

Is Keir Graff
coming to
our school?

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VISITING AUTHOR INFORMATION PACKET

"Keir Graff has a special gift: he is able to light a fire in students and inspire them to become authors!"

—Christina Tettonis, Principal
Hellenic Classical Charter School (Brooklyn, NY)

HONORARIUM & FEES

Chicagoland

\$400/single appearance (includes 1 presentation + signing)

\$1,000/full day (includes 3 presentations or workshops + signing + lunch with students)

Out of Area

\$1,200/full day (includes 3 presentations or workshops + signing + lunch with students)

Travel Expenses

If your school is more than 50 miles from my home, the school will be responsible for:

- 65.5¢/mile

If your school is more than 100 miles away, the school will be responsible for:

- Round-trip airfare
- Hotel room
- \$60/day for meals
- Ground transportation as needed (e.g., rental car, taxi, rideshare, etc.)

I will book the most affordable flights and hotels, working closely with you to ensure an accurate estimate of expenses.

Note that full-day visits may be shared between two coordinating schools if logistics allow, with expenses divided proportionately.

If you want to bring me to your school but have concerns about cost, please get in touch! I'll do my best to help you find a solution.

Contact me at keir@keirgraff.com to book school visits or request further information.



PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS



For Large Groups & Assemblies

From Kid Author—to Author for Kids!

How I Learned to Write ~~Good~~ Exceptionally Well

Kids can be great authors and I should know: I've been writing stories for kids since I was a kid myself. In this fast-paced, funny presentation, I share my origin story, starting with a book I wrote and illustrated in fifth grade. I use my own career as an example, showing the hard work necessary to turn pro while also revealing what I've learned about idea generation, drafting, revision, publication, and the essential importance of reading. At the end, kids are encouraged to ask me anything—about books and writing!

Appropriate for grades 3-6, this program runs 45-60 minutes.

"Mr. Graff's visit to the Waterford School was fantastic. I believe I was as captivated as our students were!"

—Melanie Battistone, PhD, Lower School Head
Waterford School (Sandy, UT)

“One of the things that impressed me most was how our teachers responded . . . Said one, ‘Wow, Keir Graff’s visit this morning was great, was he ever a teacher?’”

—Lisa Nagel, Librarian
St. Francis Xavier School (Wilmette, IL)

For Smaller Groups

Six-Sentence Stories

In this classroom workshop, I discuss the essential elements common to all stories and demonstrate how, with only six sentences, we can tell a story that satisfies our need for character, setting, premise, conflict, plot, and resolution. With the students, I brainstorm a class-generated story—then the students write and share their own. Six-sentence stories are perfect first drafts for revision!

Appropriate for up to 30 students in grades 3-6.

Bring Your Story to Life with Conflict

Great storytelling requires more than putting events in order—at the heart of every memorable tale is a conflict that makes us want to follow the characters on their journeys. Join me to learn the secret (and super simple) formula for hooking YOUR readers from the beginning . . . to the end!

Appropriate for up to 30 students in grades 3-6.



Tear Up Your Story and Make It Better

No one gets it right the first time—including me! Using examples from my own work, I demonstrate the key concepts behind revision (such as improving pace, clarity, and logic) and show why starting over can be fun, not scary. Students should bring a half-page or page from a story or essay to revise.

Ideal for a single class in grades 5-6.

Story Time

I love reading aloud! If I am visiting your school for a full day, I will be happy to visit K-1 classrooms for 15-20 minutes each to read my favorite picture books.

Ideal for one or two classes in K-1.

A/V Requirements, Materials, and Locations

For Assemblies

- ✓ Projection screen
- ✓ HDMI-compatible projector
- ✓ Microphone (wireless and hands-free preferred)

I prefer to present in libraries but am more than happy in auditoriums, gyms, and cafeterias, too. If the assembly is in a gym, please be sure lights can be dimmed or curtains can be drawn to ensure the PowerPoint is visible on the screen.

My PowerPoint does not include audio. If you prefer not to connect my laptop to your system, or your system is not compatible with Windows, please let me know in advance and I will provide my PowerPoint on a flash drive or via Google Drive.

For Writing Workshops

- ✓ Projection screen
- ✓ HDMI-compatible projector
- ✓ Whiteboard, chalkboard, or a giant pad of paper and a marker
- ✓ Students should bring notebooks and pencils
- ✓ Students need a flat, comfortable space to write

To ensure a fresh and energetic presenter, please . . .

