



Author Visit Presentations

Reading to and with children is the best way to nurture a love for books, and later, reading. Author visits can bring books to life and help children make connections between stories and personal experiences.

Valerie will give up to four individual classroom presentations for young children. Presentations are approximately 30-45 minutes depending on the age of the children. Large group presentations run 45 minutes to 1 hour and are usually for older children. She will have order forms to send home before her visit so pre-ordered books signed with a personalized message are ready to take home. Additional books will be available on the day of the visit.

Speaking fee is negotiable. Please contact Valerie to discuss the best way to have a local author visit your school.

The Story behind *The Story the Little Christmas Tree Told*

This topic gives the students an opportunity to share family traditions. Valerie will begin by reading *The Story the Little Christmas Tree Told*. She will talk about the traditions in *The Story the Little Christmas Tree Told* and the similarities to those of her family. Time will allow for students to share their family traditions. She will bring some of her favorite Christmas ornaments and show how they fit into the book. If permitted by the school, she will bring a Doshier's candy cane or peppermint treat for each student.

How a Story Becomes a Book

Valerie will begin by reading *The Story the Little Christmas Tree Told*. She will discuss the process of writing and editing and how the story was divided to make page turning logical and necessary for a children's book. She will bring early sketches and some of the original oil paintings that became the illustrations. The students will participate in "Between the Covers," a rhyming seek and find game with the illustrations. Stories the students write today may one day become a book just as Valerie's great-grandmother's letter to her grandchildren was published.

Preschool Presentations

Valerie will read *The Story the Little Christmas Tree Told* and show some of the original oil paintings that became the illustrations. She will play a preschool version of "Between the Covers," a rhyming seek and find game with the children. A picture of a little pine tree drawn by Elizabeth Guilford will be given to each child to decorate.