

School Programs

Presentations

What Do Writers Do All Day?

Presentation for Grades 1–8

Through lively stories, Jacqueline answers commonly asked questions about her writing life: how she began writing, where she finds her ideas, and—yes!—what do writers do all day? She talks about strategies for becoming a better writer and encourages students to think of themselves as the writers of tomorrow.

Birds, Books, and a Boy Named Audubon

Presentation for Grades 1–4

Using *The Boy Who Drew Birds* as a launching pad, Jacqueline introduces students to the remarkable paintings of John James Audubon. She talks about birds and allows kids to get “up close and personal” by examining real birds’ nests. Jacqueline then uses 15-inch paper dolls to tell the story of how *The Boy Who Drew Birds* became a book—from idea through editing, illustration, and printing. It’s a story the kids will never forget!

Sounds All Around

Presentation for Grades preK–1

The Night Is Singing, Jacqueline’s evocative poem-book, captures the sounds we hear as we drift off to sleep. Working with hand-held musical instruments and large letters, Jacqueline directs the children to think about the qualities of sounds we hear, as well as the qualities of letter-sounds in our alphabet. Children gain an increased awareness of the craft of poetry.

When Life Hands You Lemons

Presentation for Grades 3–8

The idea for *The Lemonade War* began as Jacqueline watched her two sons arguing over a lemonade stand. How did that first idea evolve into a book? What did the author keep from that real-life incident and what did she change? This presentation explores the three story elements of main character, motivation, and problem; story shape and structure; and the sequential stages of writing (thinking, prewriting, writing, and revising).

Writing Workshops

Map Me a Story

Writing Workshop for Grades 1–3

Using strategies from educator Jennifer Jacobson’s book *No More, I’m Done!*, Jacqueline draws a map of a childhood home of hers and shows how the map is filled with potential story ideas. Students are then given a piece of drawing paper and encouraged to create a map of a favorite place. Where are the story ideas hidden on the map? Time permitting, each student begins to write a story that was “discovered” on the map.

A Poem Is Not a Fish

Writing Workshop for Grades 4–8

What is a metaphor? Why is it a writer’s best friend? How do we create metaphors that are powerful and unique? During this hands-on writing program, students work in groups and individually to create evocative metaphors that serve as the jumping-off point for poems.

Hooked

Writing Workshop for Grades 4–8

Any writer will tell you: The most important paragraph in a story is the first one. Does it hook the reader? Jacqueline talks about story openings and how to make them irresistible to the reader. She discusses the techniques that writers use to write compelling first paragraphs and shares some examples of the best openings ever written. Students then have time to write a brief story opening using the techniques they have just learned.

The Plot Thickens

Writing Workshop for Grades 4–8

Motivation, rising conflict, climax, resolution. These are the elements needed to create effective plot within a story. But how to do it? In this workshop, Jacqueline explains how plot works, why a story’s problem needs to get bigger and bigger, and what story structure looks like. Students play a fun board game in which they create an effective plot, then use a graphic organizer to develop the structure for a story of their own.



INVITE

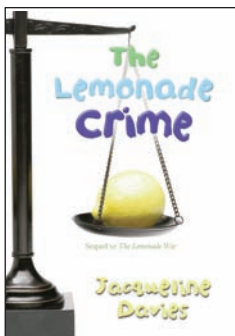
Jacqueline Davies

author of *The Lemonade War*

TO YOUR SCHOOL



Books by Jacqueline Davies



The Lemonade Crime

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 7–10; 152 pp.

“...Davies’ well-crafted narrative gives the characters’ different points of view credibility while steadily building the tension as they are drawn more closely into conflict.”—*Booklist* (starred review)

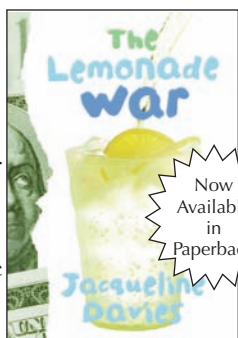
Evan and Jessie take Scott Spencer to court. Will justice be served? Or just another glass of lemonade?

The Lemonade War

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 7–10; 192 pp.

