

2010-2011 School Visits by  
Author/Illustrator  
**Lita Judge**



**Thank you** to all the teachers and students who have welcomed me into their classrooms. You are all a huge inspiration to me and I am grateful to you for making my life rewarding and fun!



And if our paths haven't crossed yet, I hope the information included in this brochure will be helpful in planning a school visit.

My greatest wish is that my visit will excite, inspire, and energize your students!

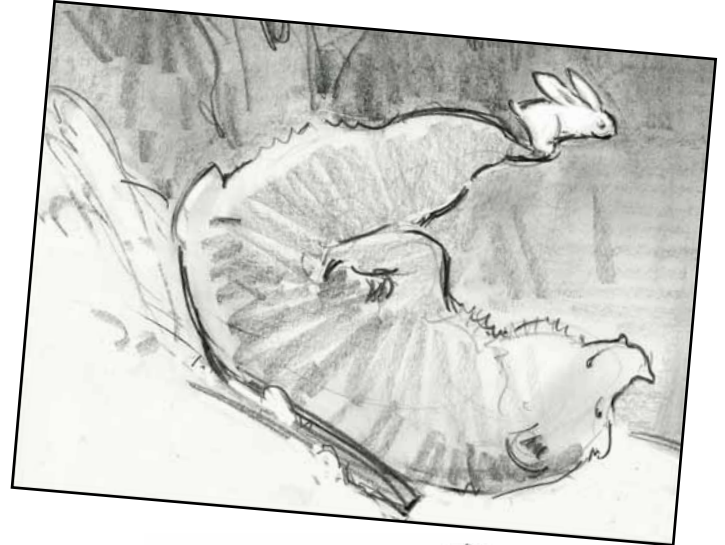
# Welcome

I love speaking to children of all ages and look forward to tailoring my presentations to your specific needs.

My aim is to inspire all students, not just future writers and artists. My presentations are geared toward igniting children's creativity and empowering

them to follow their dreams. With a lot of visual aides and fascinating stories, I'll show my own path, from volunteering on dinosaur digs as a kid, to eventually becoming an artist and writer.

I will share each step of my working process as an author and illustrator, from inspiration to final book. My talks are geared toward supporting the lessons you teach – the importance of research and revision, and building on their writing and artistic tools. I will also demonstrate how the stories I created as a child directly contribute to the books I create now. I believe my own experiences will validate their current work, building in them a sense of confidence and enthusiasm.

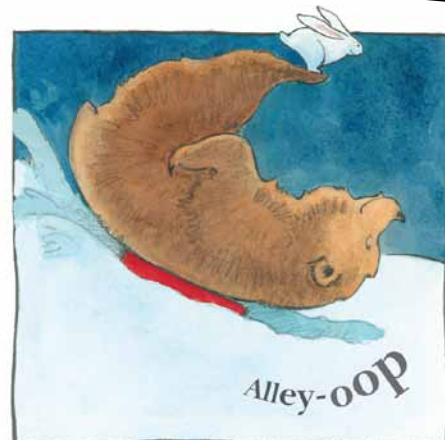


What people say...

*"...a powerful and passionate presenter"*

*"...her skill as a presenter so engaged each group of students and staff that you could have heard a pin drop."*

*"...a fascinating, engaging, and well-prepared presenter. We found her visit to be a valuable learning experience for all of our students, grades K-8."*



# School and Library Presentations

Before presenting to your class, I encourage you to read some or all of the books I have created, and at least one of the books specifically suggested for the talk. Each presentation is geared to tie in with the stories I have created. The energy you put into preparing the students before the day of the visit will reinforce the discussions I will have with them. Our teamwork will make this the best possible opportunity for the kids.

All of my talks have a digital presentation that includes lots of photos of my childhood along with the journeys and adventures I've taken while creating the books. From riding elephants, backcountry trips in the Yellowstone, and exploring behind the scenes of a Natural History Museum, students will see what it's like to be an author and illustrator. I will also share plenty of examples of preliminary sketches, rough drafts, book dummies, and final art. There will be time for question and answer at the end of each talk.

