



**AUTHOR VISITS**  
**WITH L.A. FIELDING**  
***A GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS***

## **WHY HAVE AN AUTHOR VISIT YOUR SCHOOL?**

Author visits are exciting for children. They create enthusiasm for literacy. When authors visit your school, they inspire children to read and write. They allow students to drift away into their imagination, and can create a lifelong love for books.

We created this guide so that the event goes off without a hitch, and everyone benefits.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR: L.A. FIELDING**

"I'm a local author from Prince George and I have five books published in my X-tails children's book series, with a sixth being released in May of 2016. Each of my books is full of action, funny, and has a positive message. With themes like inclusion, sportsmanship, and bullying, my books continue to grow in popularity with kids and families. My first book was published 2.5 years ago and since then, I have visited many schools.

I dreamed up the X-tails for my two children, Colton and Dylann, while telling stories on our long drives to go snowboarding each winter weekend.

It was my wife, Corrie, who convinced me to put pen to paper. I draw my inspiration from our cozy log home in Prince George, British Columbia, and our little cabin at a local ski resort. Growing up skateboarding, biking, and snowboarding, I now share the fun of those sports with my family. I'm a member of the Canadian Authors Association, and when I'm not writing or telling stories, I focus my thoughts on forestry as a Registered Professional Forester.

When a child or parent reads my books, they will see that the bright illustrations make the words jump off the page; for that, I thank the amazing illustrator, Victor Guiza.

It is my wish that these stories bring your students and their families the same warmth and happiness that they do for my family."

- L.A. Fielding



## HOW TO BOOK YOUR SCHOOL VISIT

Visit our website to submit your Author Visit Request. We'll follow up with a phone call, and then written confirmation of your school visit.

## Honorarium

For a short time only, school visits within Prince George are free. For schools outside of Prince George, but within 200 km, the honorarium is \$100 per visit. Outside of that area, please inquire. Payment is due on the day of the visit. If you'd prefer to pre-pay, please let us know.

You can work with your PAC to find creative ways to fund the honorarium - book fairs or used book sales are a great way to tie the fundraising into the event.

We do offer schools a [fundraising program](#) as well! For each book ordered (through the school or through families) **we give 25% back to the school or PAC.** See our Fundraising for Schools for more information.

## GETTING ORGANIZED FOR THE EVENT

### Preparation

It is a good idea to prepare students ahead of time for the author visit. Reading them [one of the X-tails stories](#) is a great way to introduce them to the characters and create excitement. Talking to them about what an author is can be incorporated into the preparation. You can have the students prepare questions for the author in advance if you wish. Outlining expectations (waiting your turn to speak, raising hands for questions, etc.) is valuable.

## CREATING EXCITEMENT

You can use our free [L.A. Fielding's Visits colouring posters](#) to print and colour, and put up around the school. You can also discuss ideas with your students about promoting the event.

Order forms are brought in by Larry on the day of his visit. The school distributes the forms to students, providing parents with the opportunity to purchase a personally signed book for their child or children. The school collects the forms a week or so later and then mails the order forms and payments to Larry. Once received, Larry personally signs all of the books and mails them to the school.

You can also request a parent volunteer to take pictures at the event and let the children pose with Larry for a photo opportunity. You can use our [Media Kit](#), and add the event to your school newspaper and website.



## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT DURING LARRY'S VISIT

Typically, Larry's visits are held in the library or multi-purpose room where he reads one of his stories to the students. His readings are very interactive and include talking about the illustrator he works with and about why Larry started writing and his process. Each session is tailored toward the age group. At the end of the session



there is the opportunity for questions from the students. It's a lot of fun and we often hear that the students talk about his visit for many days afterwards!

Please ensure that the space is clean and set up for the appropriate number of students.

