

## Tips for a Successful School Visit

**Ahead of the Visit:** It is great if the kids can get familiarized with my books. Please let me know if classes or groups are reading any of my books, because I can focus on that book or books in my presentation, and tell “the story behind the story,” which helps to spark further interest. Also let me know if there are classes studying any of the following: immigration, holocaust or WWII, trees, weather, Asia (especially Japan), folklore/folk tales, Scandinavia.

There are also book trailers for *Shadow on the Mountain*, *West of the Moon* and *The Bamboo Sword*. You can access them from my website.

### Advance Book Sales:

Book sales really help make a school visit special. I will happily sign and personalize books on the day of my visit.

If you have an independent bookstore near you, they will be happy to help you with advance book sales to students. Many bookstores will put together a flyer (or the school can) to send home with students. They also often offer a discount. Book sales should be set up with the bookstore several weeks in advance so they can order, receive, and deliver books on time. It’s a good idea to order extra, as students often want to buy books after the presentation.

In Minnesota, if you don’t have a bookstore you use, I recommend:

In northeastern Minnesota, The Bookstore at Fitgers

In or near Minneapolis, Wild Rumpus and in or near St. Paul, The Red Balloon Bookshop or Addendum.

### Presentations:

Students should be grouped age appropriately. For example: kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These groupings aren’t set in stone, but I do have different presentations for lower and upper grades.

**K-3** - The focus is on picture books. I usually will read one with projected illustrations, either *Legend of the Ladyslipper* or (sneak preview!): *Storm’s Coming!* (due out Fall 2016). I talk about what I learn when I write, featuring the book *Celebritrees* and, of course, always include Jeeves the Dog’s ever popular Reading Tips.

30 minutes

**Grade 4-8** – The focus is on novels. I also talk about my childhood reading and how it influenced me, and tell “the story behind the story” of my novels. We’ll also discuss what I do for research, why I love revision, and Jeeves the Dog is always willing to offer his ever-popular writing tips.

45-50 minutes

Up to 3 sessions per day.

### Equipment needs:

I use Powerpoint in my presentations, and require a projector and screen. I bring my own iPad and “dongle” to connect with VGA. Can also use airplay with Apple TV set up. However, it is important that I have my iPad near me. If a longer cable or a projector is needed, let me know. If I’m driving I can bring provide these things.

For larger groups, and/ or in acoustically dead spaces, please provide a microphone. A lapel mic is preferred if available.

Libraries are great places to hold author visits if there's enough room for kids. For a larger group, an auditorium works well. Gymnasiums, not so well.

#### Personal Logistics:

If I will be at your school for a full day, please provide lunch and a quiet place to eat it upon request. Occasionally I will have lunch with a book club or small, select group of students (4<sup>th</sup> grade and up), especially interesting if they have recently read or been reading one of my books.

Margi is also available for conferences and library visits.

Any further questions, please e-mail [margipreus@me.com](mailto:margipreus@me.com)