

2022-23 School Visits by
Author/Illustrator
Lita Judge

Thank you to all the teachers and students who have welcomed me into their classrooms. You're all a huge inspiration to me and I am grateful to you for making my life rewarding and fun!



And if our paths haven't crossed yet, I hope the information included in this brochure will be helpful in planning a school visit. I offer several different presentations and speak to students in grades pre-K through 12. I've added presentations for older students to coincide with my young adult novel, **Mary's Monster**.

My greatest wish is that my visit will excite, inspire, and energize your students!



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Welcome

I love speaking to young people of all ages and look forward to tailoring my presentations to your specific needs.

My aim is to inspire all students, not just future writers and artists. My presentations are geared toward igniting children's creativity and empowering

them to follow their dreams. With a lot of visual aides and fascinating stories, I'll show my own path, from volunteering on dinosaur digs as a kid, to eventually becoming an artist and writer.

I will share each step of my working process as an author and illustrator, from inspiration to final book. My talks are geared toward supporting the lessons you teach – the importance of research and revision, and building on their writing and artistic tools. I will also demonstrate how the stories I created as a child directly contribute to the books I create now. I believe my own experiences will validate their current work, building in them a sense of confidence and enthusiasm.

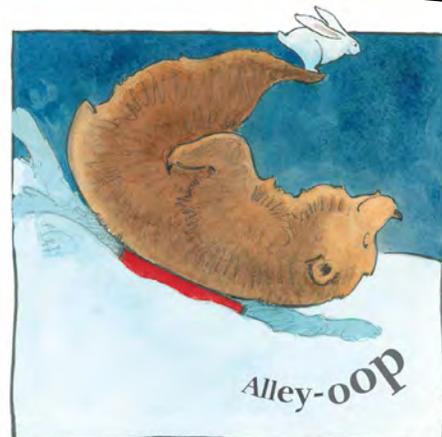


What people say...

"...a powerful and passionate presenter"

"...her skill as a presenter so engaged each group of students and staff that you could have heard a pin drop."

"...a fascinating, engaging, and well-prepared presenter. We found her visit to be a valuable learning experience for all of our students, grades K-8."



School and Library Presentations

Before presenting to your class, I encourage you to read some or all of the books I have created. Each presentation is geared to tie in with the stories I have written. The energy you put into preparing the students before the day of the visit will reinforce the discussions I will have with them. Our teamwork will make this the best possible opportunity for the kids.

My talks include a visual presentation that includes lots of photos of my childhood along with the journeys and adventures I've taken while creating the books. I will also share plenty of examples of preliminary sketches, rough drafts, book dummies, revisions, and final art. There will be time for question and answer at the end of each talk.

For Grades K-6

Path to Becoming an Author and Illustrator How does a shy, quiet kid interested in animals and dinosaurs become a children's book author and illustrator. I'll demonstrate how my childhood interests directly inspired my current books, and through sharing stories, photos, and art, validate each student's creative work. From watching wildlife with my family, to volunteering on dinosaur digs as a teenager, I'll share how the things I did as a kid led me overcome barriers due to dyslexia and a fear of writing, that eventually led me to this fascinating life. The presentation will also expose my working methods as an author/illustrator: immersing myself in the topic, research, rough drafts, revision, and final publication. My goal is to inspire all kids, not just future authors and artists, to follow their dreams, build confidence with their work, and to invest in their own creative future. (Grades K-6)



Journaling and Sketching

This is a special opportunity to share my creative process with students. I'll talk about the journals I kept as a child, emphasizing that many of my current books were inspired by these childhood journals! I'll share pictures and stories that demonstrate how travels with my family, watching wildlife, led me to write several of my books. Then I'll discuss my creative process in making books. This talk will reinforce and encourage students' own journaling efforts, develop good writing and drawing habits, and give them to tools to capture their creative ideas. (Grades K-6)



For Grades K-4



Daydreams, Digs and Dinosaurs! This is a perfect talk to introduce my creative writing and illustrating process to younger students. I'll provide an exciting journey through time, show how my childhood interest in dinosaurs led me to work on dinosaur digs as a student, and how this led to a career as an author and illustrator. Slides of actual dinosaur digs will give students a behind-the-scenes look at this topic. Then I'll discuss how I wrote and illustrated my books *Born to be Giants* and *It is for Dinosaurs* and share exciting new facts about baby dinosaurs (Grades K-4)

Presentations for Grades 3-12

How Pictures and Words Build a Story

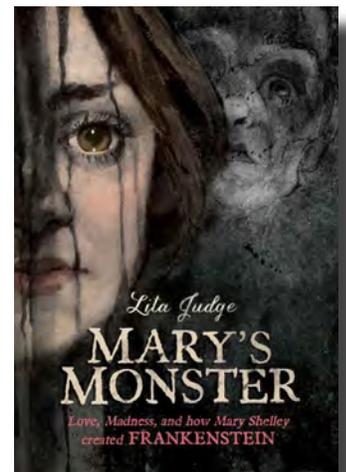
I will share my own evolution from being a kid with dyslexia who struggled to write, but loved to draw, to becoming an author and illustrator. I'll also share how I use my strength as an artist to help me to be a better writer. Through personal stories, photographs, rough drafts and sketches, to final work, I'll break down every step of the creative writing process and inspire kids to think of themselves as creative thinkers. This talk is specifically aimed toward reluctant writers, by giving them new techniques for building a story, but will also excite motivated young writers with an in-depth discussion of how a book turns from idea to finished work. Using grade appropriate books that I've written, kids will see the behind-the-scenes inspiration to my work and how my ideas evolves into stories. (Grades 3-12)

