

## **Eight Great Ways to Find the Money to Pay for an Author or Illustrator to Come Visit Your School**

By Roxyanne Young

Having a professional children's book author or freelance writer visit your school can energize your students and get them excited about reading and writing. When you have a real live author in your classroom or library, your students can connect with someone who can enhance your curriculum in lively, entertaining, and educational ways. Children's authors typically earn an honorarium for their presentations.

- 1. Apply for a grant from your local or state Arts Council**
  - a. [http://www.nea.gov/partner/state/SAA\\_RAO\\_list.html](http://www.nea.gov/partner/state/SAA_RAO_list.html)
  - b. <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/aoa/saaweb.shtml>
  - c. <http://www.nasaa-arts.org/aoa/saadir.shtml>
  - d. Google your state name + Arts Council
  - e. Google your city name, state name + Literacy Foundation
- 2. Ask the Parent Council/PTA to hold a fundraiser**, or perhaps a family would like to host a favorite author.
- 3. Ask your students for fund-raising ideas**, like collecting coins to help cover the cost of bringing in one of their favorite authors.
- 4. Contact the Amber Brown Fund**, a grant established in honor of the great Paula Danziger and dedicated to providing funding for author visits.
  - a. <http://www.scbwi.org/awards/grants/AmberBrown.pdf>
- 5. Apply for the Maureen Hayes Award for Author Appearances**, sponsored by the American Library Association and Simon & Schuster.
  - a. Contact: Linda Mays, ALSC Program Officer, 312-280-1398 or Michelle Fadlalla, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 212-698-7325
- 6. Apply for NCTE grants for educators** to help create literacy programs in your school, including author visits. Include tips on writing winning proposals.
  - a. <http://www.ncte.org/about/grants>
- 7. Enter into a partnership with local merchants** who want to support literacy in their neighborhood schools. Many of them are anxious to show their commitment to education and their community and are willing to put some money behind that commitment to cover the costs of hotel or airfare for the visiting artist or author.
- 8. Invite local authors and artists to come to your school.** They will still deserve an honorarium, but featuring local authors and artists will save you the transportation costs, and will boost the sense of community between your students and their luminary neighbors.

Fees vary, depending on the author, but the money is well worth the pay off when it comes to inspiring your students to look at the world in a new way, to express themselves and find their voice in their own writing, and to get excited about books. Invest in their future. Invest in them.