

# Hi! We're Janet Stevens and Susan Crummel...

creators of many children's picture books including NY Times Best Seller *Help Me, Mr. Mutt!* (winner of the 2010 Texas Bluebonnet Award, 2010 Florida Children's Book Award, and named one of *Time* magazine's Best Children's Books for 2008), *The Great Fuzz Frenzy* (another NY Times Best Seller, an NCTE Notable Book and winner of ten 2007-2008 state book awards), *Cook-a-Doodle-Do!* (2001 Texas Bluebonnet Award and other honors), *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon* (2002 ALA Notable Book, 2003 Colorado Book Award, 2004 California Young Reader Medal),



There is nothing more exciting than sharing our books with children of all ages throughout the country. The students are as much an inspiration to us as we hope to be to them. We



look forward to visiting your school and have included some important information to make the visit a success. The success of a visit hinges on how well the students are prepared. Familiarity with the books generates excitement and invites student participation during a presentation. Here are some suggested activities:

- Read the books aloud to students (librarian or teacher)



- Have students read the parts of the various characters (use props!)
- Write about/draw favorite characters
- Have students write their own story and illustrate it
- Do extensions on each topic write own stew recipe for **Tumbleweed Stew**; draw



map for **And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon**; make strawberry shortcake for **Cook-a-Doodle-Do!**; bring old shoes and make a "shoe town" or **Shoe Town**

- Have teachers/students visit our websites [www.susanscrummel.com](http://www.susanscrummel.com) and [www.janetstevens.com](http://www.janetstevens.com) for more info, teacher tips, reader's theater scripts, bookmarks, etc.

# School Presentations

During a full day visit (AT ONE SCHOOL) we make three 60 minute presentations. Here is a **sample** full day schedule:

<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>arrive and set up</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> presentation (K-1)</b>
<b>10:15 – 11:15</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> presentation (2-3)</b>
<b>11:15 – 1:30</b>	<b>lunch / sign books</b>
<b>1:30 – 2:30</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> presentation (4-5)</b>
<b>2:30 – ?</b>	<b>finish signing books</b>



We tailor each session to fit the age level attending, therefore it is important to keep the groups at the same approximate age level. We have spoken to students from pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. **Ideal** group size ranges from 50-150 students (but we will do larger groups).

**NOTE: Teacher and aide attendance is a must!** It ensures appropriate behavior and enables effective follow-up discussions and activities with the students. **Please do not schedule my presentation during “specials” time—the PE, art, and music teachers do not teach writing!** Also, it has been our experience that the kids are better behaved when their regular classroom teachers are nearby, modeling good behavior (**not talking and grading papers!**)

## ***In each session we plan to:***

- ❖ focus on the importance of reading, writing, and storytelling
- ❖ share the inside scoop on collaborating
- ❖ talk about the creative process
- ❖ act out the books using **keynote** to add visual interest
- ❖ draw (Janet) interactively with the students

## ***Supplies Needed***

- ✓ **LOW AV cart (cart only) w/ 3 plug-ins + ext. cord**
- ✓ **large screen (to show our power point)**
- ✓ **3 rectangular tables (3' x 6' at least)**
- ✓ **2 LOUD lapel /ear cordless microphones**
- ✓ **water to drink**
- ✓ **a copy of each book to display**
- ✓ **three 10-foot pieces of white butcher paper and masking tape (per day)**



## **Autographs**

Many schools order books so that students can buy them and have them autographed during the visit. We will be happy to sign any books during break times. Please have **a post-it note in each book** with the name to be inscribed printed legibly. **Unfortunately we can't autograph slips of paper, t-shirts, or hands**—but we do have autographed bookmarks on line.