

# *Roseanne Thong's Presentations*

*\*English/Language Arts Presentations\**

*\*Asian/Multicultural Presentations\**

*\*Writing Workshops\**

*\*Teacher In-service / Adult Workshops\**



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## *English/Language Arts Presentations*

### *From Inspiration to Book (K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 minutes – 1 hour)*

Roseanne takes you on a tour of her books, starting with the first “flash” of ideas, where they come from, how they’re developed, and various production stages: brainstorming, pre-writing, writing, editing, re-writing, illustrating, layout and printing. Roseanne gives real-life examples of the writing process, sharing communication from editors and subsequent re-writes. She shares props that follow a book’s growth, initial scraps of paper for ‘brainstorming’, dummy books, storyboards, original pencil sketches, color galleys, revisions, uncut printer sheets and final product.

### *Meet the Author! (K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 minutes – 1 hour)*

What does an author do all day? Where does she get her ideas from? What does her office look like? What inspires her? How many hours a day does she write? How many revisions are normal? Do the author and illustrator know each other? These questions and more are discussed in a PowerPoint presentation that follows the life of a book (of your choice) from start to finish, using real life examples of drafts, artwork, and ideas. This is a good “general assembly” topic for the whole school, and can be followed up with individual grade-appropriate workshops.

### *Leap into Lunar New Year with Literature! (K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 min.– 1 hr.)*

What is lucky money? What is a dragon dance for? Why are firecrackers lit? Using picture books, PowerPoint slides, props and rhyme as a bridge into Chinese culture, experience the sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and feeling of Chinese New Year. Roseanne uses her own picture books, as well as her 18-year experience living in Asia, to bring this festive holiday to life. “Hands-on props” and teacher worksheets available, and focus on writing or literature standards (the writing process, plot, vocabulary, literary devices, editing, rhyming & poetry, and more)

*Numbers/Colors/Shapes (K- 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, 30 – 40 min)*

Using the theme of colors, shapes or numbers, we explore Asian culture. Touch, feel and smell incense sticks, bottle gourds, inking stones and other objects found in my books, and learn the history behind them. Enjoy a PowerPoint presentation on Dragon Boat Races, a walk through Chinatown or the Chinese Moon Festival. Then, write a poem together with me!

*The Writing (Editing) Proces (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 minutes – 1 hour)*

Most students moan and groan about revision, but to an author, this is an essential part of writing. Using several of my manuscripts for examples, I show how revisions take place through correspondence between the editor/author/illustrator. We also discuss ways to enhance writing through vivid language.

*Making Sense with Your 5 Senses (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 minutes – 1 hour)*

What color is noise? What is the smell of homework? How many shades of red can you name? These are some of the questions we will explore about sensory description in writing. We cover similes, metaphors and personification, alliteration, and other techniques that bring writing to life, while using one of Roseanne's books to illustrate literary devices in literature. Then, write a sensory poem together with Roseanne!

*Folktales (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 minutes – 1 hour)*

What is a folktale? How does it differ from a fairy tale or a myth? What are the unique elements of this genre? How do you get started writing one? Using ***The Wishing Tree*** as a springboard for discussion, we talk about story development and how descriptive writing can enhance the telling of a tale. We also do several "hands on" writing tasks so that students will be ready to start their own folktale or legend when we're done!

*Poetry Jam! (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 minutes – 1 hour)*

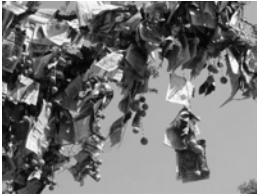
Experience various types of children's poetry: acrostic, limericks, rhyming, non-rhyming, and more. We talk about inspiration and where ideas come from and how to grow them into poems, and then, write several group poems together!

*Wish Making Around the World (New!) (2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 45 min. – 1 hr. )*

How do you make wishes? What about children in other countries? Using colorful explanations in rhyme and prose, Roseanne's new book leads you through India (peacock feathers), Ireland (rainbows), South Africa (weasels) Brazil (ocean waves), Japan (Lucky 7 Festival) and many other places, to experience a host of international wish making traditions. Roseanne focuses on a smorgasbord of writing skills: originating and building ideas, pre-writing, drafting and revision, and poetic structure. (Emphasis can be placed on Poetic

Forms, like acrostic, haiku, simple rhyme, street poems, etc.) She ends with a large-group poem written together. Teacher extension worksheets included.

