



How to Prepare Students for an Author Visit

Help students get the most out of your author visit by building respectful audience skills and questioning techniques.

Review Audience Expectations:

- Sit quietly and respectfully
- Listen without interrupting
- Raise hands for questions
- Applaud at appropriate times

The author Q&A time is an opportunity for extended learning. However, sometimes students are unsure about what to ask and lack the skills to think of good questions.

Student Question Prep:

- Brainstorm questions as a class or in small groups
- Choose 3-5 strong questions to share
- Practice asking questions clearly
- Share examples of good questions for authors (see below)

Author Question Examples

Idea: Print the example questions, cut them apart and assign them to willing participants!

Questions Younger Students Might Ask

- Where do you get your ideas?
- How long does it take to make a book?
- How did you learn to write books?
- Is the character based on anyone you know?
- How many stories have you written?
- Do you know any famous authors?
- What's your favorite book you wrote?
- Do you ever get stuck?
- Do you write every day?
- Why did you choose that character's name?
- Do you get to keep the first copy?
- How do the pictures get into the book?
- Are you rich? (LOL...however, this is a good question!)

Questions Older Students Might Ask

- What do you do when you can't think of what to write?
- How many drafts do you make?
- How do you work with your illustrator?
- Can you change the story after the book is printed?
- How do books get in libraries or stores?
- Do you get to choose the cover?
- How do you know when your story is finished?
- Why did you decide to write for kids instead of adults?
- What's the best part about being an author?
- Do you ever read reviews of your book?

Fact: Students may think of some really good questions on their own during the presentation!