



## Preparing for an Author/Illustrator Visit

Having a Red Cedar Award nominee visit your group is a rewarding and enriching experience for your students. To make your visit a success, make sure both you and your students are prepared:

### **Know the costs**

Authors and illustrators set their own presentation fees; determine what these and any additional expenses (e.g. accommodation and meals) are before the presentation.

### **Prepare your students**

Discuss the nominated book with your students and have them consider what questions they might ask. Explore theme, setting, characters, etc. for fiction books and content, style, visual elements, etc. for non-fiction titles. Encourage special projects that allow students to explore different aspects of the book.

Share the visitor's biography and bibliography with your students. Try to obtain copies of other books the author/illustrator has written. Organize displays of the visitor's work, or prepare banners, posters and other promotional material.

Discuss book signing. Most authors/illustrators are happy to sign books but not quite so happy to sign small scraps of paper!

### **Check details with your visitor**

Find out and adhere to your visitor's preferred audience size. Check whether a classroom or library setting suits the visitor better; if you are considering using the gymnasium, ask whether the gym is acceptable.

If you've booked your author/illustrator for more than one reading the same day, allow time between readings for rest and a food break. Have drinking water available during the presentation.

Discuss equipment needs--table, chair, blackboard--and check equipment carefully before the presentation.