Excite Creative Thinking and Writing Through Revision

Revision is a messy process that can leave students feeling demotivated, vulnerable, and flooded by a fear of failure. But with innovative handling it can be an opportunity for students to embolden their voices by exploring creative thinking, clarity, and expression. I will discuss a variety of strategies and different forms of revision methods aimed toward breaking down the frustration and getting students more excited to take on creative risks. I will also share in depth examples of my own work and how revision played a key role in developing the story. This talk is aimed at inspiring reluctant writers as well as highly motivated students by allowing them to think about personal techniques well suited for their own skills. The talk will include an in-depth timeline for writing my novel *Mary's Monster* to demonstrate and demystify every step of the revision process. Students will come away with new strategies for the revision process as well as a better understanding of how this working method is a major creative step for any writer. (Grades 7-12)

The Making of *Mary's Monster*

I'll discuss the 5 year process of creating this illustrated novel in verse. Within the discussion I will show a timeline of the work, process videos, rough drafts, initial sketches, and final work. I'll also show how the book evolved from a written novel, to a graphic novel, and finally to an entirely new form of writing – the illustrated novel in verse. This discussion is aimed at inspiring students to find writing techniques and forms of storytelling that excite and inspire them to unlock their full potential in creative writing. There will also be an in depth discussion about the novel itself; how the events of Mary Shelly's life played a key role in inspiring her to write the novel *Frankenstein*. And how the book itself ignited an entirely new genre in writing – science fiction. Students will come away with new perspective to how a teenage girl changed the course of literature and wrote a novel still relevant today. (Grades 7-12)



Fees

I recommend limiting each presentation to 100 students or less. I often do two day school visits to accommodate all the classes in a school, while keeping groups smaller. To determine the cost for your school, consult the fee schedule below. Mileage is calculated at the current GSA (gsa.gov) rate.

A visit includes up to 3 presentations per day. Each presentation lasts approximately 50 minutes (30 minutes for kindergarten and pre-K classes).

LOCAL VISITS (up to a 2 hour drive from Peterborough NH)

- \$1300/day

VISITS (More than 2 hour drive from Peterborough NH)

(Please note: There is a 2-day minimum for long distance drives.)

- \$1500/day
- overnight accommodations, meals, mileage

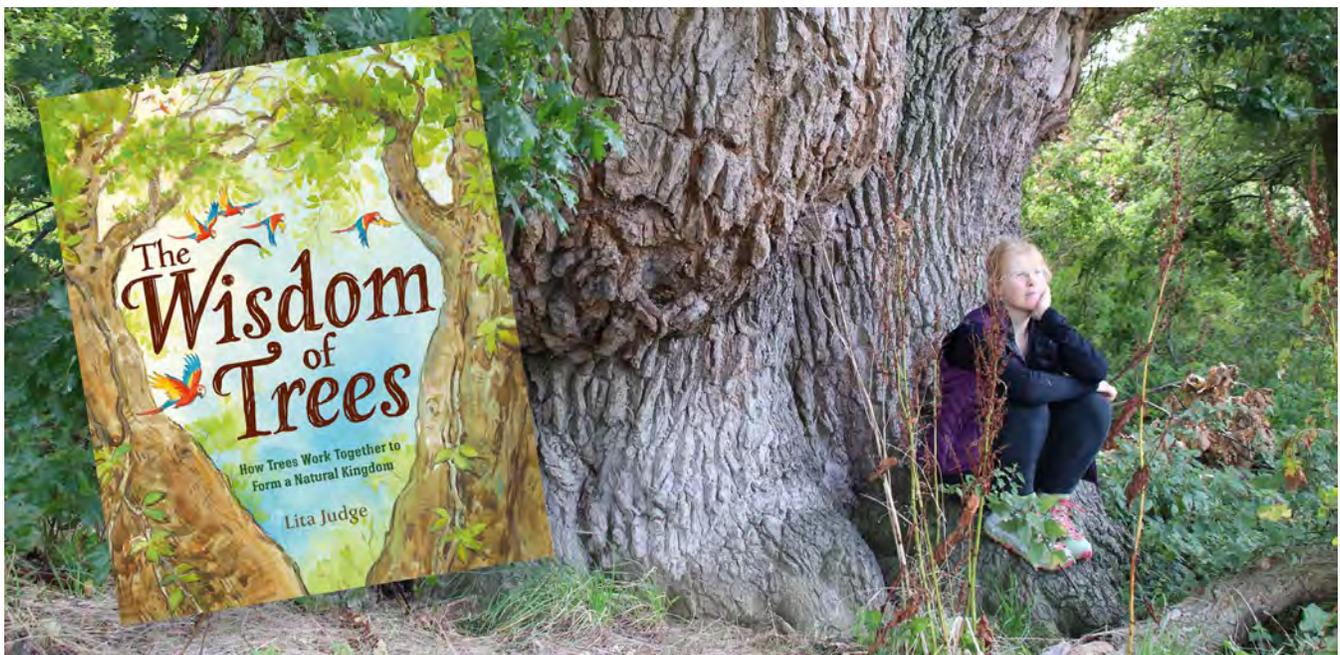
LONG-DISTANCE VISITS (REQUIRING AIR TRAVEL)

(Please note: There is a 3-day minimum for these visits. Any number of schools in the area can join together to fill the three days.)

- \$1500/day
- overnight accommodations, meals, airfare, and local transportation

Contact

To ask questions or schedule a visit, please call or text me at 603-303-6941, or contact me via email lita@litajudge.com



Virtual Visit Fees

I am also doing virtual visits at this time. My fee is \$350 for a 45 minute visit.

