

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 to have because it reinforces the notion that schools are anticipating getting something out of the visit - that an author cannot just show up and expect his/her mere presence to carry the day. If a school or library is going to offer to host me, I plan to make that visit as beneficial and memorable as possible.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of 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. Depending on the grade and level of the classes, I tailor my presentations to fit the needs of the teachers and students. Sometimes the sessions tend to focus on questions/answers, while some are more hands-on, where we actually create poetry and get into the nuts and bolts of what poetry is 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.

If you have any questions about content or rates, or would just like to connect online, please don't hesitate to contact me!

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