

JEANNIE BRETT: SCHOOL VISITS

Using my picture books as a springboard, I share the process of illustrating picture books with students and educators. My presentations are for K-6. I tweak the presentation/workshop according to the age of my audience.

My presentations and workshops make a literacy connection through art!

~I give up to **four 50 minute presentations a day**.

~I need to stay in **one room for the day** and need **10-15 minutes** between sessions.

~My **presentations** can accommodate up to **60** students (**please inquire if your needs are for more than 60**, I may be able to accommodate you).

~My **WORKSHOPS** are for **ONE class** at a time...so around 20-30 students. Each student will need a desk/table and chair for the workshop.

Presentation # 1:

“The Process of Illustrating a Children’s Book from Start to Finish”

This presentation can be customized for younger students as well as for older students. For **Younger grades (K-2)** my PROCESS is expressed in simple fashion with lots of hand held original artwork (paintings, sketches, book dummies, etc.) and **class participation**. It includes a discussion about **imagination** and I demonstrate this by creating an **“Imagination Sketch”** using the **student’s ideas**.

With older students, I discuss the details of working with an editor, contracts, etc., and drawing parallels to the **writing process**. There is also class participation.

With all grades I end with a **Q&A session**. I also have an ongoing pastel sketch that I work on throughout my day. I leave this with the school for a memento of my visit.

This is my basic presentation that I have been sharing with school children and educators for 9 years and it has been received with great enthusiasm! **I am always changing it here and there** to keep it fresh. I am **PASSIONATE** and enthusiastic about my presentations and workshops! I absolutely **LOVE** to visit, present to, and talk with students and educators.

Presentation # 2/Workshop:

“Drawing Workshop”

This requires **one class** at a time or up to 30 students and also requires chairs and desks/tables for each child to sit at to draw.

I do a very short (about 15 min.) **“Process of Illustrating a Children’s Book”** presentation while the kids sit on the floor.

We then move to the tables and get to work on creating our very own **Alphabet Page!** I draw an animal with the children following along step by step. I break the animal down into shapes. Once the students have drawn their “**basic**” animal shape we discuss how to make it “**their own**”. Will it be a “**fantasy, make-believe**” animal?or a **realistic rendering?** If so, what is its **habitat**, the weather, etc. Back ground **decoration** and **borders, texture** and **shading**....**dress up your animal!**the kid’s love this workshop at all ages! We then add the letter the animal name begins with.

*For teachers who would like...use the finished illustration as a **writing prompt**..... a poem, Haiku, story or research paper!

This workshop can also work this way: **One** inclusive presentation, 50 min. “Process of Illustrating a Children’s Book”. Then **three**, 50 minute **workshops**, with the participants from the 1st all inclusive group.

#3 Artist in Residence workshop: 2 Days. For Grades 3 and up. Creating a State Alphabet Illustration, step by step.

For three classes (20-25 students a class) meeting 1x day, for 2 days (so 2x). The first day begins with an all inclusive over-view presentation of the work shop that is to follow.

All Inclusive over view presentation: I will meet with all of the students and share with them the **Process of Illustrating a Children’s book**, using my state alphabet and number books as a jumping off point. We will talk about research and reference material, inspiration and imagination, and lots more! This will give the “big picture” of what we will be doing for the 2 days I will be with them. This will also be a great time for Q&A.

I would then meet with each of the 3 classes for approx. 1+ hours (to be determined), each day. So each class would have a total of 2 classes/workshops with me.

Before I arrive: Teachers will facilitate having the students pick letters for their Alphabet Page, keeping in mind state flora and fauna, historical places, agriculture, recreation, etc. The students will have researched their topic for images, before my visit, at the school library, web, etc... gathering visuals they can use as reference material. **I will also bring along visual reference materials to share.**

This is also a great project to use for a writing prompt; for a research project, poem, haiku, essay, or fictional story. This can be done before or after my visit.

Day #1:

We will compose several thumbnail sketches while thinking about layout and composition. We will then move on to a large and more detailed sketch of the thumbnail sketch that they have chosen from their selection. The visual references that I supply along with the ones they have gathered, will be at their access to use while sketching. It is important to have plenty of time so the students can be thoughtful and not be rushed. I will be available to comment and help students on a one to one basis while everyone is working.

Day #2:

We will transfer the large sketch onto a large piece of Tru-Ray colored paper, making last minute changes. With Cray-Pas oil pastels the students will add color and then place their letter onto their illustrations. For older students we *may* use colored pencils instead of Cray-Pas, for a more detailed result.

Illustration Celebration!

Students will feel proud of their hard work! How about a gathering of students and parents after school or evening (depending on where I'm traveling from)? The students and I would share with their parents *their* process of illustrating an alphabet page. We could have a Q&A time for the parents to ask the students about their experience.

This would be fun with a snack of cookies and juice and a **book sale and signing** of my 5 titles!

****There is a **small charge** for **materials** that I supply.

Teachers can follow up by using my presentation/workshop with science curriculum (natural science, weather, flora and fauna), literacy/language arts, art, etc. Just ask if you would more suggestions for content ideas.

Any suggestions for a workshop???? Let me know, maybe I can pull something together for you!