

Laura Resau's Author Visit Packet For the 2011-2012 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 author 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/community.
- A **Sample Book-Ordering Letter**, which you can adapt to your school's/library's visit and send home with the students to facilitate book-ordering.

***Please note that although this packet is geared toward teachers and librarians planning school visits, it's also useful for people planning library visits, conferences, and other community events. I realize that while school communities can require that students have read at least one of my books, this may not be possible for libraries and other organizations. I do ask, however, that you do everything possible to encourage your community to read one of my books before my visit. Thanks!**

AUTHOR VISIT OVERVIEW for Laura Resau

Laura's Books (Delacorte/Random House)

***Star in the Forest*, mid-to-upper elementary**

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

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

***The Queen of Water*, junior high and high school**

***The Indigo Notebook*, junior high and high school**

***The Ruby Notebook*, junior high and high school**

***The Jade Notebook*, junior high and high school (Feb. 2012 release)**

- **Presentations and Workshops are available in Spanish or English**
 - **Basic Presentation:** I talk about my experiences abroad, 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 Characters*, *Creating Vivid Settings*, and *Writing from Real Life*. Workshops emphasize basic creative writing skills including the use of sensory descriptions, specific details, imagery, and showing-not-telling.
- **Fees:** \$800/day plus mileage within a 1.5 hour drive of Fort Collins (Boulder and Denver included.) \$1000/day plus travel, meals, and lodging expenses for visits elsewhere. If your school can't afford these fees, or if you were expecting last year's fees, please let me know, and we can try to work something out.
- **Group Sizes:** Workshops work best with groups of fewer than 30. For presentations, groups of fewer than 100 maximize participation, although I'm happy to present to larger groups in an assembly-type setting if that's easiest. Media center, classroom, community room, or auditorium space is preferred over gyms or cafeterias. *Limit 3 presentations/workshops per day.*
- **Materials Needed:** A PowerPoint projector and laptop. No Internet or audio necessary. A microphone is needed if the audience is large. I'll bring a USB stick.
- **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/chatting:** I am happy to sign books. I also enjoy talking with teachers, librarians, volunteers, or selected students during lunch (provided by you).
- **Paying for School Visits:**
 - Find ideas at <http://coloradobook.org/documents/PayForAuthorVisits.pdf>.
 - In CO- <http://www.coloradohumanities.org/content/authors-community>

- If you are in Poudre School District, contact me about Partnership funds.
- **Preparing students for an author visit:** All students in the audience need to have read at least one of my books in advance. You might do this by incorporating my books into your curriculum or doing a One Book One School program.
- **To request a visit, contact me at: Lauraresau@gmail.com.** Then we can choose a date, and I'll send you an Author Visit Request Form to complete. **Thanks!**

Timeline/Checklist

At least 6-9 months in advance:

- ✓ Contact me at Lauraresau@gmail.com [subject: Author Visit]. I'll send you an **Author Visit Request Form to complete and email back** and we'll **set a date**.
- ✓ If necessary, **apply for funding** from Authors in the Community/Colorado Humanities (in CO), Partnership Funds (in Fort Collins), your PTA, etc.
- ✓ Make sure your **media center/ library has plenty of copies of my books** and is displaying them prominently and actively promoting them.
- ✓ Coordinate with teachers, library staff, and possibly parent volunteers to **begin to prepare the school/library community** for the visit.

3 months in advance:

- ✓ I will send you a **contract/invoice and completed W-9 tax form** to pass along to your administrator, PTA, grant organization, etc.
- ✓ Send home **book-ordering letters** (included in this packet).
- ✓ **Remind teachers/librarians to plan activities** related to my books. The Resources page on my website has activities, lesson plans, and reading guides.

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 **people are being prepared** for my visit, through doing book talks and fun activities, and by having students read at least one of my books.
- ✓ Make sure you have the **space reserved**, preferably media center or classroom/community room for small/med groups, or auditorium for large groups.