- ✓ Allow ten to fifteen minutes between presentations if possible
- ✓ Leave one midday class period unscheduled so Keir can check email and recharge



PREPARING FOR THE BIG DAY

Students always have a more rewarding experience when they are well prepared for my visit. In advance, please consider:

- ✓ Having classes read at least a chapter or two of my latest book
- ✓ Sharing my biography and QAK ([Questions About Keir](#))
- ✓ Helping students brainstorm questions focused on writing
- ✓ Using a contest or assignment to select a small group of students who most want the experience of eating lunch with me

For more helpful tips, please visit Penguin Young Readers' [school and library visit page](#).

BOOK SALES

As a condition of my author visit, my books must be made available for sale to students both before and after my presentation. Having a book signed and personalized by the author (I don't just scribble my name!) helps cement the connection made during my presentation.

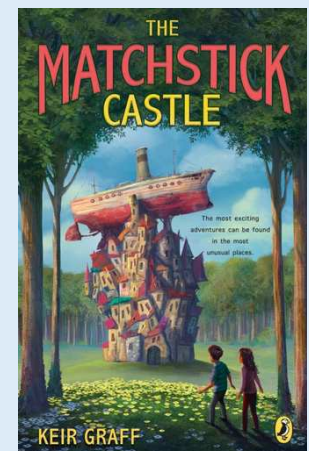
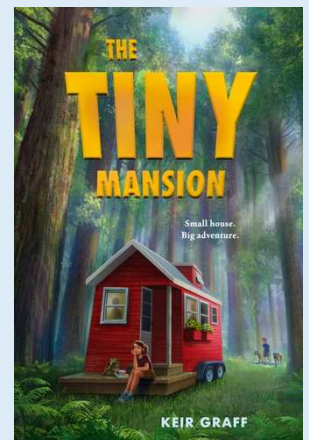
Working with a Bookseller

Many independent booksellers support author visits and are willing to make books more affordable to students by discounting them from 10–20%. If you do not already have a partner bookstore, I work with [The Book Stall](#) and [Bookish Chicago](#), both of whom support in-person and mail-order sales.

Selling Books through the School

If you prefer to handle sales yourself, you can order my books directly from the publisher at a discount and resell the books yourself, either at cost or as a fundraiser. I will provide ordering instructions and two forms to distribute to students:

- 1) Pre-Orders: Students who order their books in advance will receive a signed, personalized book on the day of my visit.
- 2) Post-Orders: Many kids decide they want my books AFTER I visit. If you want books personalized for these students, you may collect their names from this second batch of forms and email them to me. I will sign and personalize bookplates and mail them to the school.



FAQ

Do you require a deposit in advance of a school visit?

No, but payment is due the day of the visit.

Do we need to sign a contract?

I don't require one unless you do. But if you really, really want one, I will alert my attorney. (Bear in mind that my attorney is a plump calico cat.)

Will you take less money? We want to bring you but don't have the budget.

Email me and we'll discuss it! But first, read [this helpful article](#) about finding sources of funding. Working with other area schools is a great way to reduce cost.

How far will you travel?

Almost anywhere! Please note that special charges apply if I'm traveling more than 50 miles from home.

Can we record your presentation?

I allow and encourage photos and very short videos (no more than several minutes in length) but ask that you not record my presentation in its entirety.

Can our students interview you for the school newspaper?

Yes! I'll support budding journalists in any way I can. (I worked on my school paper, too!)

Will you spend any time with students beyond your presentation and book signing?

If time allows, I'm happy to eat lunch with students and teachers, to stop by a special needs class, or to read a picture book to kindergartners—to name just a few examples.

Will you present to students outside grades 3–6?

While I sometimes talk to broader grade ranges as part of a larger group, the students who are most responsive to my books and my message are in grades 3–6, especially grades 4 and 5. As above, I can do brief visits with younger kids. I am happy to talk informally about writing and editing to students in grades 7 and 8, but I do not have a prepared presentation for them.



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Keir Graff is the author, with James Patterson, of [Minerva Keen's Detective Club](#), a brand-new mystery series for middle-grade readers. Under his own name, he has written funny and fantastical middle-grade adventure novels including [The Tiny Mansion](#), [The Phantom Tower](#) (a *Chicago Tribune* Best Children's Book), and [The Matchstick Castle](#) (an official Illinois Reads selection). He also writes books for grown-ups—some of them under fake names. He lives in Chicago in the *real* Phantom Tower. Find out more at www.keirgraff.com.