

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS

### Is your program age appropriate?

Yes! I adjust my presentation accordingly depending on the age level of the children.

*"Your program was outstanding for all grade levels, primary and intermediate! Both students and teachers found you to be highly engaging with an artful way of inspiring questions and fueling budding interests in writing!" (2/28/04)*

-Zandria Hopper, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Blackwell Elementary  
Sammamish, WA

*"The ideas presented were either new information, or they supported what is being taught in the classroom. The presentations were grade-appropriate, enjoyable & interactive. We will definitely have them back to our elementary school."*

-Peggy Keelan, Children's Programs  
2005 Glenhope Elementary PTA  
Colleyville, TX

### KINDERGARTEN/1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE (30 MINUTE PRESENTATION)

(10 min) I begin by using *Tiny Snail* to explain:

What is an Author/Illustrator?

Where do they get their ideas?

How does an author write the story?

How does an illustrator draw the pictures?

*"Your program for the preschool age was very age-appropriate as well as enjoyable for the adults."*

-Amy Smith, Teacher (3/2005)  
Field Early Childhood Center  
Neosho, MO

*"You guys were wonderful! Thank you for using kindergarten language. We really enjoyed the portfolio with the character cut-out's on the different backgrounds."* (5/2005)

-Beth Gardner, Kindergarten  
Mitchell Elementary, Dallas, TX

(10 min) Then my husband, Shane Bronson, shares his music book (*The Kaleidonotes & the Mixed-Up Orchestra*) by teaching students how to play instruments in the orchestra. He emphasizes that musicians have to practice playing songs on their instruments just like authors and illustrators have to practice writing their stories or drawing their pictures.

*"Excellent job! You kept the kids interested throughout the program. I especially liked the fun 'orchestra' activity that you did with the kindergarten and first grade students."* (2/3/05)

-Erin Olson, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher  
Elm Creek Elementary, Maple Grove, MN

(5-7 min) I read *Polliwog* and review the steps to writing and illustrating a story.

(3-5 min) Questions from students. I like to remind Kindergarten that questions begin with 'how' or 'why'!

## 2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE (45 MINUTE PRESENTATION)

(15 min) Using *Tiny Snail* as an example, I emphasize the importance of using library books to research the stories and illustrations. Students see examples of revisions both for the story and the art.

*"Your presentation to our second grade students was beautifully done! You pitched it at their level, kept it moving, and shared information that was relevant to them as authors. You engaged students who normally have trouble focusing. Your love of writing and illustrating was apparent!" (2/2/05)*

-Anne Towner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team Leader  
Northview Elementary, Eagan, MN

(15 min) Shane explains how a publisher scans the artwork into the computer in order to design the book. He also uses examples from each step of the printing process to demonstrate how books are put together. After briefly introducing his *Kaleidonotes* story, he discusses the challenges involved in rewriting a rhyming story.

*"Very interesting and appropriate for our 3rd grade students. Please come again!"*

-Judy Parrish, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Shiloh Christian School, Springdale, AR

*"Mr. & Mrs. Bronson's presentation was very engaging and informative for all students in grades 3-6."*

-Heather Evans, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Highland Elementary, Ewing, MO

(7 min) I briefly discuss the artwork in *Kaleidonotes* before reading *Polliwog* and reviewing the steps to writing and illustrating a story. The kids learn how I used computer special effects to enhance the *Polliwog* artwork.

(8 min) Questions from students.

## 4<sup>TH</sup>/5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE (45 MINUTE PRESENTATION)

After discussing the submission process for books and explaining how much rewriting can go into a novel or chapter book, I explain why I chose to write picture books. Students will learn the three simple steps to outlining a plot for any story and that the three "R's" (Read, Research, Rewrite) apply to every type of writing. From this point the presentation covers much of what was discussed with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades only the pace is faster in order to leave adequate time at the end for questions.

*"Good for fifth grade because the author talked about the writing process. She also discussed steps to creating published works. Inspired some kids to take more pride in their writing."*

Conan Schreider, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Annehurst Elementary, Westerville, OH