

Author Visits with Jane Kurtz & Chris Kurtz

Grades K-2 Introductory Session

Jane and Chris make students laugh and imagine, reflect and dream with a presentation geared to younger learners. They use PowerPoint, singing and stories to show the answers to many questions, including these: 1) What is an author? 2) How do authors work? 3) Where do authors find the details and ideas for their books, 4) Why should I read books? As experienced classroom teachers as well as authors, Chris and Jane know how to rivet their young audience's attention as they illustrate small moments and big ideas in ways that young writers can take inspiration from and teachers can use. For any size of group.

Grades 3-5 Introductory Session

Jane and Chris bring humor and a more sophisticated message to their presentation geared toward writers who have begun to write for a specific audience and reach for emotion and connection with their readers. Chris and Jane use specific examples from their own childhoods in Ethiopia and their adult lives—from pets to friends to surviving a natural disaster—they show how writers draw ideas and details from memories, observation and research, how they craft their stories, and how they revise. Their success in planting children's libraries and building schools in Ethiopia will also inspire students to think of the small and big ways that we all can make a difference somewhere. For any size of group.



About the Authors

Jane Kurtz and Christopher Kurtz are siblings, authors, educators and speakers who spent their childhood in Ethiopia and now live in Portland, Oregon. Between them, they have thirty-three books published (or on the way) and twenty-five years of classroom experience. They have done author visits together at schools and conferences in Oregon, Michigan, Kansas, Washington, Idaho, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, Texas, Ethiopia and Louisiana. Additionally, they have presented multiple times at conferences such as the International Reading Association Conference. Jane and Chris inspire as writers, teachers, speakers, and active volunteers for Ethiopia Reads.

About Ethiopia Reads

Ethiopia Reads builds schools, teaches teachers, plants children's libraries, and puts pencils and paintbrushes in the hands of children to empower and strengthen communities through the art of learning and the science of teaching. We believe that providing quality schools, access to books and learning initiatives that engage both the creative and logical mind will lead to a more resourceful generation of leaders in Ethiopia.

Juicy Words

"Sun cartwheels slowly up the sky, herding hippopotami." Jane and Chris use vivid verbs in their picture book, *Water Hole Waiting*, a celebration of lively nonfiction, with unexpected adjectives, and other juicy word choices. School Library Journal, in a starred review, called *Water Hole Waiting*, "a gem for writing teachers." Now your students can catch some of Chris and Jane's magic in putting a sentence together in ways pleasing to the ear and brain. Maximum 40 students. Available for students who have been part of an introductory session.

Powerful Details

Jane and Chris unpack John Gardner's statement that "details are the life blood" of strong writing. What makes a good detail? Where do writers get good details? Why does writing without powerful details fall flat and leak all its air away? How do writers capture details in early drafts, and what is it like to revise in order to make details sing? Chris and Jane will draw on their own books for specific examples to inspire students in the hunt for details in memory, observation, and research. 40 students. Available for students who have been part of an introductory session.

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Portland, OR!

For more information, or to schedule workshops contact us today:

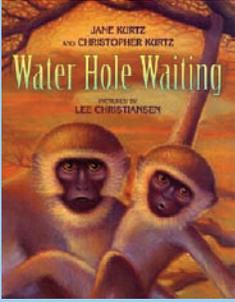
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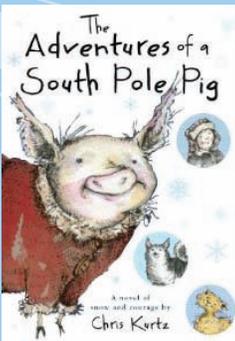
About the Presentations

“Jane Kurtz and Chris Kurtz’s visit was exactly what our students and teachers needed! They shared stories of their amazing childhood in Ethiopia and how their experiences influenced them to become writers. Their presentation left our community moved and deeply touched.”

- Verna Leong, Alameda K-5 Teacher-Librarian

“Every minute of the presentation had my class of second graders engaged and interested. The kids came back to the classroom ready to write their own personal narratives because of the rich experiences that Jane Kurtz and Chris Kurtz shared.”

- Laurie Ross, Alameda 2nd Grade Teacher



A Sampling of Book Reviews

The Adventures of a South Pole Pig by Chris Kurtz

“Out of the way, Wilbur and Babe: Your cousin Flora has “adventurous hooves”! Kurtz's plucky piggy tale...will greatly satisfy fans of Dick King-Smith and E.B. White looking for something similar.”

- Kirkus

The Pup Who Cried Wolf by Chris Kurtz

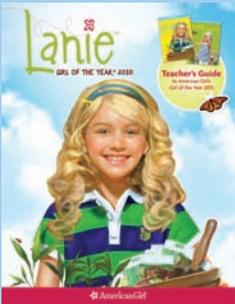
“Children will love this humorous story and empathize with feisty, misguided Lobo as he realizes the error of his ways.”

- School Library Journal

Water Hole Waiting by Jane and Chris Kurtz

“A gem for writing teachers.” On the best books at the end of the year list.

- School Library Journal



Lanie and Lanie's Real Adventures by Jane Kurtz

“[Jane] Kurtz’s characters are well developed, and the situations the protagonist faces are realistic...Interesting animal facts add dimension without overpowering the stories, and closing nonfiction sections answer environmental questions (*Lanie*) and provide stories of child environmentalists (*Real Adventures*).”

- School Library Journal

The Storyteller's Beads by Jane Kurtz

“An original, powerful story [of] two endangered girls, who are richly portrayed.”

- Kirkus

