



## Author-Go-Round 2010 Guidelines

During Author-Go-Round week, approximately 130 students (grades 5-8) from throughout the county gather each day to meet four authors/illustrators of books for young people. The day begins with brief presentations by each author in front of the entire group. In the second half of the morning, students will spend 15 minutes seated on carpets around authors, asking questions; then, at a music signal, they will move on to the next author. The morning is further highlighted with carousel decorations, a refreshment break, and fun activities based on the authors' works.

*Students participating in the Author-Go-Round have an opportunity to:*

- ★ meet authors of books written specifically for young people
- ★ explore avenues of creative writing/illustrating with writers or illustrators
- ★ read and discuss in-depth literary works by well-known authors
- ★ experience a special literary event, now in its 38<sup>th</sup> year

### **Some ways to build group interest before selecting students**

- ✓ Encourage group and individual reading, thinking and creativity of expression.
- ✓ Make sure that books by the Author-Go-Round authors sent out by the County Education Office are made readily available in a specific location in your classroom or media center.
- ✓ Show the 2001 County Education Office Author-Go-Round videotape to students and to parent and community groups.
- ✓ Have a display of Author-Go-Round pictures, booklets and follow-up materials from past Author-Go-Rounds.
- ✓ Read aloud and **discuss in depth** at least one of the books you most enjoyed by each of the participating authors.
- ✓ Read selections from some of the books; then let students check them out.
- ✓ Have students who have attended previous Author-Go-Rounds present their impressions and experiences to the group.
- ✓ Visit our website at [www.sbceo.org/~ims](http://www.sbceo.org/~ims) for further information, including PDF files for download.

### **Selecting Students**

*School staff, individual teachers or library/media specialists set their own criteria for selecting participants. We urge you to give high priority to students who*

- have actually read a number of the books on the book list
- show an interest and enthusiasm for books and stories
- are curious about the techniques of becoming an author or illustrator
- show creative abilities or potential

*Competition based on number of books read, book reports made, or similar quantitative standards may lead to selecting "shallow" readers and thinkers rather than students who*

- will ask thoughtful, probing questions of the authors and about the books they write.
- know several works by each author.
- may be stimulated to wider reading and creative expression by the Author-Go-Round experience.

## Selecting Students (*cont.*)

We recommend that you give selection priority to students who have not previously attended this event.

### Some Ways to Prepare the Selected Students

*Once the students have been selected, you will want to prepare them for their Author-Go-Round experience. You can assist students by encouraging them to do the following:*

- ✓ Use the attached worksheet to have students reflect on their own writing and to generate questions for the authors.
- ✓ Share their responses to Author-Go-Round books through summarizing or dramatizing books, making posters, maps or murals.
- ✓ Develop questions to ask the authors. Encourage thoughtful questions concerning the authors' themes; comparing his/her works; probing his/her motivations for writing. Authors are particularly responsive to questions that indicate an interest in their works and in themselves.
- ✓ Meet with your students to discuss the day's activities and basic courtesies to be extended to the authors and others in attendance.
- ✓ Author-Go-Round booklets will be provided for autographing. In addition, feel free to bring books by the authors.
- ✓ Cameras and tape recorders are to be left at home.
- ✓ Students may want to bring portfolios or samples of their own work to share with authors.
- ✓ Encourage students to visit with young people from other schools and districts, particularly prior to the opening session. It's a great opportunity for all to make new friends!

### Follow-up Activities

*You'll want to provide students with opportunities to share the day's events with others in your group or school.*

- Have students share answers to the questions asked of the various authors, particularly those prepared by your students.
- Have students share highlights, experiences, and mementos of the day through oral and written expression, bulletin boards, murals, etc.
- Have students create a central display in the school or prepare a school presentation, based on the day's experiences.
- Have students make a presentation to parent and community groups (including the school board) of their experiences.
- Include an article on Author-Go-Round in your school newsletter.
- Students may also wish to try their hand at writing in the styles or themes of Author-Go-Round authors. Above all, enjoy your Author-Go-Round experience.