



Author Visit Information

HELP CHILDREN LAUGH WHILE THEY LEARN!

Author visits are a great way to bring books to life! Visits can inspire budding readers and writers, provide a memorable experience, and offer a fun break from the regular routine. See below for a list of things an educational and enjoyable “Hank and Stella in Something from Nothing” author visit can include.

• Readings

- of “Hank and Stella in Something from Nothing”. Depending on the size of the group and/or location, readings can be done directly from the book or using an overhead projector with slides.

• Discussions

- During or after a reading, I can discuss each improv “rule” in the book by asking the group appropriate questions, such as:
 - Can anyone explain this “rule”?
 - Is this “rule” important? If so, how/why?
 - Can someone give me an example of this “rule”?
 - How can this “rule” help you?

• Q & A

- I can offer information and answer questions about...
 - Improv, including:
 - History (past and present)
 - Classes and training
 - Performances
 - Authoring and illustrating a book, including:
 - Why I decided to write it
 - What I chose to write about
 - How I wrote it

• Stickers

- Everyone in attendance gets a free “Hank and Stella” sticker!

• Order forms

- Book order forms can be distributed before/after the visit to attendees interested in purchasing the book. Order fulfillment is dependent upon how/when order forms are distributed and collected.

• Book signing and personalization

- I can sign purchased copies of the book, and for an additional fee, write personalized dedications and draw customized “Hank and Stella” images on the inside cover.

- **Improv Games**
 - Following a reading, I can further engage the group by playing improv games that exemplify the various improv “rules” introduced in the book. This provides an additional channel of learning: interactive experience! All improv games are designed to be fun, safe, and age appropriate, and are suitable for individual volunteers and/or large groups. Additionally, I can debrief each game and explore “lessons learned”.
 - ***What Happens Next?***
 - *Summary:* The audience works together to tell a story as volunteers act it out.
 - *Players:*
 - 1 Host
 - 1-2 Volunteers
 - Audience
 - *Duration:* ~5 minutes
 - *Description:* The host gets a story name and character ideas from the audience. Then, the volunteers start a scene based on the audience suggestions. The host will intermittently pause the scene to ask the audience, “What Happens Next?”. After getting a new suggestion from the audience, the volunteers resume the scene and act out the audience suggestion moving the story along until the end.
 - *Notes:* This game can work with any sized group but is ideal for smaller groups of less than 20. It is fun, allows everyone to participate, and is easy to recreate on your own.
 - ***Half-Life***
 - *Summary:* Volunteers repeat a scene in increasingly shorter time increments.
 - *Players:*
 - 1 Host
 - 2-3 Volunteers
 - 1 Time-keeper
 - *Duration:* ~5 minutes
 - *Description:* The host gets an idea from the audience. Then, the volunteers perform a scene based on the audience suggestion that takes exactly 60 seconds. Next, the players perform the same scene again, but this time in just 30 seconds. The players continue to perform the same scene but in only 15 seconds, 7 seconds, and finally 3 seconds!
 - *Notes:* This is an extremely entertaining game, especially when the initial audience suggestion evokes physicality/movement. As the volunteers try to fit everything they said and did in the original scene into the reduced time, things get silly, crazy, and very funny!
 - ***Additional games are available, on request!***
- **Cost**
 - Visits are \$400 for a half-day (~4 hours), \$750 for a full-day (~8 hour), and are highly negotiable! Longer and shorter visits can be accommodated, as well.

**Contact me
to plan a visit
that’s right for you!**

