



Sharron McElmeel has built a national reputation as a resource for those interested in literature for young readers. She is an often-requested speaker at conferences and professional development workshops. Experienced as a classroom teacher and library media specialist spanning work with elementary, secondary, and college-level students, Sharron is the author of more than 20 books for educators/librarians — books about literature integration, reading, and authors/illustrators of books for children and young adults and is the recipient of numerous awards recognizing her many contributions to the field of literacy. She has been the recipient of the Iowa Reading Teacher of the Year Award, the Iowa Celebrate Literacy Award, and nominated as Iowa's Teacher of the Year. During the past 20 years she has reviewed books for *School Library Journal*, *Science Books and Films*, *Library Talk*, and *Book Report*. She currently is working on a manuscript focusing on children's authors, reviews books for *Kirkus Reviews*, is a frequent contributor to professional periodicals, and moderates a book discussion board on the Internet. She teaches courses in children's literature and young adult literature for the University of Wisconsin–Stout and Mt. Mercy College (Cedar Rapids, Iowa). She is the founder of McBookwords, a literacy organization that

promotes and plans literacy events, is involved in documenting a public collection of original art work from children's books, and provides workshops/seminars in children/young adult literature.

Her Books

100 Most Popular Children's Authors: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies. (Libraries Unlimited 1999). ISBN: 1-56308-646-8

100 Most Popular Picture Books Authors and Illustrators: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies. (Libraries Unlimited 2000). ISBN: 1-56308-647-6

Authors in the Kitchen. (Libraries Unlimited, forthcoming 2005). ISBN: 1-59158-238-5

Character Education: A Book Guide for Teachers, Librarians, and Parents (Libraries Unlimited 2002). ISBN: 1-56308-884-3

Children's Authors and Illustrators Too Good to Miss (Libraries Unlimited 2004). ISBN: 1-59158-027-7

Series editor for the Author and You Series: *Gerald McDermott and You* by Jon C. Stott (Libraries Unlimited 2004). ISBN: 1-59158-175-3

A complete list of publications by Sharron McElmeel (including journal articles) is available at <http://www.mcelmeel.com/writing>.

Workshops

Keynote sessions or day-long workshops available on selected topics/combinations of topics.

SESSIONS TO BUILD FAMILIES OR COMMUNITIES OF READERS

What's New and Old Favorites — Sharron comes with a myriad of suggestions for great books to read and anecdotes about the writers and illustrators. Readers will be ready to read and succeed at the end of this energetic session for any age reader. Book talk presentations can be geared toward any genre or age group—humor, adventure, Iowa Connections, or other regional topics. Great presentation for classrooms or family audiences.

Building a Family of Readers — Designed especially for community/parents, this presentation will share techniques for bringing the importance of reading home to each family. It includes suggestions for connecting books and reading into every corner of family life.

KEYNOTE SESSIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

Half the Battle — Just what is the War to Conquer Reading? What is the battle strategy and who is fighting the war? This address focuses the audience on the problem that politicians are missing and the components of the reading war that are not getting enough attention from educators. This session is geared toward administrators, reading teachers, and library media specialists alike.

Building a Community of Readers — Building a nation of readers will not come about until we have focused on families, school communities, neighborhoods, and states. Building a community of readers takes more than willing teachers — we must have willing participants. Sharing strategies for successful community building reading events will inspire and motivate involvement. This presentation can be adapted for community groups wishing to learn about public relations to promote literacy-related activities.

SOME SUGGESTED TITLES/TOPICS FOR OTHER SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

The Story Behind the Story — Inside tales of authors and illustrators and the books they have created. Friendly tales of bloopers in books and hidden images and ideas. A humorous — just for fun — presentation. (General Audience)

Poems, Prose, and People — Building connections for young readers. Innovative ideas for sharing and involving the early reader in books and literacy activities. Activities suggested for drama, art, and other collaborative activities to enhance the experience with favorite folk stories and poems. (Primary)

ABCs of an Author/Illustrator Visit — Promotes enhanced literacy through an exciting celebration of books and the authors and illustrators who create them! (General)

Research Strategies for Moving Beyond Reporting — Emphasis is put on primary sources and direct observation to teach youngsters the basic research process. Projects and assignments are suggested that take students to studies as diverse as the county court house and the World Wide Web to gather information. The six-step process that applies to all grade levels is stressed, and dozens of examples to aid the teacher or media specialist in planning lessons are offered. (Elementary, adaptable for Middle School)

WWW Almanac: Making Curriculum Connections to Special Days, Weeks, and Months — Use observances of special occasions to highlight curriculum connections, support information literacy, and motivate young readers. Create your own holidays and invent special celebrations to suit your community, theme work, and goals. (General)

Young Adult: Books and Authors — This session focuses on some of the newest titles in the Young Adult (intermediate grades to grade 10) field with inside stories about the books and authors who wrote them. Some of the featured authors include: Christopher Paul Curtis, Cynthia Leitich Smith, Jane Kurtz, Carol Gorman, Gary Paulsen, Fred Bowen, and others. (Upper Elementary/Secondary)

Young Readers: Books and Authors — This session focuses on some of the newest titles for elementary readers with inside stories about the books and authors who wrote them. Some of the featured authors include: Jacqueline Briggs Martin, Denise Fleming, Patricia Polacco, and others. (Upper Elementary/Secondary)

- Any related topic can be addressed to meet the needs of your intended audience.

Contact Information

Sharron L. McElmeel
3000 N. Center Point Rd
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411-9548
mcelmeel@mcelmeel.com
319-393-2562
<http://www.mcelmeel.com>

Debby LaBoon
Author Support & Workshops Manager
Libraries Unlimited
debby.laboone@lu.com
803-547-5206