$11.99	_____

Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your books personalized, please fill out the information below. (please print)

\_\_\_\_ Please simply autograph our books with no personalization.

\_\_\_\_ Please personalize our book(s) with the following first name(s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHECKLIST FOR A SUCCESSFUL AUTHOR VISIT**

Lori Calabrese's scheduled visit date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nine Months to One Year in Advance**

- Contact Lori Calabrese
- Seek funding approval
- Set dates and times

### **Two to Three Months in Advance**

- Contact Lori Calabrese or a local bookseller to enlist help in ordering books for your upcoming book sale and signing. Just plug in your school zip code to find some local booksellers at <http://www.indiebound.org/indie-store-finder>
- Make a list of special equipment or materials Lori will need during the visit
- Plan and confirm the schedule, making sure to allow at least 10 minutes between presentation, and setting aside time for lunch.
- Order two copies of Lori's books for the library.
- Prepare teacher packets to include copies of teacher's guides, activity sheets, and biographical material about Lori.
- Lori will send you a contract/ invoice to pass along to the school's accountant, PTA, grant organization, or whoever will be handling payment.
- Distribute book sale and signing letter to families along with activity sheets families can use in preparation for the visit (coloring page, word find)
- Order books for author signing from Lori Calabrese or a local bookstore

### **Three Weeks to One Month in Advance**

- Provide copies of Lori's books to the teachers, so they have time to read and discuss them with their students
- Set up bulletin boards

### **Two weeks before**

- Order author check from funding source.
- Pick up ordered books (if ordered through local bookseller).
- Insert into each book a completed form from the Book Sale and Signing Letter with the necessary autographing information.
- Obtain author supplies and equipment.

### **Day of**

- Have FUN!

### Author Appearance Confirmation

Thank you for inviting me to your school. I look forward to spending time with your teachers and students, and to sharing information about books and writing. This confirms the details of our agreement:

#### SCHOOL CONTACT:

School Name/ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Lori will give up to 3 presentations of 30-60 minutes in length, adapted to age of audience. Using a computer slide show, Lori will discuss writing and the publication process, from the initial idea to the final published book, leaving time at the end for audience questions. She also will have one autographing session to sign pre-purchased books.

#### DETAILS OF VISIT:

- Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_
- Start time of first program: \_\_\_\_\_
- End time of last program: \_\_\_\_\_
- Number of presentations (up to 3, plus one autograph session): \_\_\_\_\_
- Audience size and grade levels for each program:
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 30 minutes for set-up and at least 10 minutes between presentations.

**HONORARIUM** (due on day of visit): \_\_\_\_\_

#### EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:

School will provide a digital projector (for use with Lori's PowerPoint presentation), a screen, a table or podium for the laptop, an additional table and five chairs for student demonstration, and—if the size of the group and room necessitates—a microphone (preferably clip-on).

#### BOOK SALES:

School will arrange for pre-sale of books either through Lori Calabrese or through a local bookseller. Lori will provide a sample order form of books in print, and will sign book prior or on the day of the visit.

#### Agreed to by:

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and sign two copies. I will return one signed copy for your records.

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