



Behind the Book

216 West 135th Street • Ground Floor • New York, NY 10030 • (212) 222-3627 • www.behindthebook.org

Who We Are

Behind the Book's mission is to inspire New York City public school students to love reading by bringing accomplished authors and their books into classrooms and creating rich, innovative literacy programs. Our programs take place in historically-underserved PK-12 public schools and align to class and school curricula as well as the Common Core Learning Standards.

Our Program

BtB programs are designed to be a valuable resource to the classroom teacher. We begin by meeting with teachers to discuss the curriculum, instructional challenges, student reading levels and interests. After a book and author are selected by the teacher, we construct a Program Plan that fits within the curriculum and addresses the Common Core Learning Standards. Our programs typically include two to three author workshops, suggested support activities and field trips when relevant to the unit. We also provide each student with a copy of the book being used and donate additional copies to the classroom and school libraries. In addition, if the program involves research or requires teaching additional content, resource books for your classroom will be provided. Additional titles by that author, if available, are always given to the classroom and school libraries in order to acquaint students with the author's other work.

The author workshops are ideally 90 minutes per session, depending on the flexibility of the classroom schedule. This timing allows the students to engage in meaningful dialogue, prepare questions and forge a personal connection with the author. Teachers, authors and BtB staff always plan the arc of learning together, ensuring that it will authentically challenge students. By engaging students in reading and writing in new ways, we help teachers increase literacy skills and create a culture of reading that lasts well beyond the program.

When possible and relevant, we incorporate art into the program which supports the writing task. We provide teaching artists and all necessary material for the art projects. In some of our programs, students include this art in published books as part of a culminating project. BtB publishes and distributes the student books to students and donates copies to the school's library. You can view some of these student books on our website:

<http://www.behindthebook.org/programs/gallery-of-student-work/>

Behind the Book Authors

We work with accomplished authors including Andrea Davis Pinkney, Doreen Rappaport, Tony Medina, Sofia Quintero, Matt de la Peña, Rita Williams-Garcia, Jacqueline Woodson and Patricia McCormick. These authors reflect the diversity of the New York City classroom and can make reading exciting by bringing the curriculum to life with their work. We are also constantly looking for new authors to inspire a new generation of NYC writers.

Program Requirements

We require a minimum of three programs the first year we work with a new school. Each program consists of one classroom and at least 4 workshops. As our relationship with the school and the teachers grow, we usually add more programs. We commit to schools for the long term. Our hope is that all of the schools we work with become Behind the Book schools, meaning that we become part of the school community and work with as many classes and students as possible. Some of our schools have been with us for 10 years.

Cost

We charge \$1,000 for each program. The Program Coordinator and teacher can add additional workshops to enhance the program without having to pay additional fees. Behind the Book provides all materials needed for a successful program.