

Cynthia Lord Author Visit Information

Cynthia Lord is a former elementary and middle school teacher whose debut novel, *Rules*, won a 2007 Newbery Honor Award and a Schneider Family Book Award. In addition, students in six states have awarded *Rules* their state's student-choice award (Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio and Vermont).



Two new books are coming in 2010: Cindy's first picture book, *Hot Rod Hamster*, with illustrations by Derek Anderson, and a new middle-grade novel, *Touch Blue*.

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 persons'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

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School Visits

Cindy enjoys meeting young readers at school and library visits. Please note that Cindy does not do video or conference-call visits. Suggested Audience: Grades 3-8 and adults. Maximum number of presentations per day: three.

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.

Author's Honorarium: \$1,500 per day plus travel expenses (flight + hotel). Cindy does not request meals reimbursement. For visits within driving distance, the travel expense will be mileage calculated at the IRS standard rate (50¢ per mile as of Jan. 1, 2010). If the driving distance is over 2 hours, overnight lodging may be required.

Please contact events@cynthialord.com

