

# Author Adventures Enriching Language Arts and Science

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[www.wildeimage.com](http://www.wildeimage.com)

Like Aesop, these storytelling naturalists entertain with lessons for life.

Wilde author visits are entertaining with big-screen images and storytelling to take kids into other worlds (bears, dinosaurs, wetlands, senses) and discover the nature of their own world.

They also include displays of equipment and artifacts from their fascinating field work.

Each program has a social theme linking students to the natural world. For example in 'Wetland Wonders' (also a recent Scholastic Books release), we look into 'relationships' between wildlife and surrounding ecosystems (pointing out family, community and global interconnections too).

Adventure stories as naturalists and wildlife photographers are rich in age-appropriate science content and in Diana's case draw on experience as a teacher and curriculum designer while Buck draws on tenure as a BBC naturalist and researcher for McGraw-Hill. As co-authors, they know how important the writing process (including library research and observation) is to learning. So they've integrated language arts enrichment into each presentation with age-appropriate learning activity cards for in-class and take-home extensions of their curriculum-linked presentations.

## -Language Arts Enrichment-

Students are invited to draft their thoughts re. subthemes identified on learning activity cards. The authors receive hundreds after most visits.

To emphasize the importance of reading and writing, a popular Young Authors Luncheon provides an opportunity for students to read examples of any form of writing with feedback. Here's a testimonial from one such luncheon:

*"The intermediate students have started a writing club during lunch and it is just wonderful to 'see that spark' in so many eyes. You two have truly touched the lives of many at this school. We definitely look forward to future visits."*

-Amy Wilde (not related to authors) Librarian  
Bear Creek Elementary, Bend, Oregon

Nonfiction Writing Workshops are scheduled as all-week immersions or single sessions for intermediate and middle school visits. Here students step into the author's world of brainstorming, researching, drafting, previews and finalizing manuscripts for publication. Creative aspects of nonfiction writing are emphasized with in-process examples from the authors' latest book series (2007/2008 release).

## -Science Enrichment-

Programs are rich in life science content with examples of life cycles, ecosystems, energy transfer, food chains, senses, relationships, adaptations, competition and behavior. Age-appropriate presentations correlate with most school curricula and correlations to standards are available for some states. In addition to life science content, programs also include earth, physical and environmental science concepts.

For example at appropriate grade levels:

'Wetland Wonders' may also address ozone layer, u/v light, acid rain, temperature, humidity, disease control

'Dinosaur Feathers' may also address asteroids, continental tectonics, climatic cycles, global warming

'Grizzly Survival' may also address lunar and tidal cycles, ice ages, constellations and endangered species

'Super Senses' may also address the physical science of light, sound and diffusion; nonverbal communication

Teachers are invited to identify curriculum links of interest from a checklist for each show. Learning activity cards include science projects.

Field trips can be scheduled for all-week visits.