



## About Me

I live in my hometown of Buffalo, New York. You're likely to find me on adventures with my husband and our two kids, at the local ice cream shop, or curled up in a comfy chair with my cats. And while I do my best to be a grownup most of the time, giggling with my BFFs is still one of my all-time favorite things.

## Author Visits

As a children's author, as well as a a former elementary school teacher, I love visiting schools!, My visits focus on getting the most out of reading, and on making your writing stronger. Sessions can be adapted for grades K-8 and groups of different sizes. Check out my website for presentation options, including virtual visits, and rates.

## Contact Info

For book info, teacher guides, book trailers, and extension activities, visit www.deeromito.com





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## PRESENTATION OPTIONS



Don't just read with your eyes! To really be immersed in a story or to create an I-can't-put-it-down piece of writing, you need to use your senses. Writers who include sensory details help create a scene in the minds of their readers, and readers get a much richer experience.

We'll examine some text that gets the senses involved (and some that doesn't!), and students will leave with a set of questions to keep in mind as they read and write from here on out. A simple question like, "What is that smell?" can open up a whole new world of possibilities

What a Character!

Every little thing a character does, says, wears, and loves tells us something about him—if we're paying close attention—just like these things tell people who WE are. If you carry a book everywhere you go, I'll guess that you love to read. If I see you hold the door open for the person behind you, I'll know you're polite.

With the help of a handful of brave students to assist me, we'll make characters come alive and learn to both read and write in a whole new way.

But What Goes Wrong?

A story isn't about all the wonderful things that happen to a character; it's about that character's challenges, rough spots, and obstacles on the journey. A character has a goal she wants to reach and things must go wrong along the way to that goal to make the story exciting.

We'll work as a group to add in plenty of fun and accomplishments for our main character, but we'll also ask, "What goes wrong?"

Become an Information Detective! "

Most people think of research when it comes to nonfiction, but writers need to find information for all types of writing. Whether you're working on an essay or a novel, you'll need details, facts, and info you don't have yet.

We'll learn how to be "Information Detectives" and where to find details to make your settings more real, your characters more well-rounded, and your story more engaging!

From Idea to Book

A story isn't finished after the first draft—that's why we call it a *first* or a rough draft. It's known as a Work-in-Progress. Editing and revising are important steps in the writing process and published books have gone through many revisions.

I'll share what it takes to get a book published and what the publishing (and revision) process looks like.



- ★ My honorarium for 2023-2024 for a full day visit is \$1000 for local visits. If your school is more than a one-hour drive from the Greater Buffalo area, the fee is \$1,300 plus transportation and lodging fees (if needed). Out of state visits, visits more than a three-hour drive, or visits requiring air transportation are \$1,700 plus transportation, meals, and lodging fees.
- ★ Half days are only offered in the Greater Buffalo area and include up to two presentations for \$700. Virtual visits are \$350 per session. Library/Club events are \$350 for one presentation. Afterschool add-ons to author visits are \$350.
- ★ A full-day visit includes your choice of up to three presentations (30-50 minutes each) in the form of assemblies, classroom workshops, or grade level workshops. Presentations can be repeated for different groups.
- ★ An author lunch with students will be included with a full-day visit at no additional cost, if desired. Teachers should choose students ahead of time.
  - ★ The honorarium is due on the day of my visit.
- ★ Teacher guides are available on my website for all of my books.
- ★ I'm happy to work with your local independent bookstore to coordinate book sales or direct you to my publisher for a discount and am happy to sign books during the school day.
- ★ Technology requests: a Smartboard or projector and screen are helpful for some of my presentations. For groups larger than 1-2 classrooms, a microphone is appreciated.
- ★ I'd love to be interviewed prior to the visit by some of your students for a school newspaper or announcements. Letters from classes are also a great way for us to chat before or after the visit, and they will get a reply from me!

**SKYPE VISITS** - I offer a limited number of FREE 20-minute Q&A Skype visits to classrooms, after school clubs, girl scout/boy scout troops, and book clubs! Please contact me for more info.