**Path to becoming an author and illustrator** How does a shy, quiet kid interested in animals and dinosaurs become a children's book author and illustrator. I'll demonstrate how my childhood interests directly inspired my current books, and through sharing stories and pictures, validate each student's creative work. From watching wildlife with my family, to volunteering on dinosaur digs as a teenager, I'll share how the things I did as a kid led me to this fascinating life. It wasn't my exposure to art as a child that fueled my passion, it was my interest in the things I found around me. The presentation will also expose my working methods as an author/illustrator: immersing myself in the topic, research, rough drafts, revision, and final publication. My goal is to inspire all kids, not just future authors and artists, to follow their dreams, build confidence with their work, and to invest in their own creative future. (grades K-12)

Suggested pre-reading: Any of my books work well, but I suggest (K-3): *Strange Creatures*, *Born to be Giants*, *Pennies for Elephants* (4-12): *One Thousand Tracings*, *Yellowstone Moran*.



**The Story Behind *One Thousand Tracings*** I will give a brief discussion of how I became an author and illustrator, sharing stories from my childhood. Then I'll provide an in depth discussion of the real people and historical events that inspired *One Thousand Tracings*. Showing actual artifacts that I discovered in my grandmother's attic, I'll share the detective work that went into finding survivors who participated in the post WWII relief effort, and talk about the impact it had on their lives. I'll also share my creative process, turning research into creative stories. Students will see each step creating a book: rough manuscripts, revision notes, sketches, book dummies, and final art. By illuminating my writing and illustrating process, students will expand the tools they have for their own creative work. (Grades 4-9)

Suggested Pre-reading: *One Thousand Tracings*

# School and Library Presentations

**Daydreams, Digs and Dinosaurs!** This is a perfect talk to introduce my creative writing and illustrating process to younger students. I'll provide an exciting journey through time, show how my childhood interest in dinosaurs led me to work on dinosaur digs as a student, and how this led to a career as an author and illustrator. Slides of actual dinosaur digs will give students a behind-the-scenes look at this topic. Then I'll discuss how I wrote and illustrated my books *Born to be Giants* and *D is for Dinosaurs* and share exciting new facts about baby dinosaurs (Grades K-4)

Suggested pre-reading: *Born to be Giants*



**Pennies for Elephants:** *Pennies for Elephants* is based on true events which occurred almost 100 years ago. I'll share how I brought the story to life by searching through old newspapers, hosting costume parties, and even working with a trained elephant. The presentation will expand the tools students have for their own writing and illustrating by diving into the process of rough drafts and revision. I'll also focus on the newspapers, which play a central role in the story. Students will be encouraged to take an interest in local news and events in the global community, and become aware of the world beyond their doorstep. This talk will also include an introduction on how I became an author, sharing childhood stories and interests.



This talk presents a great opportunity for a Pre-Visit Activity.

Create a penny drive and get students excited about sharing their efforts with me, and connect them to their local news by having them create their own news! Have students collect and earn pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters for a fund raising event of their choice. Create a poster illustrating the purpose of the fund raising event. Then contact your local newspaper before my visit to generate community support of the penny drive (Please visit the activities section of my website for more details!) (Grades K-9, particularly 1-4)

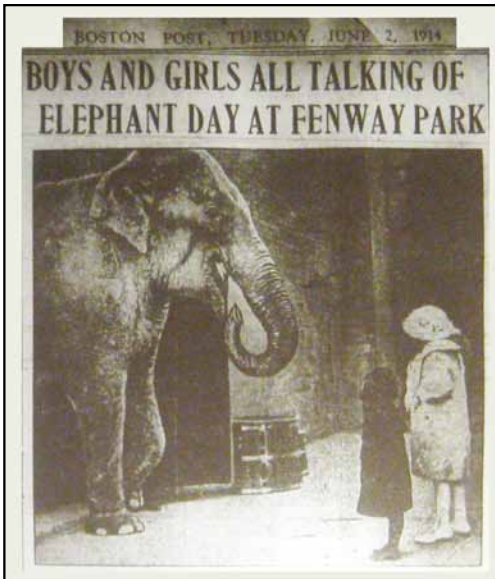
Suggested pre-reading: *Pennies for Elephants*

## **Yellowstone Moran—Journaling and Sketching**

This is a special opportunity to share my creative process with students. I'll talk about the journals I kept as a child, emphasizing that many of my current books were inspired by these childhood journals! I'll share pictures and stories that demonstrate how travels with my family, watching wildlife, led me to write a book about Thomas Moran. I'll show how Moran's own journals helped inspire Congress to create our first National Park. Then I'll discuss my creative process in making this book, following in Moran's footsteps through the backcountry of Yellowstone while sketching and writing in a journal. This talk will reinforce and encourage students' own journaling efforts, develop good writing and drawing habits, and give them tools to capture their creative ideas. (Grades K-9)



