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**AUTHOR'S VISIT**

Hi!

**My goal** as a visiting author is to entertain, educate, persuade, and most of all, illuminate the role of a writer. I want students and teachers to leave the classroom/auditorium smiling, with the firm conviction that writing is their choice—an exciting choice—and they have all the tools it takes to become good writers.

Although I've known since the age of four that I would be a writer (see *Grammie's Secret Cupboard*), I never met a published author until college. I thought writers were special people who lived in ivory towers and wrote all day, wrote all night, and had people deliver meals and books and praise on a regular basis. **BUT** writers are ordinary people who differ from others in only **2** ways: *we love hearing, reading, and telling stories AND we love playing with words.*

All we need is...

**A MAGIC WAND!**

An ordinary pencil (or pen, computer keyboard, paintbrush) can be transformed into a magic wand, a wand that can transport its holder anywhere in this world or another world; can carry us backwards in time or forwards in time; and can change us into an animal, another person, or an invented creature **IF** we apply **5 tools**:

**IMAGINATION**  
**CURIOSITY**  
**OBSERVATION**  
**LANGUAGE**  
**TIME**

**My program discusses:**

1. How every writer's story is different, but how I learned I would be an author at an early age.
2. How writing and reading are exciting journeys of discovery—of our world, different worlds, other people, and ourselves.
3. How to tap into your imagination,
4. How to ask and answer the right questions,

5. How to observe the world (real or in your imagination) and describe what you see/hear/taste/touch/smell/feel in such a way that you convince your readers they're doing the same thing,
6. How to use language (word choice, voice, structure) to tell the tale in an exciting way,
7. How time is crucial to success—writing, revising, and editing take time.

**My program involves:**

1. A *lot* of interaction--asking and answering questions,
2. Playing a game that will help students remember those tools. (For younger ages)

**My program *can* include (based on time and grade levels):**

1. A presentation about the book production process—from Imagination to Publication.
2. Writing prompts and exercises.
3. Research techniques.
4. The 6-block (5 W's and 1 H) writing process known to every professional writer.
5. Writers' ethics and etiquette (for high schoolers and above).

*So, now that you know who I am and what I do...how can I help you and your students?*

I look forward to meeting you!

Cynthia Furlong Reynolds