## ***Asian/Multicultural Presentations***



### ***Chinese Culture through Children's Literature (Grades K – 8)***

Using Roseanne's books, learn about Chinese Culture together with rhyme, rhythm and the 5 senses! Focus on academic skills (brainstorming, comparing/contrasting, categorizing, rhyme structure. Through lilted, rhyming text, experience *dimsum*, noodles, firecrackers, tropical fruit, tofu milk, dragon dances and more. Enjoy slides China that illustrate Chinese traditions. This colorful PowerPoint presentation culminates with a large-group "Five Senses" poem written together with Roseanne. Teacher handouts for follow-up writing activities provided. This presentation fits nicely with the following themes: Markets/Shopping, Colors, Lunar New Year, History of China, the Five Senses, Poetry, and Multicultural Literature.

### ***Leap into Lunar New Year with Literature! (Grades K – 8)***

What is lucky money? What is a dragon dance for? Why are firecrackers lit? Using picture books, PowerPoint slides, props and rhyme as a bridge into Chinese culture, experience the sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and feeling of Lunar New Year. Roseanne uses her own picture books, as well as her 18-year experience living in Asia, to bring this festive holiday to life. "Hands-on props" and teacher worksheets available, and focus on writing or literature, if desired (the writing process, plot, vocabulary, revision, book production, editing, rhyming, and more)

### ***Folktales / Chinese New Year Traditions (Grades K – 8)***

What is a folktale? How does it differ from a fairy tale or a myth? What are the unique elements of this genre? How do you get started writing one? Using ***The Wishing Tree*** as a springboard for discussion, we talk about story development and how descriptive writing can enhance the telling of a tale. This presentation focuses on Chinese culture and wish-making traditions, with equivalents in American children's literature. We do several "hands on" writing tasks so that students will be ready to start their own folktale or legend when we're done! This presentation can place emphasis on Chinese New Year customs, if desired.

### *China /History: Speak, Understand and Write Chinese! (Grades 4 – 8)*

Learn how and where Chinese characters originated. Write basic words and understand their symbolism. Respond to simple requests in Chinese. Learn Fun Facts about China: What's buried inside the Great Wall? What color ink is considered rude to write with? How is the word Coca-Cola translated? How did chopsticks originate? View a PowerPoint presentation that takes you from the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xian to rice farms and fortresses in Canton. This overview of Chinese Culture is a great introduction into a History unit on China. This can be connected with Language Arts support activities if desired, or a focus on the Lunar New Year.

### *Numbers/Colors/Shapes with Asian Themes (Grade K-3)*

Using themes of colors, shapes or numbers, we explore Asian culture. Touch, feel and smell incense sticks, bottle gourds, inking stones and other objects found in my books, and learn the history behind them. Enjoy a PowerPoint presentation on Dragon Boat Races, Chinese New Year, the Moon Festival, or a walk through Chinatown. Then, write a group poem together with me!

### *Chinese New Year Traditions (Grades K – 8)*

Using rhyme and children's literature as a stimulus, we explore Lunar New Year traditions like dragon dances, lucky money, fireworks and drumming. Traditions are exemplified with a vivid PowerPoint Presentation and 'hands on' props. We end with writing a poem together! Teacher worksheets and extension activities available.



## *Writing Workshops*

### *Produce your own Picture Book (3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 2 hours)*

Study a particular genre of writing and using the key features, produce your own picture book. Work on beginnings, middles and endings for your story. Learn how to brainstorm for ideas, make a storyboard, revise and use descriptive language like a real author.

### ***Plotting a Plot!***

***(3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 2 hours)***

Using a grab bag of ideas and her own work as a model, Roseanne leads students through various elements of a story: setting, characters, conflict and resolution. Then, students help write a large-group plot together.

### ***Teacher In-service / Adult Workshops***

***\*10 steps to publishing children's literature***

***\*Six Genres of Writing in Children's Picture Books***

***\*Multicultural Themes in Children's Literature***

***Visit Roseanne's Website at [WWW.Greenfield-Thong.com](http://WWW.Greenfield-Thong.com)***