

Laura Resau's

Author Visit Packet

For the 2009-2010 school year

In this packet you will find:

- An **Author Visit Overview** with basic information about presentations, workshops, fees, materials/equipment needed, audience size, paying for school visits, and book-ordering .
- An **Author Visit Timeline/Checklist**, which begins 6 to 9 months before my visit.
- Suggestions on **Ways to Prepare Students** for my author visit, which should begin several months before the visit.
- **Book-Ordering** Information
- A **Book List** to help you choose and order books appropriate for your students.
- A **Sample Book-Ordering Letter**, which you can adapt to your school's visit and send home with the students to facilitate book-ordering.

AUTHOR VISIT OVERVIEW for Laura Resau

***What the Moon Saw*, upper elementary and junior high school**

***Red Glass*, junior high and high school**

***The Indigo Notebook*, middle and high school (Oct. 2009 release)**

***Star in the Forest*, mid-to-upper elementary (spring 2010 release)**

***The Queen of Water*, middle and high school (spring 2011 release)**

- **Presentations and Workshops are available in Spanish or English**
 - **Adaptable Interactive Presentation:** I talk about my experiences in Latin America, showing slides of the people and places who inspired my books. I discuss my journey as a writer-- from a kid who loved story-telling all the way to a published author. Along the way, I explain the process of writing and publishing a book. I offer tips for young writers that support what they're learning in their classes. Throughout the presentation, I ask students lots of questions to keep them actively engaged.
- **Creative Writing Workshops:** I use examples from my books and writing journals as a starting point for fun student writing activities. Sample workshops include *Creating Vivid Worlds With All Your Senses* and *Creating Characters that Leap off the Page*. (I can help you choose which workshops would work well with your particular students.)
- **Fees:** \$500/day within a 1.5 hour drive of Fort Collins (Boulder and Denver included.) \$700/day plus travel expenses for visits elsewhere. If your school can't afford these fees, let me know, and we can try to work something out.
- **Group Sizes:** Workshops work best with groups of fewer than 30 students. For presentations, I prefer group sizes of fewer than 100 students at a time if possible, to maximize student participation (although I can present to larger groups if necessary). Media center, classroom, or auditorium space is preferred over gyms or cafeterias. *Limit 3 presentations/workshops per day.*
- **Materials Needed:** Ideally, a PowerPoint projector and laptop. (And a microphone if the audience is large.)
- **Book Orders:** Please order books well in advance, either through your local bookstore, which may give a bulk discount, or through Random House, which also gives a discount (if ordered 6 weeks in advance). For details, please visit <http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/authors/ordering.pdf>
- **Signing:** I am happy to sign books before or after the presentations/workshops. I also enjoy talking with teachers, faculty, volunteers, or specially selected students during lunch.
- **Paying for School Visits:**
 - For ideas, you can visit <http://coloradobook.org/documents/PayForAuthorVisits.pdf>.
 - In Colorado, you can apply for Authors in the Classroom funds. <http://www.coloradohumanities.org/ccftb/>
 - If you are affiliated with a school in Poudre School District, you may be eligible for Partnership funds. Please contact me for details.
- **Preparing students for an author visit:** Students get MUCH more out of the visit if they've read at least one of my books in advance. You can also familiarize them with my books by looking at my website together, doing book talks in the media center, and planning fun activities and contests.
- **Please contact Laura Resau at Lresau@hotmail.com for further information.** Use "Author Visit" as the subject heading. To read teacher and student feedback on my visits, please visit www.lauraresau.com.

Timeline/Checklist

6-9 months in advance (that's ideal, but try for at least 3 months in advance):

- ✓ Contact me at Lresau@hotmail.com [subject: school visit] to **set a date** for the visit.
- ✓ If necessary, **apply for funding** from Authors in the Classroom/Colorado Humanities (in Colorado), Poudre School District Partnership Funds (in Fort Collins), your PTA, or another source.
- ✓ Make sure your **media center has several copies of my books** and is displaying them prominently.
- ✓ Coordinate with teachers, media center staff, and possibly parent volunteers to **begin to prepare students** for the visit.

3 months in advance:

- ✓ Touch base with me **to discuss details for the visit** (topics to be covered, audience sizes, equipment needed, rough schedule, specific workshops, etc).
- ✓ I'll send you a **contract/invoice** to pass along to the school's accountant, PTA, grant organization, or whoever will be paying me. Let me know where to send this.
- ✓ Send home **book-ordering letters** (included in this packet)
- ✓ **Remind teachers/librarians to plan activities** related to my books.

