

SECTION 3



WHY SCHOOL VISITS?

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So you want to do school visits ... at least, I hope you do, because you're here! So **WHY** do you want to do them? It's an important thing to think about, as it helps you focus your presentations and even the schools you may target to begin with. Having a great why also helps when things are tough.

I have to say though, first up, that if one of your reasons isn't to do with inspiring and entertaining children ... think again about if you should be doing this at all. So then ...

WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE KIDS?

It's exciting!

They get to meet a real-life author.

They discover that books, reading, writing and/or drawing can be **FUN!**

They create a piece of work or start thinking of what they can produce.

They realise they are creative, and that they **can** write and/or draw.

They get a signature from a celebrity ... and trust me, you are a celebrity to them.

They are inspired.

They either meet an author they love or discover a brand new author who may become their favourite.

They don't have to do maths.

HOMEWORK

CIRCLE/TICK/UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT any of the reasons above that may apply to what you want to give children in a visit. Do **you** have any other thoughts on what children will get out of you visiting their school? Write them down here. The more the better.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

Entertain and inspire children!

Generate income.

Become a better author.

See your target audience face-to-face.

Let your target audience see **YOU AND YOUR BOOK(S)**!

Create a connection and build a relationship with children, teachers and schools.

Overcome a fear of speaking to a group.

Get your books into school libraries.

Sell books.

Test your stories/books and see what works and what doesn't. This may sometimes surprise you! It's also an opportunity to test on different schools/demographics/etc

HOMework

CIRCLE/TICK/UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT any of the reasons above that may apply to you. If you have **other reasons** for doing school visits, write them in below this next word!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR SCHOOLS?

Yes, it's super important to think about why **you** want to do school visits, but part of giving a great visit is also knowing what the school wants out of it! This will help you plan your sessions and activities and talks, and will also help when you write a flyer or website copy promoting your visit.

Below are a list of, firstly, things I have discovered, and second, things teachers have told me are important to them. As it will often be a particular teacher talking to the principal to get money for your visit, if you can cater to what schools want it will up your chances of getting the gig!

Okay. Here's the list!

Engaging the students and igniting interest and excitement around reading, writing and/or drawing.

Catering/Being relatable to the age group. Grade 6 students and Prep students respond very differently.

Doing hands on work.

Being interactive.

Catering to the curriculum.

Learning new skills/knowledge/facts.

Bringing something different and exciting to the children.

Being entertained.

A starting point the teachers can carry on with to develop skills.

Something relevant to what they are working on (narratives, rhyming, etc).

An hour off where they can mark work.

HOMework

CIRCLE/TICK/UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT any of the things schools and teachers look for in a school visit that apply to you. These are already strengths for you!!!

In another colour, **CIRCLE/TICK/UNDERLINE/HIGHLIGHT** the things you would **LIKE TO DO** but don't yet feel capable of. These are the things to work on.

Write down any other things you think/know schools may look for in an author or illustrator visit.