There are typically two classes in each session, and starting in the morning works best. The appropriate age groups are kindergarten to grade five, and the length of each session will vary: 30 minutes needed for the K's; 35 - 40 minutes needed for grades 1 - 3; and, 40 - 45 minutes for grades 4 - 5. We can book up to 5 sessions per day. No technology is needed, as Larry simply has the students sit on the floor around him. A schedule will be created by the school and provided to Larry prior to his visit. Here is an example:

- o 8:40 am - 9:10 am (Kindergarten)
- o 9:15 am - 9:55 am (Grade 1)
- o 10:00 am – 10:15 am (Recess)
- o 10:20 am – 11:00 am (Grade 2)
- o 11:00 am - 11:40 am (Grade 3)
- o 12:00 pm – 1 pm (Lunch)
- o 1:05 pm – 1:50 (Grade 4/5)

*\*if the above times are a challenge, session lengths can easily be adjusted, i.e. 30 – 45 minutes.*

## **AFTER THE EVENT**

- Use the printable [Lesson Plans](#) to continue the learning and excitement. The [Lesson Plans](#) offer a fun way for students to learn and be creative, all related to the X-tails story they have just heard or read.
- Add a blurb & photos to your school newsletter, or on your school website, highlighting the event.
- Complete and return the [Author Visit Evaluation form online](#).

## **WHAT ARE OTHER SCHOOLS SAYING ABOUT OUR AUTHOR VISITS?**

“I had the pleasure of having Larry Fielding, the author of The X-Tails series, come into my class for a read aloud story and question period. **His voice was very animated** during the read aloud and **he was great at asking the students questions about the characters** and pointing out **the moral behind the story**. We then asked him questions about his stories and **he did an amazing job at talking**

**about how he became an author** and how he came up with the X-Tails which was all in **'kid friendly language**. The X-Tails books are an amazing series about a group of animals that do extreme sports, this helps to get the students attention right away. The illustrations are of fun, likable characters that are full of colour. **The best part is that each story has a lesson or moral behind them that the students can relate to and learn from.** Afterwards my students couldn't wait to write their own X-Tails books. **I would love to have Larry Fielding come into my class each year to do a read aloud with my students!!**"

Stacey Thompson, Grade 2 Teacher, Harwin Elementary School

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"X-Tails author, L.A. Fielding, visited Quinson Elementary recently, to present his X-Tails books to our K-5 students. He **was very well received by students** and staff - so much so that **we have asked him to come and visit us again!** Larry was **engaging and dynamic** and the students very much enjoyed hearing about how he came up with his characters and ideas. It was fun to hear how Larry and Victor Guiza, the illustrator, work together to create the right picture, especially since Victor lives in Mexico and is unfamiliar with winter sports. **The students listened intently** as Larry read The X-Tails Ski at Spider Ridge. **I liked that he included a "different abilities" character in his story.** After his reading, **Larry was open to questions** from the kids. He **patiently answered these at a level the kids could understand.** Many kids later told to me that **they really connected and identified with one of the six unique X-Tails characters.** I would highly recommend booking an author visit with Larry Fielding. He is **friendly, engaging and appealing to students.**"

Michelle Labonte, Teacher-Librarian, Quinson Elementary School

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We were privileged to have author Larry A. Fielding visit our school and share his X-Tails books with our grade 2 and 3 students. The presentations took place in the library with approximately 45 students each and lasted 40 minutes. **Mr. Fielding had our students spellbound!** It was amazing to see how **he drew them right in with his expressive reading** and **kept them thoroughly engaged.** He introduced himself and his books, briefly explained how the books were written and illustrated, and then read his latest X-Tails adventure to the group. After the reading, Mr. Fielding answered students' questions. Our **students thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Fielding's presentation!** The X-Tails books are **colourful and action-packed and teach valuable lessons about friendship, good sportsmanship, perseverance and doing one's best.** Our copies are constantly in circulation. Many of our students ordered copies of the X-Tails books which **Mr. Fielding personally autographed** for each student. The purchased books were delivered promptly and Mr. Fielding even accepted late orders – twice! **I do not hesitate to recommend Larry Fielding as a visiting author.**

Maria Weisgarber, Teacher-Librarian, École Heather Park Elementary