Suggested pre-reading: *Yellowstone Moran*



### **Digging Deep to Find Interesting Sources for Historical Stories**

From sifting through microfilm, deciphering faded diaries, interviewing WWII survivors, to pack-trip journeys through the Yellowstone or working with trained elephants, I'll share how writing about historical events can be filled with detective work and adventure. I'll share how I gather narrative and visual information, and how I shape this research into my own stories and pictures. I'll break down the written and visual elements in my work to show students each step of creating a book. Students will gain ideas for gathering their own sources and will learn how to shape their creative writing and illustrating from historical events. And, they'll engage in reading historical stories with a richer understanding. (Grades 2-9)

Suggested pre-reading (Grades 2-5): *Strange Creatures, Pennies for Elephants*. (Grades 4-9): *Yellowstone Moran, One Thousand Tracings*

## Details

**Curriculum and Activities** The discussions in my presentations are designed to reinforce and expand your grade curriculum. Please refer to study guides and activities we have created for each book to connect my books to your teaching of language arts, social studies, history and science.

### **Cost**

I strongly believe in providing school visit presentations in small group settings to allow students to get to know me personally and to create an environment where they can ask questions. For this reason I recommend limiting each presentation to 60 students or less. I often do two day school visits to accommodate all the classes in a school, while keeping groups intimate. For this reason I offer a discount for a two day visit.

- The cost of a one day visit (up to 4 presentations) is \$1000
- The cost of a two day visit (up to 8 presentations) is \$1800

Over a 2 hour drive (from Peterborough, NH), or a two day school visit, add an option for hotel.

### **Presentations length**

- K-2nd grade are 35 minutes
- 3rd -12th grade are 45-50 minutes

### **Contact**

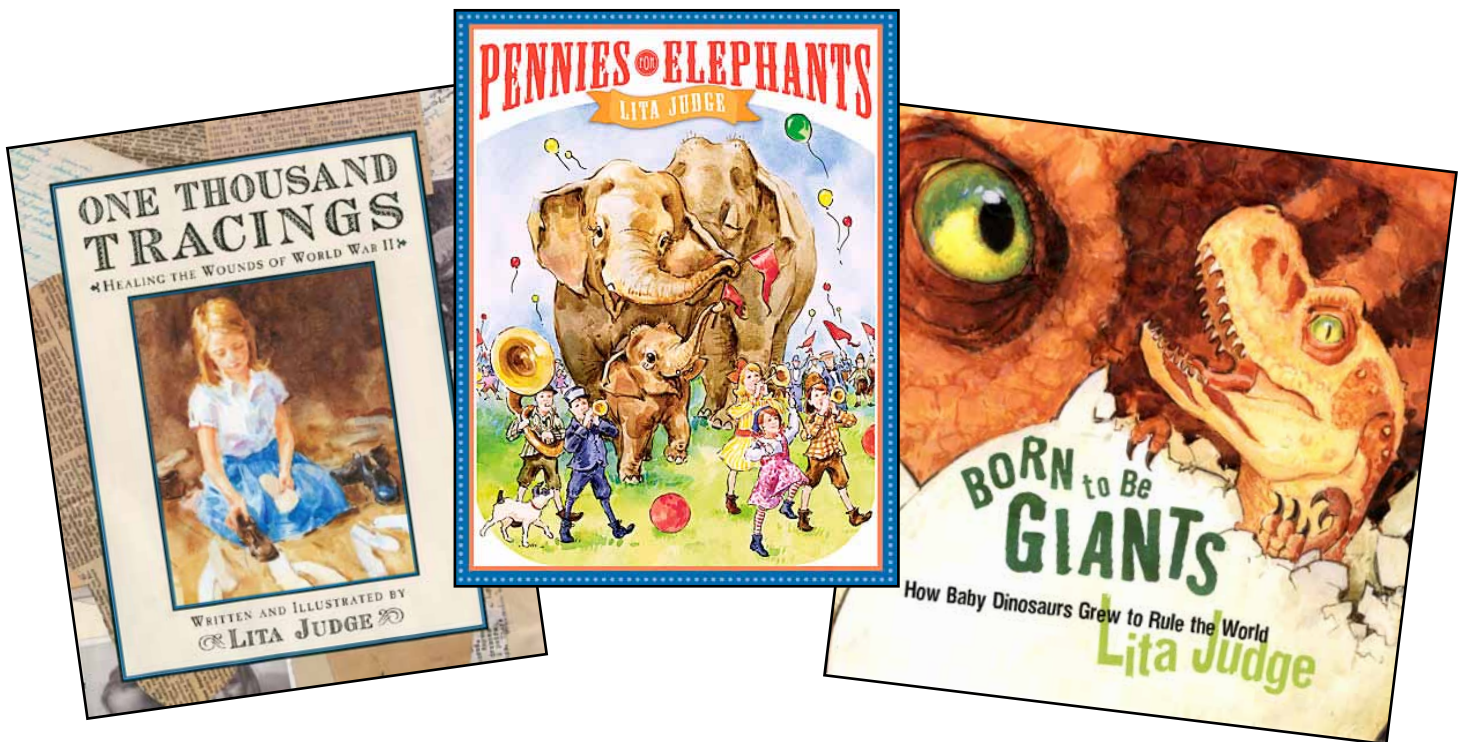
To ask questions or schedule a visit, please call me at 603-924-0184, or contact me through [lita@litajudge.com](mailto:lita@litajudge.com)



