Marty Kelley

Author Visits

All about me.

Me.

Probably not me.

Contact Information:

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I'm currently a children's author and illustrator but have, in the past, been a second grade teacher, a baker, a cartoonist, a newspaper art director, a drummer in a heavy metal band, a balloon delivery guy, an animator, and lots of other things. I'll probably continue writing and illustrating children's books for many years to come because there are few other jobs where being able to paint a perfect booger-bubble is an actual job requirement.

My career as an artist started when I began drawing historically accurate pictures of spaceships blasting dinosaurs with laser beams. When I started going to school, I found even more artistic fulfillment in drawing advanced character studies of my teachers.

By the time I was a freshman in high school, I had a regular comic strip published in our local town paper. After high school, I attended The School of the Museum of Fine Arts to become an animator.

Shortly after art school, I had a career crisis and moved to Florida where I went back to school and got my degree in elementary education. I taught second grade for several years before making the decision to pursue writing and illustrating full-time.

In my spare time, I visit lots and lots of schools to show students how I create my books. I'm a juried member of the NH State Council for the Arts Visiting Artist Roster.

All About My Author Visits

My author presentations are a fun, fast-paced explanation of how I create my books. Whether I am visiting in-person or virtually, I include the same information.

Using an interactive digital slide show, I explain the writing process from generating ideas to the final book. I emphasize all the revising and editing I do to my work to finish it. I share many rough drafts with the students and explain why it's so important to keep working and reworking the writing. I show how the story develops and improves as I continue revising my work.

I also show how I create the artwork to go with the books. I share thumbnail sketches, reference pictures, and final artwork. I explain how the writing and illustrating processes are linked for me and how words and pictures work together to build the story.

I include a drawing demonstration and end each presentation with time for questions from the audience.

I offer three different, age-appropriate versions of my presentations:

•Kindergarten - Focuses on the creation of text and art for a book for younger readers.
•Grades 1 and Up - Focuses on the development of writing and illustrations for a book.
•Family - A fun, all-ages presentation for libraries and family events.

School Visit Pricing

In-Person Visits:

In an effort to offer the best value to both small and large schools, I offer 2 different in-person pricing options for presentations during the school day:

Single presentations - $585

45 minutes - Strictly limited to a maximum of 125 students per presentation.

3 Presentation Package - $1,675

Up to 3 presentations per day, no maximum number of students per presentation.

Family/Evening Presentation - $685

A 45 minute presentation appropriate for all ages. No limit on number of attendees.

Block Booking Discounts are available for in-person visits.

Travel fees:

I'm located in southern NH.

Up to 1 hour drive - No travel fee

1-2.5 hour drive - Current IRS mileage reimbursement rate

2.5-8 hour drive - Current IRS mileage reimbursement rate+ $250/day food & lodging fee

(5+ hour drive requires 2 night stay.)

Over 8 hour drive - Actual travel charges for airline, hotel, rental car, meals

Virtual Visits:

Single Virtual Presentation: $425

35-40 minutes. Limited to 5 classes per virtual presentation.

Each Additional Virtual Presentation on the Same Day: $350

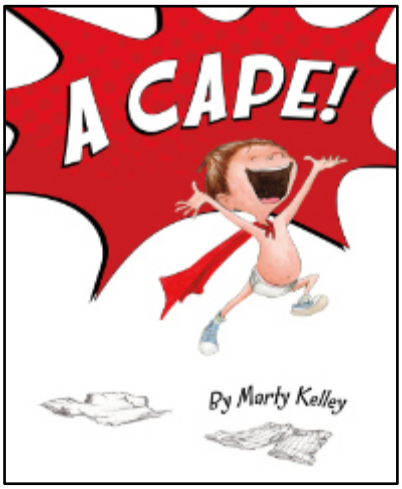
Book up to 4 virtual classroom presentations for your school on the same day.

Evening Family Virtual Presentation: $525

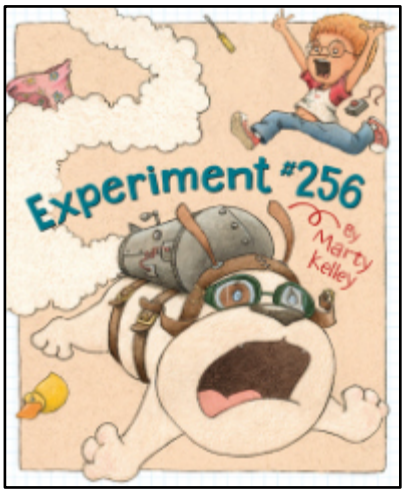
35-40 minutes.