“...an entertaining story [that] deals with feelings and money, and how both can get complicated. Good reading for young capitalists.” —*USA Today*

At summer’s end, Evan and Jessie launch an all-out war to see who can sell the most lemonade.



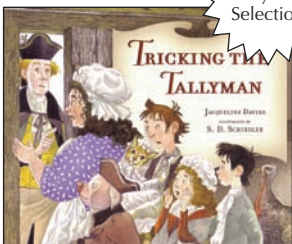
Now Available in Paperback

Tricking the Tallyman

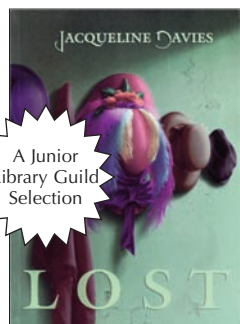
Random House, Ages 7–12; 40 pp.

“In this playful tale set in 1790, the suspicious residents of a small Vermont village attempt to trick the man sent to collect data for the very first U.S. Census... Youngsters are likely to laugh out loud as tricks on the tallyman are played.”

—*The Bulletin for the Center for Children’s Books*



A Junior Library Guild Selection



Lost

Cavendish Children’s Books, Ages 12 and up; 242 pp.

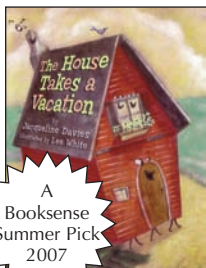
“... Haunting language evokes the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the early 1900s, and readers familiar with the fate of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory will be all the more concerned about the destiny of these two very different young women.”—*VOYA*

A Junior Library Guild Selection

The House Takes a Vacation

Cavendish Children’s Books, Ages 4–8; 32 pp.

“Humorous visual details abound, echoing the tale’s silly fun.”—*School Library Journal*
After the Petersons leave for vacation, their house decides it wants to take a holiday, too!



A Booksense Summer Pick 2007

This comic adventure combines non-stop puns with a rollicking road trip to create a book that will have kids rolling on the floor. A perfect read-aloud for the primary school set.

The Night Is Singing

Dial Books for Young Readers, Ages 2–6; 32 pp.

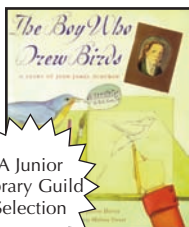
“Ready for bed with her favorite bunny tucked under her arm, a little girl climbs the stairs to her room while the sounds of the night begin to sing their lullabies... Gratifying and readable night after night.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*



The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 5–10; 32 pp.



A Junior Library Guild Selection

“This delicately illustrated book shows Audubon as an 18-year-old in Pennsylvania, already crazed about birds... Davies does full justice to this tale...”

—*The Washington Post*

- ☆ NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book
- ☆ New York Public Library’s Best Books

Where the Ground Meets the Sky

Cavendish Children’s Books, Ages 10–14; 224 pp.

“In this well-crafted novel, Hazel and her parents live in Los Alamos, New Mexico, because of her father’s work on the Manhattan Project... described in convincing detail.”

—*The Horn Book Guide*

- ☆ NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book
- ☆ IRA/CBC Children’s Award
- ☆ New York Public Library’s “Books for the Teen Age”



Now Available in Paperback

What people say...

“Our students were enthralled by Ms. Davies’ presentation. They were incredibly engaged, thanks to her teaching style and various activities. Ms. Davies knew exactly how to capture and retain students’ attention.” —Third-grade Teacher

“Thank you for teaching an incredible short-story writing workshop. Until my child took your workshop, he had little interest in writing. Now, four weeks later, an hour can pass and he still is busy writing.” —Parent

“The presentation was hands-on, well-structured, and manageable. The children learned a lot and felt successful.” —Third-grade Teacher

“Jackie’s visuals were perfect. She clearly described the process of having a book published. She spoke to the kids’ level, made connections to what they are doing at school, and encouraged them to share questions and comments. I would definitely recommend this program.” —Second-grade Teacher

“[The teachers] thought she was a teacher before becoming an author because she demonstrated such wonderful skills presenting and initiating questions, and had great control of the group.” —Fourth-grade Teacher

“This was the best thing we did all year.” —Jack, age 8

To schedule a visit, contact:

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