

LOREE GRIFFIN BURNS, AUTHOR

Frequently Asked Questions

www.loreeburns.com

Do you visit schools?

Yes! I enjoy sharing my work with students and teachers, and I have visited elementary and middle schools across the country over the past fifteen years. I also visit libraries, bookstores, museums, book festivals, nature celebrations, and other events.

What grades do you visit?

I offer age-appropriate science-themed enrichment presentations for students in kindergarten through grade 8. For K-2/3 students, my presentations are 30 minutes long, including time for questions and answers. For older students (3/4-8) my presentations last about an hour, including time for students to ask questions.

Do you charge for school visits?

Yes. My fee for a visit within sixty (or so) miles of Worcester, Massachusetts is \$2500. I do offer discounts to districts that book me at more than one school; please drop me an email and we can discuss.

For visits further afield (of which I do only a few each year) mileage and accommodation fees will apply; contact me directly to discuss these visits further.

What does your visit include?

A day-long visit typically includes four presentations, a special student meeting (for example, lunch with student writers), and a book sale/signing if requested. There is wiggle room here for schools with younger students/shorter presentation needs.

How many students can you speak to at once?

The most important factor guiding this decision, of course, is the students. My wish (and yours, I know) is that the students I visit have an exciting and inspirational experience. Given the topics I discuss and my presentation style, I find that smallish groups work best; I work with groups of up to, but not more than, 100 students at a time.

If you have a bigger group, fear not! I can adapt presentations for larger audiences. Let's talk.

Do you charge for library visits?

Yes. My fee for library visits within 120 miles of Worcester, Massachusetts is \$500. This includes a single hour-long presentation, plenty of time for questions and answers, and a book signing.

Do you sell books during your visit?

Selling books is not a requirement for me to visit a school or library, but I strongly encourage schools to consider it. And I am happy to help work through the logistics of creating a book sale. Just drop me a line and we can talk through the options below.

How can we sell books during your visit?

There are three options for selling my books at your event:

1. You can order books through me, either before or after my visit. This scenario involves some paperwork on the part of the school; contact me by email for more information.
2. You can order books directly from my publishers, often at a discount, and conduct a sale on the day of my visit. Please contact a sales associate at the appropriate publisher (listed below) to see if discounts apply to your school; let them know at the time you call that you are ordering books for an Author Event.
 HarperCollins/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: 1-800-225-3362
 Henry Holt Books for Young Readers: 1-888-330-8477
 Lerner Publishing: 1-800-328-4929
 Charlesbridge Publishing/Penguin Random House: 1-800-733-3000
3. You can arrange to have your favorite independent bookseller provide books for a book sale. Many independent and chain booksellers are willing to do this! In this scenario the responsibility of ordering, delivering, selling, and carting away books is taken off your hands. Contact your favorite local bookseller for more information or reach out to me and I'll try to connect you with one.

Selling books sounds complicated! Is it worth it?

This is up to you. Students love to have books signed by an author, especially after they have met her in their classroom. But there is some legwork involved in setting up a book sale and this will require a commitment from your organization. If you decide to pursue a book sale, I am more than happy to help you work through the details. Just ask!

What do you talk about?

Sample presentations are described on the School Visits page of my website. I can focus on language arts (conceptualizing, researching, proposing, writing, editing, and publishing a book), on science and the environment (the content of my published books and works in progress), or on a combination of the two. I am always excited to work with teachers, librarians, and parents to create a program that will benefit students and complement their grade level curriculum.

How do you talk about it?

I travel with an LCD projector and a laptop in order to display a Powerpoint slide presentation. I also bring various props into classrooms, including edited and unedited manuscripts, galleys and proofs, science tools, cool outdoor finds, and other things relevant to the subject of my talk.

What do we have to provide?

I will need a schedule for the day, including the time of all the planned presentations or student meetings, the number of students in each, and the grade level of those students. Keep in mind that if I am moving between presentation spaces and using my own equipment, I'll need time to shut down, move, and reboot my equipment. This is less of a factor when I'm working with school projectors and smart boards.

Please provide me with your school's physical address so that I can find it on the day of the visit. Parking tips are

always appreciated.

I will need a screen or clean wall to project onto, a small table or two for my supplies, and two three-prong electrical outlets.

That's it!

That's it?

Yep. Actually, it is *great* when students have been prepared for my visit. It's not necessary for students to have read my books before I arrive ... but they should know that I am an author and a scientist, that I write about science and scientists for young readers, and that I am going to talk about the topics I have explored in my books. It would be lovely if your school library had copies of my book on hand, too, so that students can explore them in full after my visit. *They will want to!*

How do I book a visit?

Contact me by email through my website with the name and location of your school and the date(s) you are hoping for me to visit. I'll let you know if I'm available and we can move forward from there.

Do you use a contract?

No. But once we have confirmed a date for my visit and a schedule for the day, I will send you (or your school Principal) a commitment letter. This serves as our contract and spells out the details of what each of us can expect from the day.

When do we pay you?

On the day of my visit, please.

Can you give more than four talks in a day?

Sometimes, but additional fees may apply. Send me an email and we can talk about it.