1-2 months in advance:

- ✓ Finalize **the schedule** and let me (and the faculty/staff/administration) know.
- ✓ **Order the books** (at least 6 weeks in advance). Visit <http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/authors/ordering.pdf> to order from Random House or contact your local bookstore.
- ✓ Make sure **students are being prepared** for my visit, through doing book talks and fun activities, and by having them read at least one of my books.
- ✓ Make sure you have the **space reserved**, preferably media center or classroom space for small/medium groups, or an auditorium for very large groups.

1-2 weeks in advance:

- ✓ Have students make **posters** to get the school excited about my visit.
- ✓ Double-check that you have **equipment available**: microphone (if large group), computer with PowerPoint projector (I'll bring a USB stick)
- ✓ If I'll be having **lunch** with you and students or faculty, please make sure you've arranged for this. (I'll eat anything except brussel sprouts, intestines, and bad cafeteria food).
- ✓ If you're planning on a **book-signing session**, make sure that the teachers and students are aware of when this is so that students can be excused from class.
- ✓ If I will be signing many books, please have the students write their **names on sticky notes**.

Ways to Prepare your Students

Students will get SO much more out of the visit if they're familiar with my books before my visit! Any author who has experience doing school visits will tell you that the difference between a good visit and a **spectacular** one depends on whether the students are already psyched about the books. If students have been prepared, their enthusiasm multiplies a hundred fold, their questions are fantastic, and they obviously treasure the opportunity to meet a real live author.

(*If you're in the Fort Collins area and your school would like class sets of books, but can't afford it, please let me know several months in advance of my visit— I might have books available to loan you.)

Get students excited

- Ideally, make sure **they've all read at least one of my books**. See the attached Book List to help you select appropriate books. Students can read the books as an independent read, as a class, as an in-class book club choice, or as a read-aloud.
- Well before the visit, **create some buzz** in your school, among students, parents, administrators, faculty, volunteers, and staff. Encourage teachers to integrate the book into their curriculum. Ask people in your school community for ideas on generating excitement for the event.
- Have students do **projects leading up to the event**—see the resources page on my website for lots of activity ideas. See the **Resources section of my website** www.lauraresau.com/resources.html for discussion questions and activity ideas. For example, students can
 - make video trailers
 - make podcasts
 - design their own book jackets
 - make posters of similes/metaphors from my books
 - draw pictures of characters and settings in my books
 - have class discussions
 - do creative writing assignments
 - perform skits of scenes from my books
 - hold a book-themed day or have a book-themed party
 - write short reviews of my books and post them in the media center
- Have a **creative writing contest** with the prize being lunch with me, for a group of ten or fewer students.
- **Book talk** my books to all the students who will be attending my presentation. Read some excerpts. At the book talk, consider serving Mexican hot chocolate or other foods that appear in my books.
- Have students do my **website scavenger hunt** as a homework assignment. (see resource section) Those who find everything are entered in a raffle to have lunch with me or get a free signed book.

- Have students go to my website – www.lauraresau.com-- and **write five book-or-writing-related questions** to ask me that they didn't find answers to on my website.
- Make sure your **media center is stocked with several copies of each book** and display them prominently.
- Have students make **posters** to hang around school to promote my visit and familiarize other students with my books. As a reward, these students (ten or fewer) can have lunch with me. They can download high-resolution photos of me and my book covers at www.lauraresau.com/press
- Have the **school newspaper interview** me and do an article on my upcoming visit. Publicize the visit in the **school newsletter** and on the **school's website**.
- **Invite parents** to come hear my presentation, or have lunch with me.

Encourage students to buy my books

Students love having their own **personalized signed copy** of a book written by an author they've met. At this time, *What the Moon Saw* is affordable in paperback at \$6, and *Red Glass* at \$7 (retail prices).

- Students will be more likely to want to purchase their own book if you've already **familiarized them with my books**.
- 2-3 months before the visit, **send home a letter** to notify parents of this opportunity. (See attached sample letter).
- 6-8 weeks before the visit, **order the books** from Random House or make sure the bookstore you're working with has ordered them.
- See the attached **Book Ordering page** for details.

Thank you for your hard work!!!

