

About the Illustrator...

Kathryn Darnell has been a freelance illustrator and calligrapher since 1981. She has created artwork for a wide variety of clients and projects across the country. Book illustration is, however, her favorite work, as it combines her love of drawing with her second best past-time, reading.

Her fine artwork has been exhibited in many juried shows and galleries, and is represented in the Lansing area by Mackerel Sky Gallery.

She also teaches illustration, calligraphy and a course in business and employment issues for artists at Lansing Community College where she has been a part time instructor for over 25 years.

Kate's advice to students, whether they are five years old or fifty, is "if you want to be an artist, draw. Draw everything. Keep a sketch book in your pocket. Draw. And even if your dream of being an artist seems far from coming true, keep working toward it and don't lose sight of it. (And did I mention that you should draw?)"

A Graduate of The School of Art at The University of Michigan with a degree in fine art, she has continued to expand her skills independently to include digital tools and type design.

Kate can be reached at:

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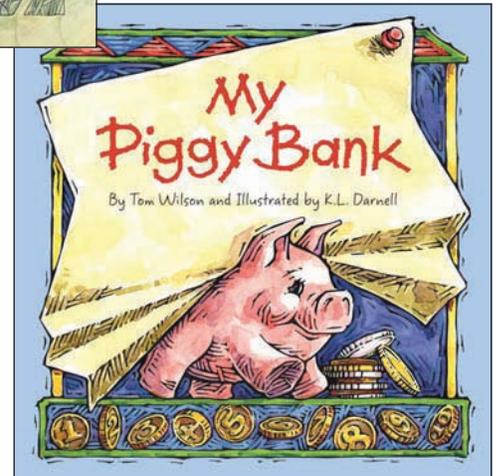
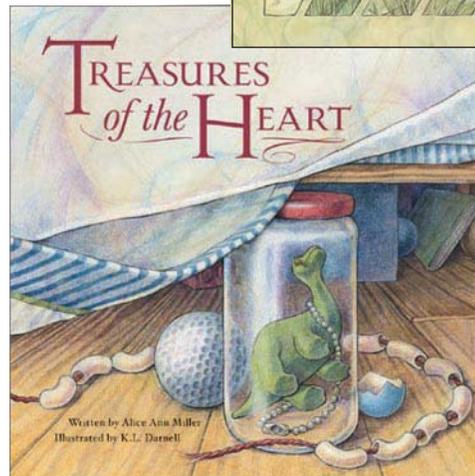
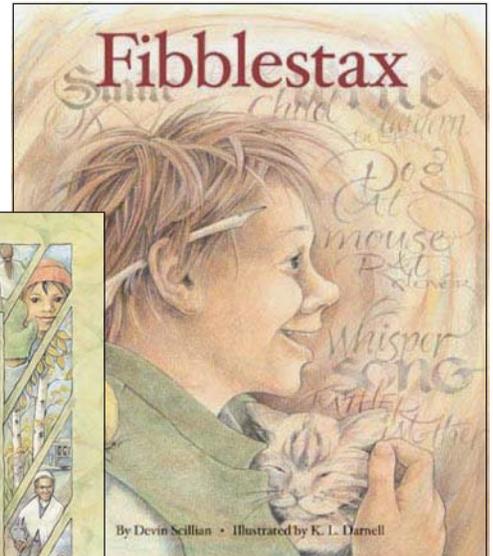
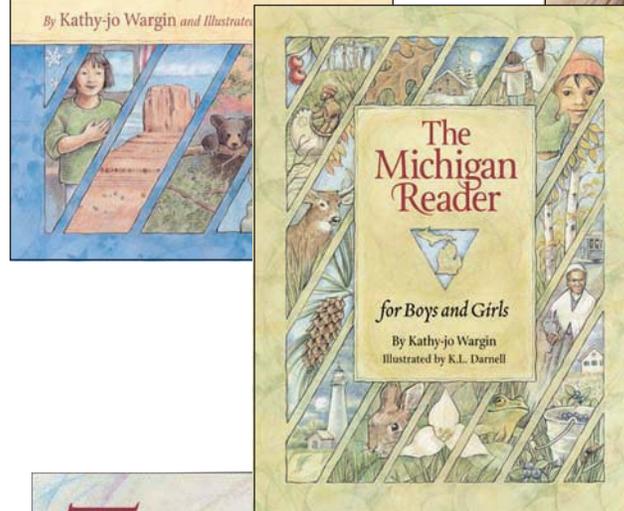
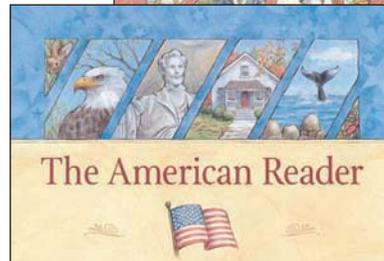
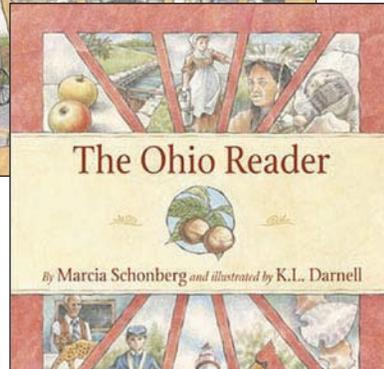
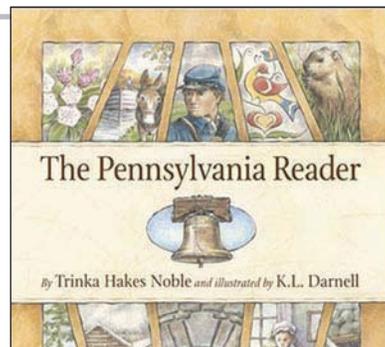
517/332-6733