Some of my books:

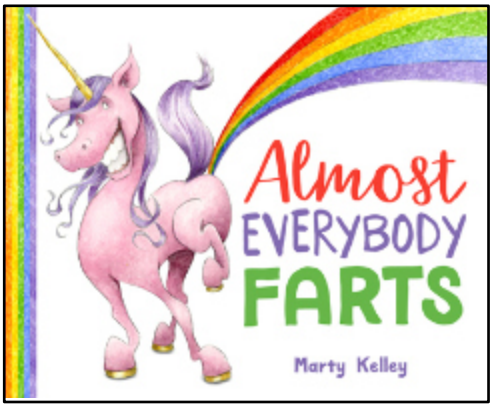
Chapter book/graphic novel



Picture book

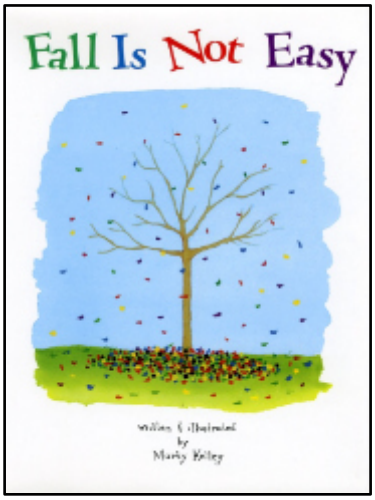


Picture book



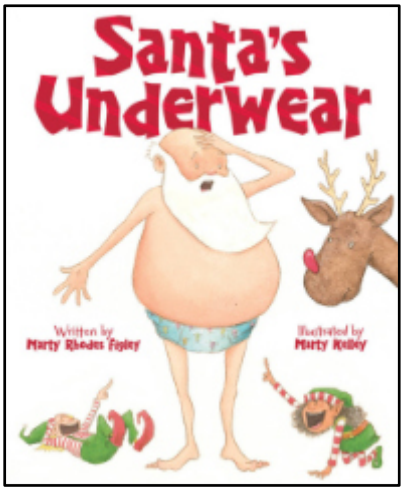
Picture book

84 page graphic novel

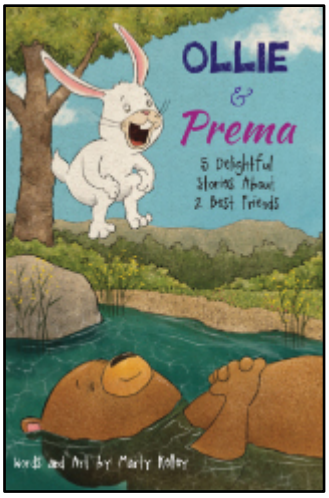


Picture book

Early chapter book series



Picture book



Early chapter book

How to Have the Greatest Author Visit in the History of the Universe!

I've been writing books and visiting schools for over 20 years. After visiting hundreds of schools and presenting to tens of thousands of students, I know that hosting an author visit can be an amazing opportunity to inspire even your most reluctant writers.

I will always work my hardest to give your school the best presentation I can, but advance preparation by teachers, librarians, and administration is the key to assuring that the visit is an unforgettable experience for your students and staff.

Teachers make a huge difference during presentations by modeling excellent audience behavior. Get involved! Have fun! Ask questions! Here are some tips to get you prepare.

Make sure that the students know an author is coming!

It sounds simple, but I have visited schools only to find that the students had no idea who I was or why I was at their school.

Decorate your lobby.

Make art projects.

Create a bulletin board.

Introduce students to the author's work!

Students will be much more excited about a presentation if they have some sort of connection with the author and some knowledge about what that author does.

Ask trivia questions during your daily announcements. Have a school newspaper write a story about the visit. Share books in classrooms. Write and share reviews of the author's books.

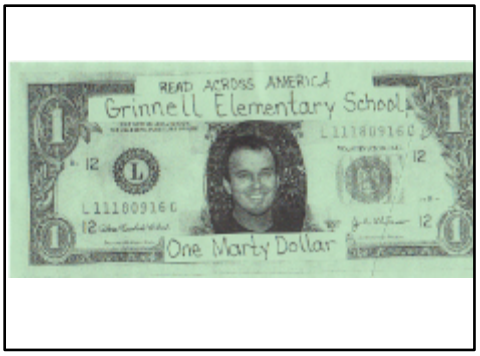
Make a hall display.

Library author spotlight.

Decorate classroom doors.

Get staff and students involved. Make it fun!

Teachers and students are amazingly creative. Include art, music, and PE classes!
•Involve specials: make music, create P.E. Games, make art, do a science experiment, write your own math problems, create food based on the author's books. Here are some ingenious ideas to get you started.

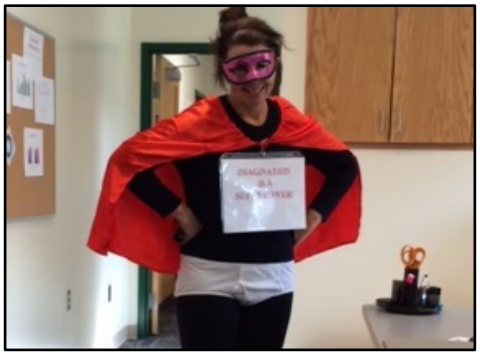


Make author bucks.

Tattoo your students!

Write and perform a class play based on a book.

Rename school hallways.



Dress up like book characters.

Play author website bingo.

Write new versions of the author's books.

Make GIANT new art for a book.

Create book-based science experiments.

The more you put into an author presentation, the more your students will benefit.

Click here to check out even more ideas on my website!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Thank you!

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