



"Toni, your energy and enthusiasm are unbelievable. You are a terrific person, and you really lit up our school for one beautiful day."

~ Megan Moelbert, Librarian, Boston Valley School, Hamburg, New York

School and Library Speaking

I love to speak to students and their teachers, or to children and parents at family literacy events, about my books, the process of writing, and the journey of the story from idea to book (see a list of popular workshops below). I am available for school and public library visits across the country—and around the world at international schools.

Through my author visits, students are inspired in their reading and writing, make text-to-self connections, and see a model of a professional writer as they plan their own career paths.

Testimonials

"I have gotten so many comments from our teachers appreciative of your visit, the clear message you sent to kids that writing is hard work and that real authors revise so many times, and your ability to engage kids at so many different levels! You made a real impression on both the kids and the teachers. A fifth grade teacher told me that Village School was so lucky to have strong connections with such a great author who was willing to share all sides of what it meant to be a writer." ~ Eunice Bentley, Literacy Specialist, Village School, Gorham, Maine

"From a librarian's perspective, it was wonderful to see the children make the connection from a life lived, to a story written, then all the way to the finished product in book form—all standing right before them! We are truly grateful for the 'piece of magic that came to life' in our library this past September." ~ Rosanna Webb, LMS, Lindsay ISD, Lindsay, Texas

"Hard to believe that it was just two weeks ago that you were here, that we've had a vacation in between, and that the children are still excited and talking about you as if it were just moments ago that you were with them. If you had only half the influence on every school you visited that you had on my class alone, you would be a total success. Your genuine love for children and your dedication

to your writing are special talents." ~ Barb Richter, Second Grade Teacher, Carder Elementary School, Corning, New York

"We consider your visit to have been the most powerful and far-reaching of any author visit we've had. We look forward to continued collaboration, especially with our blossoming young authors in the Buzzeo Writing Club." ~ Dorothy Daves, LMS, Glenridge School, Clayton, Missouri

"We had a wonderful time during your visit at Hall School. The children love your books, as do I! Most importantly, all of them are more excited now about writing than ever. Thank you so much for sharing your love of words and writing with us." ~ Andi Bagley, Grade 3 Teacher, Hall School, Portland, Maine

Popular Workshops

- ❖ **The Author's Path** (Children, Grades 1-6 or Children and Adults)
Employing photographs and stories, Toni shares her journey from shy, only child to celebrated published author and the many connections between her life's events and the stories she has written. (45 minutes to 1 hour)
- ❖ **The Girl Who Loved Christmas** (Children, Grades 1-6 or Children and Adults)
This is a modified version of **The Author's Path** that filters Toni's experiences through the Christmases of her life, leading to the writing of *Lighthouse Christmas*. Perfect for family events. (1 hour)
- ❖ **The Story Behind the Story: *The Sea Chest*** (Children, Grades 2-6)
In the spirit of historical and natural inquiry--using illustrations, text, and research--we explore the challenges behind *The Sea Chest* and learn the importance of research for both authors and illustrators. (45 minutes to 1 hour).
- ❖ **Penguin Lost and Found: *One Cool Friend*** (Grades 2-6)
Discover the story behind the story of *One Cool Friend* and learn about the development of character from both the author's and the illustrator's perspective before exploring the author's revision process. (45 minutes to 1 hour)
- ❖ **It Takes a Team to Create a Book: *Lighthouse Christmas*** (Children, Grades 3-6)
This workshop offers an introduction to the author/illustrator/editor/designer/subject specialist who all had a hand in creating the book *Lighthouse Christmas* and the essential role of each in the process. (1 hour)

- ❖ **Puppet and Flannel Board Play** (PreK, K, and 1)
The youngest audiences meet *Dawdle Duckling*, *Little Loon and Papa*, and *No T. Rex in the Library* through songs, fingerplays, puppets, and flannel board stories. (30 minutes).

- ❖ **Show, Don't Tell: A Writer's Workshop** (Children, Grades 3-8)
Let action and dialogue reveal character motivation and advance plot. Most skilled writers reveal emotion, character traits, and even setting without telling. Learn how they show us instead! One to four classes at a time. (1 hour)

Virtual Chats

Using SKYPE, chat for thirty minutes or an hour with Toni about her writing and her books. An economical way to connect! (Children, Grades K-8, and Adults)

Workshops For Teachers And Librarians

I am happy to add workshops for librarians or teachers to my visit. See Schedules and Fees for cost and Professional Development Offerings for selected workshops. (Feel free to suggest others.)