

Layne Johnson Speaking Engagement Information

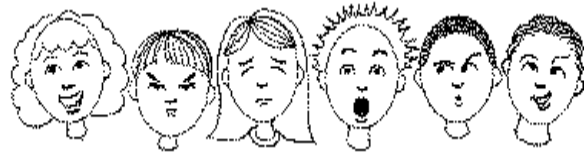
"One of the most important things anyone can give children is something every child wants — power. And that's what I do. I empower them. All children like to draw. Encouragement and the right amount of knowledge can really give a child confidence. I know from personal experience that sometimes, meeting the right person can spark incredible curiosity, diligence, exploration... and creativity. Those wonderful qualities are tools that will serve them and others for the rest of their lives. So if I can ignite a child's imagination, a whole new world might open up for them!"

*~Layne Johnson
Artist, writer and speaker*

SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAMS

1. *How Do You Draw Faces?*

Kids ask me this a lot. Well, there are all sorts of faces. And they show many feelings. Emotions are what make faces, people, characters and books interesting. But how do you draw them? This visit, one of my most requested, empowers kids... letting them know that they can draw expressions in a simple and fun way.



This is a very interactive presentation. I talk about the basics of the face, then draw — using fun props and input from the kids. What does macaroni have to do with drawing? You'll find out! You'll then see a few slides of my artwork as I discuss how emotions appear on faces. Then finally, everyone gets to draw! This visit is "hands on" for the kids. Children produce something they can take home and be proud of!

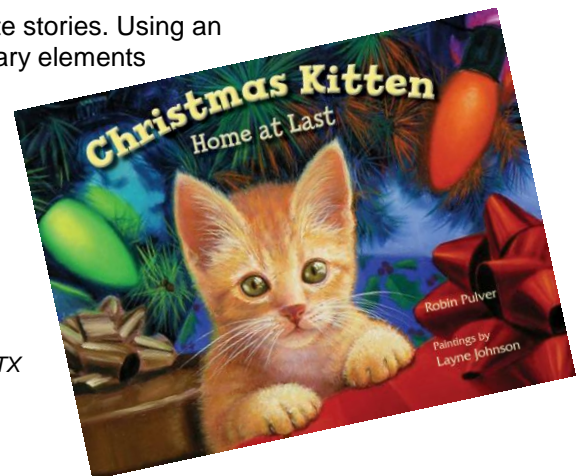
Great for Kindergarten through 5th grade.

"Your program was great, and the kids' drawings were amazing! . . . It just takes someone special to help them learn that they can do it, and then, the sky is the limit!" ~ Maureen Sharp Fredericksburg ISD

2. *A Toolbox for Great Stories!*

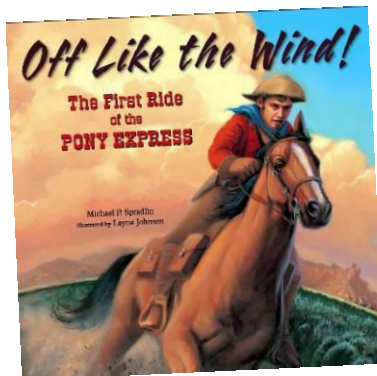
This program is aimed at students who are writing or about to write stories. Using an exciting PowerPoint presentation, Layne goes over some necessary elements that make stories not only good, but GREAT! Using colorful examples from his books, he covers some basics in writing such as beginning, middle and end, to more advanced ideas such as avoiding clichés – all the while using visual examples. This presentation includes some exercises and two Word doc leave behinds to use as reminders.

"One of the fifth grade teachers told me you are the best author/illustrator visit we have ever had! High praise from a seasoned veteran who has seen a lot." ~ Angie Johnson, Lovejoy ISD, TX



3. *How Did You Make That Book?*

This is another of one of the most often asked questions. In this presentation, I walk through the step-by-step process with real examples — from manuscript, thumbnails, sketches, and color art — until the finished picture book is complete! Afterward, a short PowerPoint presentation visually shows several illustrations -- a magical transformation from the roughest thumbnail sketch to the final finished artwork. This is a great presentation for large assemblies.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Writer / Illustrator Conference and Workshop Programs
- Teacher and Community Workshops

GRADES

- Programs for Grades K through 5
- All ages at libraries, bookstores, and educational conferences

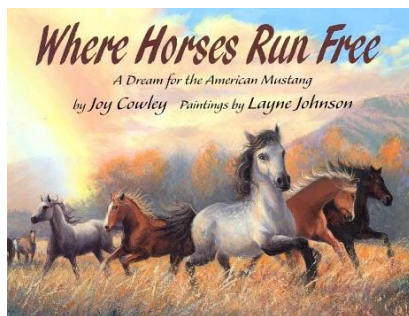
LENGTH OF PROGRAMS

Depending upon grade and type of presentation, programs last from thirty to sixty minutes.

