

Matt Forrest Esenwine



Presentations, Workshops, and School Visits

Author James Preller has said that authors don't do school visits; schools do author visits. It's a great perspective because it reinforces the notion that schools are anticipating getting something out of the visit - an author cannot just show up and expect his/her mere presence to carry the day. If a school is going to host me, I plan to make that visit as beneficial and memorable as possible.



I love chatting with elementary and middle school classes about writing: what poetry is, how to rhyme (and how *not* to rhyme), how to develop details in writing, and even simply how to stimulate one's imagination. I tailor my presentations to fit the needs of the teachers and students of each class. Sometimes the sessions tend to focus on questions/answers, while some are more hands-on, where we create poetry and get into the nuts and bolts of what it's all about.

One day I might be sharing details of how I became a writer and voice artist in an informational setting. The next, I'll be discussing the 'fun side' of Common Core Anchor Standards for Writing 3, 4 & 5 (the three most apropos, in my estimation, for poetry): writing succinct yet detailed narratives, developing a style of writing appropriate to the audience and subject, and strengthening writing via revision/editing.

While I prefer to visit schools in person – nothing beats the energy and efficacy of live interaction – I am also available for short Skype visits of no more than 20 minutes. Skype visits are good for question/answer sessions and author info-gathering on the part of the classroom, while in-person visits are better suited for learning the craft.

My rates for school visits within 50 miles are as follows:

Half-day (up to 3 presentations): \$400

Full-day (up to 5 presentations): \$700

Single class/grade visit or 1-hour Skype session: \$100

(mileage expenses can be discussed upon booking)

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