

# Stacy McAulty

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## All About My Author Visits

### **We're Doing This!**

Hi! And thank you for inviting me to your school. I love meeting readers. Below, you'll find lots of details and answers to common questions. Still, there's probably something I missed. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

**Contact me: [author.stacymcaulty@gmail.com](mailto:author.stacymcaulty@gmail.com)**

### **The Author Village**

The fabulous folks at The Author Village have been (and will continue) handling all the paperwork and logistics. This includes contracts, tax forms, travel approval, scheduling, receipt collecting, etc. They will reach out with questions to help organize the visit, and you can contact them with your administration needs. If you have any hiccups with this, please let me know.

### **Busy, busy day(s)!**

Generally, an author visit consists of three 45-minute presentations, lunch with the author for a small group of students, and book signing(s). If you have different needs, this should have been covered in the initial contract. But no worries if we need to tweak anything. Just let me and The Author Village know ASAP. This is your day. I want it to be great!

### **Ready, Set, Present!**

I offer numerous presentations—a little something for everyone. The options are listed on my website at [stacymcaulty.com/school-visit-info](http://stacymcaulty.com/school-visit-info). When working on your schedule, please let me know what program you'd prefer. If you don't have a preference, that's fine too. I'll share my most popular presentation for that age group. If there are any special requests, they need to be made at least four weeks ahead of time.

- Programs work best when readers of similar ages are grouped together. For example: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8.
- I allow for a few minutes of Q&A at the end. For younger grades, it works well when a class has prepared their question(s) ahead of time, and a student has been selected to ask the questions.

### **Technology: The Ins and Outs**

All my programs use MS PowerPoint. I will bring my MacBook, a remote, and a multiport adaptor to connect with your projector, TV, or SmartBoard. As a backup, I will also have my PowerPoint

presentations on a thumb drive that can be used on a school computer (but I prefer to use my own Mac).

- The multiport adaptor can connect to USB, USB-C, VGA, RJ45/Ethernet, and HDMI.
- My MacBook battery can last for two presentations. We will need to charge it in between or have an outlet available.
- Generally, I need less than ten minutes to set up my equipment if the TV, SmartBoard, or projector and screen are already up and running. Please allow for twenty minutes if we need to get everything going. A tech person nearby is ideal.
- I only need five to ten minutes between presentations—just enough time to reset the PowerPoint slide shows and allow for a bathroom break.
- Please provide a microphone in large spaces like an auditorium or cafeteria.

## **Yummy Time**

Thank you in advance for providing lunch. I love spending this extra time with readers and/or educators. Commonly, a small group of students (12-20) is invited to a special lunch with the author. We eat and chat; there is no formal program. Sometimes, I spend lunch with the teachers—which is also great—getting to know them and the school. Sometimes, it is just the librarian and me enjoying a little downtime. On occasion, we've even gone out to lunch. It's whatever works best for you and the school.

- I don't have food allergies. However, I do not eat red meat. I'm fine drinking water, but I also like Diet Coke.
- Generally, I do not eat cafeteria food. (There have been exceptions when schools have great food service.)
- It can be tricky to select which kids can join the author lunch. Here are some ideas other schools have used: essay contest, battle-of-the-books team, library helpers, classroom teachers' selection, student council, reading contest, or a lottery for interested students.

## **Book Sales and Signings**

I appreciate the effort and time a well-coordinated book sales requires. For librarians and their volunteers, it is probably the most time-consuming part of the visit.

I love indie bookstores, and they are often the best option for coordinating a book sale. Some even offer a discount. If you do not have a local bookshop, you can use online retailers like Amazon or Barnes and Noble. I'd also recommend Bookmarks in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. They're a nonprofit bookshop that can handle large orders and ship the books directly to you. (Please allow ample time for ordering and shipping.)

Bookmarks Contact: Caleb McMasters [caleb@bookmarksnc.org](mailto:caleb@bookmarksnc.org)

For book signing, I can autograph the books with or without the students present. It's the school's choice. All books should have the child's name clearly printed on a sticky note (or paper) and placed on the title page.

- Feel free to reach out to me when selecting titles for book presales. Usually, offering six to ten different books works well. (More choices can be overwhelming to students and parents.)
- I am happy to sign books kids bring in from home. However, some schools cannot accommodate this, which is fine too. It's the school's choice how to handle this situation.

- I only sign books. Once I start autographing notebooks or slips of paper, everyone lines up, and there's just not time. As an alternative, some schools ask me to sign a single sheet of bookmarks that they then photocopy and distribute.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

These are just some of the questions school hosts ask me.

#### **Do you need a chair or podium?**

Nope. I don't sit, and I move around a lot. I will need a place to set my laptop and my water bottle.

#### **Can the students interview you?**

Yes. I'm yours for the day. If it fits in your schedule, I'm usually game. (I even danced with one class during morning meeting time.) Feel free to email me with special requests.

#### **Can you do more than three presentations?**

Generally, no. Presenting can be exhausting. If you require more than three presentations, that must be in the contract. Thanks for understanding.

#### **What books should I read to the students before your visit?**

I don't require any homework. But author visits are best when students know who I am before I set foot on campus. Sharing a few picture books or an opening chapter can be a great intro to me and my books. You will also receive a video message from me 4 to 6 weeks before our date.

#### **Do you want to go to dinner?**

Schools are not expected to entertain me in the evenings. However, some educators have taken me out to dinner—both in big groups and small groups. If your school would like to do this, just let me know.

#### **Can we take pictures?**

I love pictures. Please take all the pictures you'd like but no video of my presentations. (Video interviews are a-ok.) If you put photos online, please tag me. I'm @StacyMcAnulty on Twitter and Instagram.

#### **Anything else?**

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I'm happy to help and want this to be the best author visit for your readers.

**Contact me: [author.stacymcanulty@gmail.com](mailto:author.stacymcanulty@gmail.com)**