

# Mark Holtzen - Author & Educator

*Picture books, Middle Grade Novels, Essays*

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An elementary teacher for sixteen years, Mark enjoys engaging with all ages. He creates a safe environment for students to try new things and help get words on the page. Presentations can be customized whatever the goal or curriculum.

## **K-3: Getting Started With Writing - The Story Behind the Story**

Mark will read his picture book and share tales behind its creation. He'll share a story he wrote as a child and where he gets his ideas. He'll end with a concrete writing prompt to inspire each student on their own story. Option: Can share additional picture books and how they might inspire creative writing projects.

## **4-8: Find Your Writing Voice - An Author's Journey**

How do you tap into your author voice? Mark will share his struggle to find his own writing voice through essays and novels. He'll describe his path to publication, share unpublished books and talk about what inspires him. Through a writing prompt he will help lead a discussion on how to unleash each writer's unique voice through details.

## **Upper Grades: Write Historical Fiction - Melding Nonfiction With Narrative**

Mark will share his process of writing *A TICKET TO THE PENNANT* and how he melded nonfiction within a narrative. He'll share other picture books he believes do this well. If students come with a topic, he can give feedback on how to build a narrative around a historical event of their choosing. (This has also been used with high school students for science topics).

## **TESTIMONIALS:**

"A teacher by trade, Mark fielded questions with ease, and kept kids engaged. At the end of the session, Mark led the kids through an activity that had them bubbling over with ideas! It was great!"

- Brenna Profit, Kindergarten Teacher, Seattle

"Mark is sweet and funny and knows how to engage kids. Being a teacher, a writer and a dad of dyslexic kids gives him a unique perspective on writing and the power of literacy."

- Duffy Lord, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher & Colleague