

Michael Hall: Presentation Possibilities

For young children (pre-K through grade 2), Michael would include some of the following:

- ▶ Talk about how he became an author and illustrator
- ▶ Discuss the process of making picture books
- ▶ Read stories
- ▶ Lead the students through an interactive group activity
- ▶ Q&A

Interactive group activities take roughly 20 minutes and might include one or more of the following:

- ▶ Students pantomime movements which appear to make projected images move.
- ▶ Students make an aardvark out of simple shapes (related to *It's an Orange Aardvark!*)
- ▶ Students make a crayon (related to *Red: A Crayon's Story* and *Frankencrayon*).
- ▶ Students hunt for acorns in the fall (related to *Wonderfall*)
- ▶ Assembling a Kitty Tale book (related to *Cat Tale*)
- ▶ Making farm animals out of hearts (related to *My Heart Is Like a Zoo*)

For older students and grownups, Michael's presentation focuses on the process of making picture books:

- ▶ Talk about how Michael became an author/illustrator
- ▶ Discuss the process of making at least one of his picture books showing various drafts along the way and talking about the relationship between editor, art director, and author/illustrator
- ▶ In-depth Q&A
- ▶ Lead students through an interactive group activity (works best with 3rd and 4th graders)

FOR EDUCATORS

The Language of Literacy

Using his own work as examples, Michael will discuss making stories based on visual (*My Heart Is Like a Zoo*, *Perfect Square*) or verbal (*Cat Tale*, *Wonderfall*) themes. He will talk about the many ways words and pictures play off each other; redefining, reinforcing, and sometimes even contradicting each other. Classroom ideas will be presented for "Cat Tale," rearranging the pages of a story to make another story; "My Heart is Like a Zoo," making animals out of heart shapes; "Perfect Square," what can you make from a square?

Work is Play: Reflections on Science and Art (STEM related presentation)

- ▶ An engaging presentation using images of children's slides. Michael describes similarities between art and science and shows how his early work as a biochemist influences the planning and process of creating his picture books. Geometry? Color theory? Engineering? They're in every one of Michael's books!