

Gennifer Choldenko

Possible Presentations

Dogtown: the series

A very popular presentation about the genesis of the New York Times bestselling Dogtown series cowritten with Katherine Applegate. The journeys of Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko to become award-winning authors. Writing tips for kids and practical information on interacting with dogs, simple dog training tips, and information about how to support dog shelters. Always ends with a group howl.

The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman

The protagonist of this book, Hank Hooperman, is an unusually resilient kid. Resilience is a quality near and dear to Gennifer's heart as she would never have become a successful author without it. This presentation focuses on resilience. Gennifer will also talk a lot about foster kids, which will help to engender empathy for a very misunderstood group. Students in your school who have had grown up responsibilities on their shoulders will see themselves in Hank Hooperman. Ends with a fun game of two truths and a lie.

SEL. Resilience and empathy.

The Al Capone Show

4th-7th grade

One part autobiography, five parts Alcatraz history, a little gangster and Great Depression history, a wacky sense of humor, and forty-nine shakes of purely made up stuff all came together to form *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*, and *Al Capone Does My Homework*. Gennifer has prepared a slide show using vintage Alcatraz photos (courtesy of the San Francisco Library) about the history of the island and how it helped her create the unlikely hero, Moose Flanagan.

What do students learn from this?

1. History is fun and way stranger than you might think.
2. Research is more like a detective game than it is like homework.
3. Writing is a lot easier, if you know about your subject. What goes in your head comes out your fingers.
4. Bad guys can become good guys.

Chasing Secrets Show (The Plague comes to San Francisco: 1900)

4th-7th grade

The story of the plague's stealthy arrival in the Paris of the Pacific is riveting. Gennifer separates fact from fiction as she tells the true story of the plague outbreak in San Francisco. This extremely popular presentation gives kids a taste of what life was like one hundred and sixteen years ago. Enjoy a fun audience game about determining whom you trust. Get a new appreciation of the difficulty of fighting new diseases through a wildly popular make-your-own-disease improvisation.

What do students learn from this?

1. Medical science has come a long way in 116 years.
2. History is fascinating.
3. Medicine is a work in progress.
4. Research fuels good writing.