

Workshops

Here are some of the workshops that I offer:

Making Nonfiction Fun (all ages)

This can be either a small classroom presentation or a large-group presentation, and is geared to upper-elementary and middle school audiences. Hear some of the amazing/wacky/gross true tales featured in the author's books—from the unusual foods people eat around the world to the unbelievable medical practices from thousands of years ago. Check out amazing tree house hotels, a turtle hospital in Australia, and a lab that's crawling with thousands of insects. Using captivating photos and actual props, Alicia will draw on the content of her various nonfiction titles and discuss the writing process from the idea phase all the way to the finished book.

The author puts special emphasis on the research process, checking facts, synthesizing multiple sources, and constructing a bibliography, how to distinguish a reliable source of information from an unreliable one, and how a writer has to make choices about what to include and what to leave out.

Creating A Good Story -- Fiction Writing (all ages)

Using my World Adventures chapter books as a framework, audiences will discover how the three Nylund children came alive and traveled through multiple countries on the pages of this series. Alicia will talk about the process of creating believable characters, "feel like you're there" settings, and captivating storylines. Anara, Samal, and Oliver are young travelers in Egypt, Italy, and India. Readers are bound to relate to their adventures, feelings, and familial interactions—from being the stranger in a new place to learning about the diverse world around them.

Find out where the author got the idea for her characters, how she researched to bring the Nylunds' adventures to life, and what the editorial process was like—from first draft to finished book. She'll also show readers a couple of her stories that have appeared in magazines as shorter samples of character and plot development.

The Story Behind *Francisco's Kites* (all ages)

Using my picture book *Francisco's Kites* as a framework, audiences will learn the story of how Francisco came alive and onto the pages of a book. Alicia will share her passion for storytelling and talk about the process of creating a believable character, setting, and storyline. Francisco is his own boy and yet, his story as an immigrant child in Chicago will resonate with readers of all ages -- those who have been the new kid somewhere, those who struggle to adjust to changes in their lives or financial situations, etc.

Find out how long this story took to become a book, where the author got the idea for Francisco, and how she researched to make him come to life. With younger audiences in small groups, Alicia could also lead the students in making their own recycled (simple) kites just like in the story.

The Writing Process in Three Simple Steps (all ages)

Help your students write more easily by breaking down the process of writing into three simple steps—Prepare, Write, and Improve It. The author shares her own experiences of researching, writing and editing – using the framework of her own books and magazine articles.

Alicia will also help students discover how to apply these steps to their own writing. She will also talk to these young authors about how to strengthen their own writing with a good lead, strong verbs, and interesting details. Depending on the length of this workshop, students can go through their own writing using a worksheet of the steps provided by the author as part of the presentation (classroom-sized audiences) or later with their teachers.

Additional Workshop Topics:

In addition to the aforementioned workshops, I am also happy to design workshops about specific topics that I have researched or written about. Examples include the following:

What People Eat Around The World

The presentation connects to Alicia's book *The World's Strangest Foods*, numerous magazine articles about food, and international travel.

Regional/Country workshops

Using multimedia and geography-related presentations, the author will connect these to her various writings, such as her books *Africa*, *Understanding Turkey Today*, *Understanding Saudi Arabia Today*; and her articles in magazines like *National Geographic Kids*, *Kiki*, *FACES*, *AppleSeeds*, *Hopscotch*, and more.

Alicia lived in Australia and the UK and has also traveled extensively in Asia. She would love to put together a country unit on a place like Singapore, Indonesia, Australia, etc. Having taught middle school World Geography for many years, feel free to propose a topic or location. Alicia will create a tailor-made, multimedia presentation for your students.