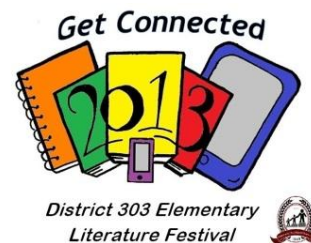


2013 District 303 Elementary Literature Festival Meet the Ferson Creek Author Visitors



Aaron Reynolds

Aaron Reynolds is a New York Times Bestselling Author and has written many highly acclaimed and award-winning books for kids, including **Creepy Carrots!**, **Chicks and Salsa**, **Back of the Bus** and the **Joey Fly, Private Eye** graphic novel series. He lives in the Chicago area with his wife, two kids, four cats, and between zero and ten fish, depending on the day.

Dan Gutman

I was born in New York City on October 19, 1955. When I was about a year old, my family moved to Newark, New Jersey, where I spent my childhood. In 1987, I decided to try my hand at writing about something I always loved-sports. This led to my first adult baseball book. In 1992, when my son, Sam, was two years old, I decided to try writing for children. I wrote a few baseball books, then branched out to other sports--ice skating and gymnastics.

Up until this point, all my books were non-fiction. I never thought I would be any good at creating a story, but in 1994, I decided to give fiction a try. Surprisingly, I sold the first novel I wrote ("They Came From Centerfield"). It was fun to write, kids loved it, and I discovered how incredibly rewarding it is to take a blank page and turn it into a **WORLD**. Finally, after fifteen years, I figured out what my career should be - writing fiction for kids. Kids often tell me that my books make them laugh. This is funny to me, because writing humor was what I wanted to do when I got started back in 1980! It just took me a while to figure out the best way to do it.

I live in Haddonfield, New Jersey with my wife Nina and our children Sam and Emma.

Tammy Bronson

For eleven years Tammy Carter Bronson has traveled across the country inspiring children to be dedicated readers and better writers. She has conducted speaking engagements at more than 600 elementary schools in 21 states presenting to almost 285,000 students. Combined direct sales of Mrs. Bronson's first three picture books (TINY SNAIL, THE KALEIDONOTES & THE MIXED-UP ORCHESTRA, and POLLIWOG) exceed 36,000 copies. Her fourth picture book, SEA HORSE, RUN!, was awarded the Next Generation Indie Book Award for Best Children's Picture Book in 2011. Mrs. Bronson lives in Fayetteville, Arkansas, writes YA historical fiction in her spare time, and shares her humble abode with her husband, several thousand books, three dogs, and cat.

Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Amy Krouse Rosenthal is a *New York Times* bestselling author of books for children and grown-ups. Her children's books include the Cookies series, illustrated by Jane Dyer and Brooke Dyer; *Duck! Rabbit!*, *The OK Book*, *Yes Day!*, and *It's Not Fair!*, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld; *Spoon*, illustrated by Scott Magoon; *The Wonder Book*, illustrated by Paul Schmid; and *This Plus That*, *Little Pea*, *Little Hoot*, and *Little Oink*, illustrated by Jen Corace. Her work for grown-ups includes the memoir *Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life* and the film project *The Beckoning of Lovely*. Amy lives online at www.whoisamy.com and for real in Chicago.

Linda Gorham

Storytelling is an amazing profession. As a storyteller, I enjoy thinking outside the box to create new stories out of old. I love twisting familiar tales. And I enjoy the challenge of creating new stories based on my own experiences. I also love seeing my audiences laugh, relive a memory, think deeply about an experience. Sometimes they even shed a tear. The power of story is truly incredible.