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Invite
children's Book
Illustrator,

Kathryn Darnell

to speak at
your
school,
conference,
library,
or meeting



Presentations by the Illustrator

During a visit to a school or group, I offer different options for discussions and activities. What I do in a particular classroom or presentation will depend on the age, the focus of the class, the size of the group and the time available.

Because of the size of the materials I show and the importance of having time to answer questions, I encourage you to limit group sizes to no more than 80-90 students. My presentation is not useful or enjoyable for very large assemblies.

For very young children

A short presentation of about 20 minutes prior to answering children's questions can include:

- Describing briefly what I do as an illustrator
- Talking about making art as a kid & how I came to be an artist.
- Sharing what I liked about my job, what is difficult & what is fun.
- Showing sample artwork and the materials used to create it.

Longer presentations

Older children can be attentive longer, and a presentation of 45 - 60 minutes might include describing the illustration process from the beginning to the finished book in my hand;

- What an illustrator does at work
- How illustration can be like a visual book report.
- Deciding what things look like? (and not!) What details get added or changed? Why?
- What art materials illustrators use
- What happens after I finish my work. How books are printed
- A demonstration and short "draw-along" activity

A time to ask questions is always valuable to children and I try to stay flexible with the formal presentation to accommodate both the attention span of the children and questions they might have.

For older students and adults

I will craft a presentation to fit the goals of the group. Adults and middle & high school students are often interested in the career issues related to being an illustrator. If the focus of the visit is the art class, a brief demonstration of a drawing technique might be appropriate. The discussion during these visits might also include:

- A drawing demonstration and/or workshop (This is best for smaller groups and requires a table around which students can sit & work or stand and watch) If this is a hands-on activity, materials may need to be purchased in advance or a supply fee paid to provide materials.
- An artist's education: How an illustrator learns and develops skills. What non-art skills does an illustrator need?
- How an illustrator gets the job
- What other kinds of work illustrators do?
- Different kinds of art careers

Some of this material can be covered in informal question & answer sessions with students or they can be presented more formally.

Expectations

Teachers and organizers should let me know any expectations they might have about the kind of presentation from which their students or members would benefit and what they would enjoy.

Preparing for the visit

Students will get more out of the presentation if they are introduced to the subjects ahead of time. Here are some suggestions.

- Especially for young students, read one of the books I have illustrated to your class.
- Display books in the library
- Have students think of questions they have about illustration. Teachers can encourage specific focus to the questions.

Scheduling a Presentation for Your Group

I have a busy schedule that juggles studio and teaching time, so it is best to allow plenty of notice for planning a visit to your organization. This is especially important for outside the Lansing area.

To inquire about a presentation, you can call me at: 517/332-6733, or send questions to: kate@kldarnell.com

Fees and expenses

Fees for presentations will vary with consideration given to the total length of time spent with the group, travel distances and materials needed. Please call for this information. I can send you a worksheet to help organize your requirements and answer both your questions and mine.

Some organizations make books available for sale to students or members and use the profits possible through a publisher's discount to help cover the expense of my visit, or as a fund-raiser.

Hand-out materials

I have several handouts available that can help students visualize what I am explaining. Some of them can be used for follow-up projects. Masters for these can be sent to your school in advance so that they can be copied and distributed during the presentation.

Sleeping Bear Press also has teachers' guides to classroom activities for many of the books they publish. Check their web site at:

www.sleepingbearpress.com

Ordering Books

If your organization wants to make books available to members or students to be signed during my visit, Sleeping Bear Press offers a generous discount for this purpose. Try to arrange this at least 6 weeks ahead of time. Contact Audrey Mitnick.

1/800/487-2323 ext. 8767

Sleeping Bear Press

315 E.Eisenhower Parkway
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

It is your responsibility to order and pay for books and handle distribution and collecting of money from individuals.

My book illustration includes:

Fiblestax by Devin Scillian
The Michigan Reader by Kathy-Jo Wargin
The American Reader by Kathy-Jo Wargin
The Ohio Reader by Marcia Schonberg
The Pennsylvania Reader by Trinkia Hakes Noble
The New York Reader by Ann E. Burg
The New Jersey Reader by Trinkia Hakes Noble
The Missouri Reader by Judy Young
Treadures of the Heart by Alice Ann Miller
My Piggy Bank by Tom Lewis