

School Programs by Barbara O'Connor

Improve students' writing skills

Award-winning author **Barbara O'Connor** brings her expertise into the classroom and leaves children with an understanding and appreciation of writing. Barbara provides valuable tools to help students with critical elements of writing.

Perfect for MCAS preparation



Basic Program: Show Me a Story

- Sure-fire techniques to add details, establish setting, create descriptive scenes, show character traits and emotion
- Stresses tools of good writing, such as descriptive words, details and “show, don’t tell”
- Reinforces the Six Traits of Writing
- Reinforces MCAS preparedness

“Show, Don’t Tell” Writing Workshop

With the right tools, students can learn to write more descriptively. “Show, Don’t Tell” is one of the most effective tools to add details, use good word choice, create setting and develop character.

In this two-day workshop, Barbara helps students understand and apply this handy technique. Includes worksheets.

Biography Workshop

In this 3- or 4-day workshop, students learn the steps to writing biographies: interview, organization, writing creative nonfiction and revision. Stresses converting facts into an interesting story using effective writing tools. Includes handouts and worksheets.



Books by Barbara O'Connor

Novels (Ages 8-12)

- The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester (*New! Fall 2010; Junior Library Guild Selection*)
- The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis (*ALA Notable; School Library Journal Best Books*)
- Greetings from Nowhere (*Parents Choice Silver Award*)
- How to Steal a Dog (*Parents Choice Recommended; Bank St College Best Books*)
- Taking Care of Moses (*Parents Choice Recommended; Bank St College Best Books*)
- Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia (*Parents Choice Gold Award; Bank St College Best Books*)
- Moonpie and Ivy (*Massachusetts Book Award; Parents Choice Gold Award*)
- Me and Rupert Goody (*ALA Notable; Bank St College Best Books*)
- Beethoven in Paradise (*ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults*)

Biographies (Ages 9-12)

- Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance Genius
- Katherine Dunham: Pioneer of Black Dance
- The Soldier's Voice: The Story of Ernie Pyle
- Barefoot Dancer: The Story of Isadora Duncan

What Others Say about Barbara's Programs

"Barbara is one of the best writing teachers I've worked with. She is specific with her assignments and goals; hands out excellent materials."

-Dale Street Elementary; Medfield, MA

"...one of the standout programs in the area."

-Pat Keogh; Children's Literature Consultant; Weston, MA

"Barbara captivated the attention of the writers and reluctant writers."

-Central Elementary; Stoneham, MA

"Humorous, well-prepared, professional, a natural teacher, excellent content."

-Community Coordinator; Newton Public Schools

"An excellent teacher with great strategies."

-Martinson Elementary; Marshfield, MA

For Information, Fees and Booking, Contact:

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Audience age range:

Grades 3-6

Audience size:

25-50 ideal; can accommodate more

Program length:

45-50 minutes; maximum 3 per day
(Call for workshop info)