# Book Sale Information

**Books to Take Home:** I am passionate about connecting with students on school visits and providing a meaningful, long lasting experience.

I believe a personally signed book to take home can expand the school visit experience for a student and allow them to share that experience with their family. With each rereading, the child will remember their own connection with the author, and continue to be stimulated and inspired. For this reason, I require the school to provide a book sale with each visit. And to make it possible for more children to bring home books, I offer two ways to purchase books at a discount.



There are 2 simple ways to manage a book sale in conjunction with my visit.

1. **I will provide books at a discount:** Distribute the flyers (see next page—all books are \$15) to the children, then contact me with an order tally for each book. Checks can be made out to me. I'll deliver the books on the day of my visit and sign them before I leave.

2. **Partnering with a Bookstore:** Team up with your local bookstore. Distribute the flyers to each student. Collect payment and phone-in order to the bookstore. The store handles the rest. Most stores give a 20% discount for school orders and this can be used for fund-raising, or the savings can be passed through to the kids (you'll want to modify the price on the book order form in this case—contact me with any questions). Someone from your school will need to pick up the order from the store. The bookstore may also be willing to work with you for an after school or evening book sale. (Note: Contact me for an order form in Word format where you can adjust the prices or for a form with Retail prices.)

**And I'm happy to participate in an after school event and booksale to allow students to bring their parents.**

Whichever method you choose, I'm happy to help. Please let me know what you need.

# Book Order Form (Discount Price)

On \_\_\_\_\_, your child will meet author and illustrator **Lita Judge**. If you would like to purchase a personally autographed book for your child to bring home on the day of the visit, please complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher, along with your payment, by \_\_\_\_\_.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_



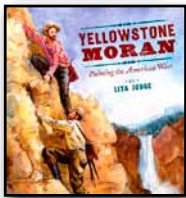
**One Thousand Tracings**  
2007 Hyperion Books for Children. Ages 5-12; 40 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed (example: To Cindy)	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____



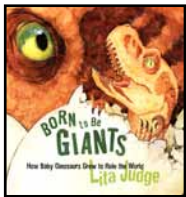
**Pennies for Elephants**  
2009 Hyperion Books for Children. Ages 2-9; 40 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____



**Yellowstone Moran**  
2009 Viking. Ages 5-12; 40 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____



**Born to be Giants**  
2010 Roaring Brook. Ages 5-12; 48 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____



**Strange Creatures: The Story of Walter Rothschild and his Museum**  
2011 Disney-Hyperion. Ages 5-12; 40 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____



**S is for S'mores: A Camping Alphabet**  
Written by Helen Foster James, Illustrated by Lita Judge, 2007 Sleeping Bear Press. Ages 5-12; 40 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____



**Mogo: The Third Warthog**  
Written by Donna Jo Napoli, Illustrated by Lita Judge  
2008 Hyperion Books for Children. Ages 7-12; 208 pages

Name(s) to be inscribed	Price	Quantity	Total
_____	\$15.00	x _____ =	_____

**Please make checks payable to: Lita Judge Total: \_\_\_\_\_**