AUDIENCE SIZE

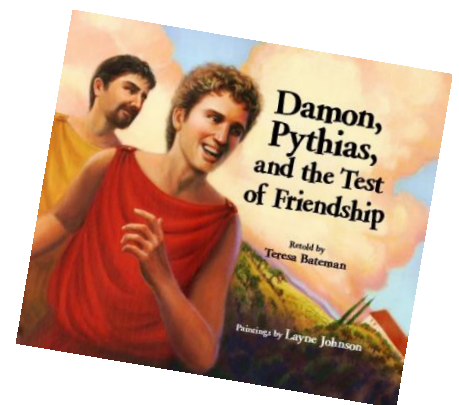
The size of the audience depends upon your needs and your school. I usually present to an entire grade level at a time, or up to two combined grade levels. My preference is for groups of around 150 or less. Of course, smaller groups are better and allow for more interaction, which is very valuable and makes my visit more personal and meaningful. Groups of up to 200 can be accommodated. Multi-day visits are welcomed!

For the drawing program, a cafeteria with tables works well, as long as the room can be darkened. Libraries are fine for smaller groups.



SET-UP AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Room which may be darkened for multi-media presentation
- Drawing easel with art paper
- Overhead transparency projector or Elmo opaque projector
- Large projection screen - mounted high for visibility
- A microphone - the best is a wireless headset, since this

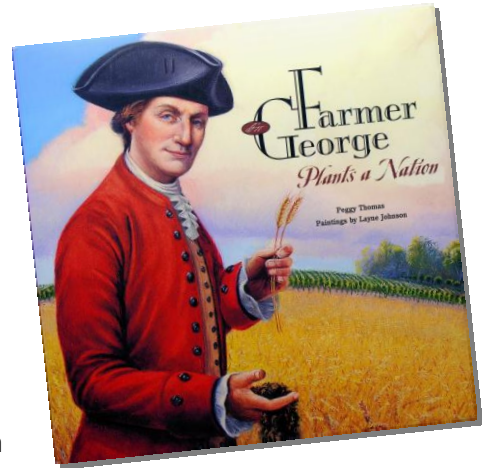


allows Mr. Johnson to keep his hands free. Please check the microphone & sound system for sound quality prior to the presentation.

- Display table for books
- A small table for Mr. Johnson to place his materials
- A bottle or glass of water
- A designated escort

Additional requirements for the "How do you draw faces?" program:

- Copies of the "faces" template for the children to draw on (a PDF file will be provided)
- Pencils with erasers for the children to draw with
- Something to draw on (i.e. clip boards, cardboard, etc.)



Named one of *School Library Journal's* Best Books of 2008

BOOK SALES

I highly recommend that book sales accompany the school program so that everyone has the opportunity to get an autographed book. Book sales are also an excellent fundraiser for the school. You may work with the book seller or distributor of your choice, or order books directly from my publishers. You'll be provided with a Book Order Form and publisher contact information.

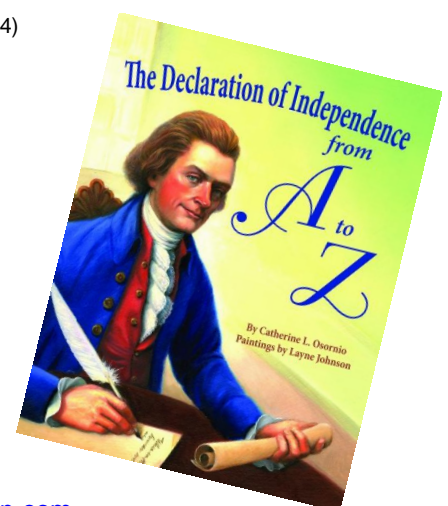
FEES

School Visits are \$1,000 per day (3-4 sessions), evening sessions at \$250, plus reasonable travel and lodging expenses. If 3 or more days are booked in the same area, lodging expenses are waived. Also included are book signings which fit within the schedule!

