

Cynthia Lord Author Visit Information

Cynthia Lord is a former elementary and middle school teacher whose debut novel, *Rules*, won a Newbery Honor Award and a Schneider Family Book Award. In addition, students in six states awarded *Rules* their state's student-choice award (Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio and Vermont).



Cindy's other middle-grade novels are *Touch Blue*, *Half a Chance*, and *A Handful of Stars*. She has also written an early chapter book series, Shelter Pet Squad, as well as early readers and picture books featuring Hot Rod Hamster. All of Cindy's titles are shown on her website, www.cynthialord.com.



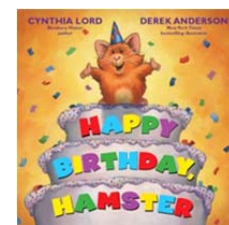
Cindy's Presentation

Cindy begins her school presentation by showing a story she wrote at the age of six. "No one would read this and say, 'Now *there's* a future Newbery Honor author,' would they?" she asks students. "That's because writers are made, not born."

She goes on to explain the four things that helped her become a writer, and she takes students through the writing process—from idea to published book—using *Rules* as an example:



- Her own rules for a first draft
- How to use "write what you know" (even when you *don't* know!)
- The importance of revision (including showing a few draft pages from *Rules* with her editor's comments on them). "When you take a book off the shelf, you are only seeing the *end* of a long process," she explains.
- How to add sensory detail and the importance of stepping beyond your imagination



Cindy also tells funny and surprising "behind the scenes" stories from *Rules* and shows photographs of some of the places and inspiration behind her book.

Cindy also brings her Newbery Honor plaque to school and library visits and allows children to put their hand on the seal to make a wish for their own dreams. "When I look at this plaque," she tells students, "I see what a powerful combination 'wishing' and 'work' can be."

Comments from Educators

“Being a teacher herself, she shared the importance of reading and provided insightful information about her writing processes. Mrs. Lord was a perfect combination of instruction and entertainment. Her friendly, calm disposition makes her very approachable. All staff agreed she was one of our ‘best ever.’”

Karen Duffy, Carmel, Indiana

“Both teachers and students really appreciated hearing Cynthia Lord share her insights into how the book came to be. The small groups liked seeing the book published in multiple languages and in Braille. Mrs. Lord’s visit was a great success.”

Margy Soule, Brunswick, Maine



“Every single person with whom I came in contact, both children and adults, just loved your presentation, and I am so happy that my instincts were right about you (it is not always possible to tell from reading a person's works whether or not he/she will be a good oral communicator). Thank you for being so entertaining as well as informative about the writing process. I feel that our teachers, as well as the students, learned a lot from your presentation.”

Beth Jackson, Athens, Tennessee

School Visits

Cindy enjoys meeting young readers at school and library visits. Suggested audience: grades 3-8 and adults for *Rules* and the other middle-grade novels; grades 1-3 for the Shelter Pet Squad series, and PK-2 for Hot Rod Hamster picture books and early readers. Maximum number of presentations per day: 3. Please note that Cindy does not do Skype, video or conference-call visits.

Equipment: Cindy brings her own laptop computer and projector. Schools need to provide the following: a screen and microphone/sound amplification as needed for the room and audience size, a table or utility cart to hold the laptop and projector, and extension cords to reach electrical outlets.

For all Maine schools, Cindy’s honorarium is \$950 per day (discounted from her standard fee of \$1,800). Mileage is calculated at the IRS standard rate (54¢ per mile). If the driving distance is over 1½ hours, a hotel stay may be required.

Questions? events@cynthialord.com