1-2 weeks in advance:

- ✓ Have people make **displays/posters** to generate excitement 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 a **book-signing/ chatting session**, make sure the students can be excused from class.
- ✓ If I will be signing many books, please have the students write their **names on sticky notes**.

Thanks!

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.

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 all-school read, an independent read, as a class, as an in-class book club choice, or as a read-aloud. Note that *Red Glass* and *The Indigo Notebook* are also available as audiobooks.
- 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 (Social Studies, Foreign Languages, Language Arts, ELL, etc). Ask people in your school community for ideas on generating excitement for the event. Arrange for local media coverage if you'd like.
- Have students do **projects leading up to the event**. The **Resources section of my website** www.lauraresau.com/resources.html has discussion questions and activity ideas. For example, students can
 - make video trailers/podcasts
 - design their own book jackets
 - make posters of similes/metaphors from my books
 - draw pictures of characters and settings in my books
 - make posters of connections they have with 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 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 (twelve or fewer) can have lunch with me. They can download high-resolution photos of me and my book covers at www.lauraresau.com/press
- 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.

- 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, ELL, and most Social Studies curricula (Hispanic, Immigration, and Indigenous Peoples themes). All of these novels have won awards, garnered multiple starred reviews, and been selected for prestigious lists.

Star in the Forest (Gr. 3-6) 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. *Delacorte/Random House*

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. *Delacorte/Random House (audiobook available)*

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. *Delacorte/Random House and Yearling*

The Queen of Water (Gr. 7-12) Co-written with Maria Virginia Farinango, this true story begins in an impoverished community in the Ecuadorian Andes. As a seven-year-old, Virginia became an unpaid servant in a *mestizo* household, where she struggled to hold on to her spirit. At age sixteen, after escaping, she must rebuild her life and reclaim her indigenous identity. *Delacorte/Random House*

Laura Resau's Series Novels

These international travel-adventure novels are great for fun, independent reading or book club discussions. Teens get pulled in and can't wait to read the next one.

The Indigo Notebook (Gr. 6-12) 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. *Delacorte/Random House (audiobook available)*

The Ruby Notebook (Gr. 6-12) 16-year-old Zeeta's adventures continue in the French city of Aix-en-Provence, where the streets are full of musicians, mystery, and romance. *Delacorte/Random House*

The Jade Notebook (Gr. 6-12, **Feb 2012 release**) The third and final book of Zeeta's travel adventures is set in a beach town in Oaxaca, Mexico where rare sea turtles nest. *Delacorte/Random House*

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 at least **2 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. Tell them that this is in association with an author visit, and ask for the discount.
- 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 Fort Collins area, I recommend Old Firehouse Books, whose staff is wonderful to work with.
- The attached **Book List** has information that will help you select which books are appropriate for your students.

Sample Book-Ordering Letter

Dear Parents,

Award-winning author Laura Resau will visit our school on [redacted] to do presentations, writing workshops, and book signings. Resau's books were inspired her time living abroad and traveling as a student, English teacher, cultural anthropologist, and writer. You can find out more about her at www.lauraresau.com.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to own an autographed book by an author they've met, and to have books signed and personalized for gifts. If you would like to order a book/ books, please fill out the form below and include cash or a check made out to [redacted].

Please indicate the number of copies of each book.

\$ [redacted] What the Moon Saw (paperback) # _____

\$ [redacted] Red Glass (paperback) # _____

\$ [redacted] The Queen of Water (hardcover) # _____

\$ [redacted] Star in the Forest (hardcover) # _____

\$ [redacted] The Indigo Notebook (paperback) # _____

\$ [redacted] The Ruby Notebook (hardcover) # _____

\$ [redacted] The Jade Notebook (Feb 2012, hardcover) # _____

Please return the form and money to [redacted] by this date: [redacted].

Thank you!

BOOK ORDER FORM

Student's name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Parent's phone number: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____