A **School Visit Kit** is sent to the school at the time of my booking. This kit includes **complimentary copies of my books** as well as a DVD copy of my [book videos](#) for your library to share with your students in advance of the school visit! The kit also includes a poster with visit information, printable autographed bookmarks, and the drawing template (for the "How do you draw faces" program), the various ways to order my books, and an order form for the school to send home with students.

Children's Books I Have Illustrated

- *Christmas Kitten Home At Last* (Albert Whitman & Co., 2010)
- *The Declaration of Independence from A to Z* (Pelican, 2010)
- *Off Like the Wind, The First Ride of the Pony Express* (Walker Books for Young Readers, 2010)
- *Damon, Pythias, and the Test of Friendship* (Albert Whitman & Co., 2009)
- *Farmer George Plants a Nation* (Calkins Creek, 2008)
- *Remembering Grandpa* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2007)
- *A Young Man's Dance* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2006)
- *The Kingfisher Book of Horse and Pony Stories* (Houghton Mifflin / Kingfisher, 2005 — anthology, illustrated selected stories)
- *Young Patriots: Inspiring Stories of the American Revolution* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2004)
- *Grandparent Poems* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2004)
- *Where Horses Run Free* (Boyd's Mills Press, 2003)
- *Christmas for Kitten* (Albert Whitman & Co., 2003)
- *Ben, King of the River* (Albert Whitman & Co., 2001)
- *On the Day His Daddy Left* (Albert Whitman & Co., 2000)
- *Brian's Bird* (Albert Whitman & Co., 2000)
- *The Night Queen's Blue Velvet Dress* (Steck-Vaughn, 2000)
- *Abuelito Eats With His Fingers* (Eakin Press, 1999)
- *Brad and Butter Play Ball* (Random House, 1998)

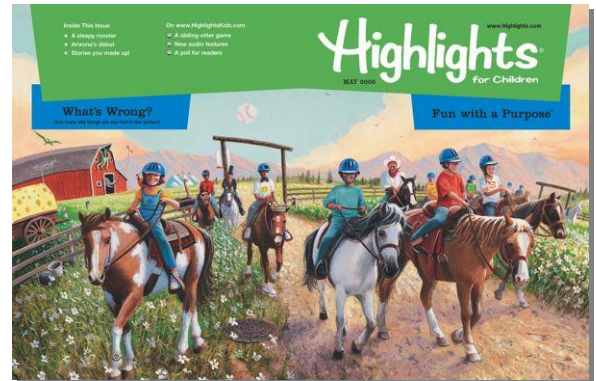


Magazine Art I Have Illustrated

- *Highlights for Children*

Awards

- [Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children 2009](#)
- [School Library Journal's Best Books 2008](#)
- School Library Journal "Hot Pick"
- Recommended Reading Lists
- Children's Book Committee of Bank Street College of Education
- American Booksellers Association "Pick of the List"
- Book Sense Children's 76 Winter 2003-2004 List
- KIND Children's Honor Book - National Association For Humane and Environmental Education
- Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Seal Award
- CWA Certificate of Excellence



WHAT SCHOOLS HAVE TO SAY

Layne Johnson's presentation touches the heart, informs the mind, appeals to the eye, and facilitates the artist in all of us. Prior to his visit I booktalked his books, showed the "before the visit" DVD with music to compliment each book's illustrations, and did a "singing commercial" each morning on announcements to build interest. An indelible memory was made with my students since they were still talking about him a month later.

—Aileen Kirkham
Tomball ISD

"I just wanted to thank you for the fabulous visit you shared with the 5th graders at Hancock Elementary. I know that my students were able to gain a new perspective on the picture books they often overlook. This, I feel, is a wonderful gift to give them before they leave for junior high."

—Heather Jankowski
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

"I would like to thank you for sharing your "passion" about art with our second grade. It is people like you that truly make a difference in the lives of others."

—Dorothy Stroech
Katy ISD

"He was wonderful with the children and brought so much fun and information to them about illustrating books. He explains what illustrators do in great detail. He takes the children through the stages of publishing a book and shows slides of the many books he has published. The kids were quite impressed!"

Mr. Johnson is a true professional who relates easily to the kids and understands how to educate in a fun and joyful way. He would be a blessing to any school!"

—Vanessa Albright
College Station ISD

