

AUTHOR VISITS WITH DEBORAH JONES

Stories • Learning • Creativity • Kindness

Stories that inspire hearts, strengthen faith, and remind readers that kindness still changes the world.

Bring stories to life with an interactive author visit! Author and retired elementary educator **Deborah Jones** offers engaging programs that combine storytelling with meaningful conversation, hands-on learning, and student participation. Programs can be adapted to fit student ages and school schedules.

ONE TRUE FRIEND

Friendship Across Differences

Best for: Grades 1-5 **Program length:** 30, 45, or 60 minutes

Themes: Friendship • Kindness • Courage • History • Inclusion

Inspired by Deborah's own childhood experience during school integration in 1970, *One True Friend* introduces students to Debbie and Shirlene - two first graders who discover that friendship can grow even when the world around them says they should be different.

During the visit, students will:

- Hear selected portions of *One True Friend*
- Discover what elementary school was like in 1970
- Learn how a real childhood memory became a published book
- Explore the qualities that make someone a true friend
- Discuss kindness and including others
- Ask questions about writing, books, and being an author

Student Takeaway: *One act of friendship can stay with someone for a lifetime.*

Curriculum Connections: Social Studies • Character Education • SEL • Reading • Writing

THE LITTLE HOUSE WITH A BIG IDEA

History Meets STEM!

Best for: Grades 2-5 **Program length:** 30, 45, or 60 minutes

Themes: Creativity • Problem-Solving • History • Math • Architecture

What would you do with a space only **seven feet wide**? Based on the fascinating story behind Alexandria, Virginia's famous tiny Spite House, this program combines history, storytelling, mathematics, and creative thinking.

During the visit, students will:

- Hear the story behind *The Little House With a Big Idea*
- Discover how wide seven feet actually is
- Explore measurement, area, perimeter, and spatial thinking
- Consider how people solve unusual problems
- Design or imagine a tiny house
- Ask questions about research, writing, and turning history into story

Student Takeaway: *Sometimes a small space can hold a very big idea.*

Curriculum Connections: STEM • Math • Social Studies • Architecture • Reading • Creative Thinking

ARIA'S HOPE

Small Acts, Big Difference

Best for: Pre-K-Grade 3 **Program length:** 30, 45, or 60 minutes

Themes: Kindness • Hope • Friendship • Perseverance • Nature

Meet **Aria**, a tiny writing spider who discovers that you don't have to be big to make a difference. This interactive program blends storytime, nature, creativity, and a powerful message about kindness.

During the visit, students will:

- Meet Aria the writing spider and her woodland friends
- Learn fun facts about real writing spiders
- Enjoy an interactive reading from *Aria's Hope*
- Discover the special messages Aria creates in her web
- Choose positive words to weave into an imaginary web
- Explore simple ways to spread kindness every day

Student Takeaway: *You don't have to be big to make a big difference.*

Curriculum Connections: Science • Nature • Character Education • SEL • Reading • Art

ARIA'S GIFT

The Greatest Gifts Don't Come in Packages

Best for: Pre-K-Grade 3 **Program length:** 30, 45, or 60 minutes

Themes: Generosity • Gratitude • Friendship • Community • Joy

Return to Aria's woodland world for a heartwarming program about giving, gratitude, and discovering what makes a gift truly special.

During the visit, students will:

- Visit again with Aria and her animal friends
- Enjoy an interactive reading from *Aria's Gift*
- Explore the difference between buying something and giving from the heart
- Discover gifts that don't cost any money
- Participate in the 'Gift I Can Give' activity
- Take Aria's JOY Challenge

Student Takeaway: *Some of the greatest gifts don't come in packages.*

Curriculum Connections: Character Education • SEL • Reading • Writing • Community

FAITH-BASED PROGRAM

CHILDREN OF FAITH

You're Never Too Young to Make a Difference

Best for: Ages 6-12 Program length: 30, 45, or 60 minutes

Themes: Faith • Courage • Kindness • Character • Making Good Choices

Can God use a child to make a difference? Through stories of young people in the Bible, students discover that courage, kindness, faith, and service aren't just for grown-ups.

During the visit, students will:

- Meet young people from the Bible who demonstrated extraordinary faith
- Explore the message of 1 Timothy 4:12
- Discover five ways children can be an example through words, actions, love, faith, and choices
- Participate in interactive 'What Would You Do?' situations
- Discuss practical ways they can make a difference right now
- Ask questions about faith, writing, and becoming an author

Student Takeaway: *You don't have to wait until you're grown to make a difference.*

Curriculum Connections: Bible • Character Education • Faith Formation • Reading • Personal Growth

Ideal for: Christian Schools • Churches • Homeschool Groups • Children's Ministries

CHOOSE THE VISIT THAT FITS YOUR STUDENTS

If you'd like a program about...	Choose...
Friendship & Inclusion	One True Friend
History, Math & STEM	The Little House With a Big Idea
Kindness & Nature	Aria's Hope
Generosity & Gratitude	Aria's Gift
Faith & Character	Children of Faith

FLEXIBLE PROGRAM OPTIONS

30-Minute Story Visit - Author introduction, interactive story experience, theme discussion, and brief Q&A.;

45-Minute Interactive Visit - Storytelling, student participation, theme-based activity, and author Q&A.;

60-Minute Author Experience - Full program with storytelling, interactive discussion, hands-on or creative activity, behind-the-scenes author talk, and extended Q&A.;

MEET THE AUTHOR

Deborah Jones is a retired elementary school teacher and children's author who believes stories can help children understand themselves, connect with others, and discover that even small acts of kindness can make a difference. Her visits combine her experience as both an educator and storyteller, creating programs that are fun for students while providing meaningful connections to classroom learning.

READY TO PLAN YOUR AUTHOR VISIT?

Choose a book and program that best fits your students, or ask about combining themes for a customized visit.

Deborah Jones, Author

deborah-jones.com

deborah-jones.com/author-visits

Let's bring a story to life for your students!