Book List

Laura Resau's Literary Novels

These novels fit in beautifully with Reading, English, Spanish, Geography, ELA, and most Social Studies curricula (Hispanic, Immigration, and Indigenous Peoples themes).

Red Glass (Gr. 6-12)-- 16-year-old Sophie takes a road trip from Tucson to southern Mexico and Guatemala with four unlikely companions, and finds herself opening up to love and adventure along the way. *Hardcover ISBN: 0385734662, Paperback ISBN: 0440240255, Audio CD ISBN: 0739379763, Library Binding ISBN: 0385904649*

What the Moon Saw (Gr. 5-9) 14-year-old Clara Luna travels to Oaxaca, Mexico to visit the mysterious grandparents she's never met before. In their remote village, she discovers a part of the world and a part of herself she never knew existed. *Hardcover ISBN: 0385733437, Paperback ISBN: 0440239575*

Star in the Forest (Gr. 3-6, **spring 2010 release**) When 11-year-old Zitlally's father is deported to Mexico, she takes emotional refuge in her trailer park's "forest" of rusted car parts. With the help of spunky neighbor Crystal, she tries to save her father by aiding a stray dog who she believes is her father's spirit animal.

The Queen of Water (Gr. 6-12, **spring 2011 release**) Co-written with Maria Virginia Farinango, this true story begins in an impoverished community in the Ecuadorian Andes. As a seven-year-old, Virginia was taken from her family to be an unpaid servant in a mestizo household, where she struggled to hold on to her spirit. Ultimately, at age sixteen, after escaping and building a new life, she reclaimed her indigenous identity.

Laura Resau's Series Novels

These international travel-adventure novels are great for fun, independent reading or book club discussions.

The Indigo Notebook (Gr. 6-12, October 2009 release)
15-year-old Zeeta and her flighty mother live in a different country every year. This year, in the Ecuadorian Andes, Zeeta helps an American boy search for his birth parents. With him, she encounters adventure, mystery, love, and ultimately, the truth about what she really wants.
Hardcover ISBN: 0385736525, Library Binding ISBN: 0385906145, Audio CD ISBN: 0307579794

The Cerise Notebook (Gr. 6-12, **2010 release**)

The Jade Notebook (Gr. 6-12, **2011 release**)

Book-Ordering Information

- Remember to order the books from the publisher or bookstore **at least 6 weeks before you need them**. This means you should distribute information about book-ordering to the students **2-3 months ahead of time**.
- You can get my books at a 40 % discount with free shipping from **Random House** in association with a school visit. Visit <http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/authors/ordering.pdf> to order. Make sure to tell them that this is in association with an author visit, and ask for the discount. You can use this discount if you're ordering the class sets of the books well in advance, and also use it for students who wish to purchase their own copies individually.
- Most **bookstores** also give discounts, and can be very helpful facilitating students' book purchases. Try to choose a bookstore with experience in selling books for author visits. In the Denver area, Shirley at Bo Peep Books (303-232-4984) has a lot of experience and is easy to work with.
- The attached **Book List** has information that will help you select which books are appropriate for your students, and includes ISBN numbers, which you might need for ordering.

Sample Book-Ordering Letter

Dear Parents,

Award-winning author Laura Resau will visit our school on _____ to do presentations, writing workshops, and book signings. You can find out more about her at www.lauraresau.com.

Resau's books were inspired her time spent in rural Mexico as an English teacher and anthropologist. Her novel *Red Glass* won the IRA Young Adult Fiction Award, the Américas Award, and was selected as an ALA Best Book for Young Adults and an Oprah's Kids' Book Club pick. A starred review by Publishers' Weekly calls it a "vibrant, large-hearted story."

Her debut novel, *What the Moon Saw*, is an Américas Award Honor Book, a Junior Library Guild Selection, a Colorado Book Award Winner, and a Best Book for Young Adults. In a starred review, Booklist calls *What the Moon Saw* "a powerful, magical story ... a rare glimpse into an indigenous culture."

This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to own an autographed book by an author they've met. If you would like to order a book/ books, please fill out the form below and include cash or a check for \$_____ for a paperback of *What the Moon Saw* and/or \$_____ for a hard cover of *Red Glass* made out to _____. Please return the form and money to _____ by this date: _____.

BOOK ORDER FORM

Student's name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Parent's phone number: _____

of copies of *What the Moon Saw*: _____

of copies of *Red Glass*: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____