



AUTHOR VISITS WITH AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR **BETHANY BARTON**

Who Is This?

Bethany Barton is an award-winning author and illustrator of STEM picture books for Penguin Random House. Her books have won the Children's Choice Award, been named an Amazon Best Book of the Year, and were featured in the New York Times. She's won over a dozen state literacy awards, and travels around the world to visit schools and inspire young readers. Her books have been translated into four languages.

Bethany on a mission is to empower kids to explore STEM —and life— using facts, humor, empathy and critical thinking. When she's not creating books, Bethany works on major television shows like *Obi-Wan Kenobi*, *The Muppets*, and *Westworld*. She was a camp counselor for many summers, and brings that energy to her presentations.



What Is This?

Author Presentations

45-60 minutes

Good for: Grades K-6. Assemblies, libraries, big groups, small groups, all groups

My author presentations include a live book reading with props, interactive demonstrations (sometimes I drink liquid toast!) a toilet paper cannon (it's educational!) and generally inspirational and informative silliness, followed by a Q&A.

After the presentation I'm available for book-signing with the students. Alternatively, I can sign the books ahead of time in the hotel, and then visit classrooms to pass them out to the students personally. Both systems work well.



I am able to do 2-3 Author Presentations in a day.

Some schools have me do one all-school presentation followed by 1-2 workshops with smaller groups. So that can work too!

**bethany
BARTON**
AUTHOR +
ILLUSTRATOR

Current Art & Writing Workshops (2024)

45 mins

Good for: Grades 3-8. Libraries, classrooms, small groups (max 50-ish students per workshop)

1. Strong Graphic Lines (aka 1980s Graffiti Art and The Power of Making Art you Can't Erase)

In this art workshop we discuss the power of gestural drawing and strong graphic lines through the lens of 1980s NY Graffiti Artists Keith Haring & Jean-Michel Basquiat. Students will be given step-by-step instruction for drawing with an emphasis on incorporating your mistakes into the process (no erasers allowed!) Students will create three pieces of art in different styles, working with chalk, pastels, and lots of googly eyes.



2. I'm Trying To Love Research: Science Communication and Creating Non-Fiction

45 mins

Good for: Grades 4-8. Libraries, classrooms, small groups (max 40-ish students per workshop)

In this writing workshop we discuss my personal systems for researching non-fiction STEM books which include internet research, books, and working with professionals in the field. With bees at the center of our discussion, we'll verify information, gather facts, and talk about finding a narrative voice to tell our story, with reference to mentor texts. Students will write several paragraphs and have the option to share their writing in class.



How Much Is It? (2024)

I do travel visits for an author fee — **on a sliding scale of \$1200-\$1800/day (plus travel/ transport/lodging/gas & a \$50/day per diem for food)** depending on what your school can afford. I know school budgets can be tight (my mom taught 5th grade) and I don't want my visits to be totally out of reach. **If those numbers sound out of reach, please chat with me and we'll see what we can make work (I won't be offended... I get it!)**

**bethany
BARTON**
AUTHOR •
(1/1/2024)

***I strongly suggest schools join forces with other schools in their district/area to bring me out for a full week to visit several schools. That way they can share expenses.*

Mural Visits

Full Day Visit - please note: mural presentations are \$1500-\$2000/mural plus materials.

Good for: The entire school, K-12

Another type of visit I offer is a mural visit. I start the day with a 45-60 minute Author Presentation (as mentioned above) so the kiddos know who I am and what I do. I then guide the students of the school (usually in groups, class by class) to collaborate in making a mural on one of the school walls, and/or on large pieces of canvas or plywood the school can hang somewhere with pride! This takes the full school day, although each class will visit/paint with me for 10-20 minutes at a time. I stay after school for approximately 4 hours to finish the piece and clean up.



Mural presentations are \$1500-\$2000/mural plus materials, which I will have shipped ahead of time. This includes an online consultation beforehand with the school to get an idea of the colors and theme for the mural. Depending on the size of your wall, the materials run from \$400-\$800. The paint I use (Nova Color) is non-toxic, eco-friendly, LEEDS certified, extremely pigmented and long lasting. It's also water based so it will wash off *most* clothing.

*Additional mural images and videos are available on my website and instagram for reference.

*****Looking for something different? Heard about a workshop I used to offer and you want it back? Please contact me at bethanybarton@me.com*****

Where To Find Bethany:

bethanybarton.com

bethanybarton@me.com

IG: @bethanybarton

Twitter: @awesomebarton



Testimonials

“Bethany Barton visited Washington and Lincoln Elementary Schools in Robinson, IL. Her enthusiastic presentation, including her very own toilet paper cannon, was a fun and rousing experience for both students and staff! In addition, with Bethany's help our students created some amazing wall murals, which are featured prominently in our schools and have inspired additional artwork for our school walls! Bethany Barton is the real deal! She is not afraid to get up close and involved with the students! Bethany's visit was an all-around resounding success! “

“Just wanted to say again how thankful I am to Bethany for how excited she was during her presentations and how great she was with the kids! They were talking about her all week because of the impact she made! :)”

“Bethany sat with the students who purchased the books and had some great discussions with them about the books, the artwork, and their interests. She was amazing! She did an amazing job with her presentation, her rapport with the students, and breaking down the art workshops to a basic level for their understanding. Students were still talking about it this week!”

“Her large group presentation was great for a mixed age group! She also gave a sensory warning before she used her “web slinger” or leaf blower with toilet paper. That was very appreciated.”

“Non-stop talk afterward by students and staff!”

“Bethany was fabulous leading the students through 3 pieces of artwork while explaining elements of art as she went. The kids loved going home with something to show their parents. Her love of children really shows.”

Three things that schools can do to make my visit more successful for their students (based on my experience) :

- **Prepare the students and teachers.** The more that students (and educators too!) know about me and my books ahead of time, they'll anticipate my visit, be more engaged, come up with thoughtful questions, and learn a lot! I have some worksheets on my website to help start that process. <https://www.bethanybarton.com/>
- **Allow plenty of time for transitions.** The more time we have together—after the kids are seated and before they stand up to leave—the more I'm able to engage with your students. Which equals more fun.
- **Have books available for me to sign.** This is not a requirement. But I have seen children light up when they realize a regular human being (and a woman, too!) who just gave them a high five *wrote the book they're holding* —and even signed it for them. I watch them get inspired as they tell me about the books *they want to write*, and to watch them carry their signed books with a treasured reverence. To assist with this, I can provide you with a book-order template to use or modify as you wish.

