Author of Picture Books for Children

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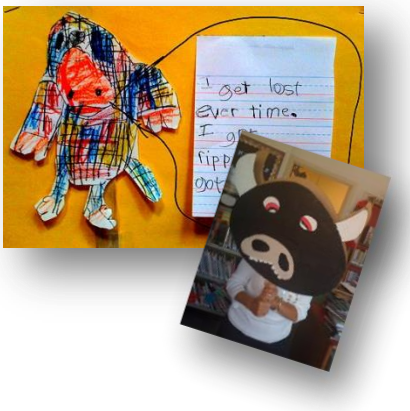
Hi! I'm Susan Stevens Crummel, a former teacher for 30 years and the co-author of several children's picture books including NY Times Best Seller ***Help Me, Mr. Mutt!*** (winner of the 2010 Texas Bluebonnet Award, 2010 Florida Children's Book Award, and named one of ***Time*** magazine's Best Children's Books for 2008), ***The Great Fuzz Frenzy*** (another NY Times Best Seller, an NCTE Notable Book and winner of ten 2007-2008 state book awards), ***Cook-a-Doodle-Doo!*** (2001 Texas Bluebonnet Award and other honors), ***And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon*** (2002 ALA Notable Book, 2003 Colorado Book Award, 2004 California Young Reader Medal), I collaborate with my sister Janet Stevens, an award-winning illustrator.

There is nothing more exciting than sharing my books with children of all ages throughout the country. The students are as much an inspiration to me as I hope to be to them. I look forward to visiting your school and have included some important information to make the visit a success. The success of a visit hinges on how well the students are prepared. Familiarity with the books generates excitement and invites student participation during a presentation. Here are some suggested activities:



- Read the books aloud to students (librarian or teacher)
- Have students read the parts of the various characters (use props!)
- Write about/draw favorite characters
- Have students write their own story and illustrate it
- .Have students prepare and bring questions for me (note cards are great!)
- Do extensions on each topic write own stew recipe for **Tumbleweed Stew**; draw map for **And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon**; make strawberry shortcake for **Cook-a-Doodle-Doo!;** bring old shoes and make a "shoe town" for **Shoe Town**)
- Have teachers/students visit my website www.susanscrummel.com for more info, teacher tips, reader's theater scripts, bookmarks, etc. Better yet, Xerox the teacher tips and distribute to the teachers along with the books!

School Presentations

During a full day visit (AT ONE SCHOOL) I make three 50 - 60 minute presentations ($1200). Here is a ***sample*** full day schedule:

8:30 AM	**arrive and set up**
9:00 – 9:45	**1st presentation (K-1)**
10:00 – 11:00	**2nd presentation (2-3)**
11:00 – 1:30	**lunch / sign books**
1:30 – 2:30	**3rd presentation (4-5)**
2:30 – ?	**finish signing books**

I tailor each session to fit the age level attending, therefore it is important to keep the groups at the same approximate age level. I have spoken to students from pre-K to 12th grade. ***Ideal*** group size ranges from 50-150 students (but I will do larger groups).

NOTE: Teacher and aide attendance is a must! It insures appropriate behavior and enables effective follow-up discussions and activities with the students. **Please do not schedule my presentation during "specials" time—the PE, art, and music teachers do not teach writing!** Also, it has been my experience that the kids are better behaved when their regular classroom teachers are nearby, modeling good behavior **(not talking and grading papers!)**

In each session I plan to:

- ❖ focus on the importance of reading, writing, and storytelling
- ❖ share the inside scoop on collaborating with Janet and Dorothy Donohue
- ❖ talk about the creative process
- ❖ act out the books using ***power point*** to add visual interest
- ❖ answer questions from students and teachers if time

Supplies Needed

- ✓ **LOW AV cart (cart only) w/ 3 plug-ins + ext. cord**
- ✓ **large screen (to show my power point)**
- ✓ **2 display tables (3' x 6' at least)**
- ✓ **LOUD lapel cordless microphone**
- ✓ **water to drink**
- ✓ **a copy of each book to display**

Autographs

Many schools order books so that students can buy them and have them autographed during the visit. I will be happy to sign any books during break times. Please have ***a post-it note in <u>each</u> book*** with the name to be inscribed printed legibly. ***Unfortunately I can't autograph slips of paper, t-shirts, or hands***—but I do have autographed bookmarks on line.