

WAYS TO FUND AN

AUTHOR VISIT

RAISE FUNDS

Read-a-thon or Write-a-thon – What better way to emphasize literacy and enhance students' investment in a visit from an author than to host a read-a-thon/write-a-thon to help bring that author into their school. Set aside one day for students to do nothing but read or write, enjoy partner reading, read alouds, young author readings, etc., and send out a pledge form in advance of the day to raise funds.

Wish List – Add a request for sponsorship/partial-sponsorship of an author visit to the wish list on your class/library/school website.

PTA/PTO Funding Requests for Assistance – Request needed funds from your parent or community organization. Often, a parent is willing to assist with organizing the visit as well.

Local Business Event Sponsorship/Partnership – Local businesses and banks often have funds set aside to support community events. Ask if they might be interested in helping bring an author in and promoting their business to parents in return.

Share the Expense – Visiting authors and illustrators often appreciate the opportunity to connect with readers in multiple schools in an area. If your school is stretched to find funds for a full visit, reach out to a neighboring school, library, book club, community center or organization that may be interested in co-hosting the author.

Book Sales – Work with a bookstore that offers a 20% discount on the author's or illustrator's books. Fundraise by selling books at the regular price and use the discount you receive from the bookstore to offset the cost of bringing in the author or illustrator. For example, a typical hardcover picture book is \$17.99, which means you generate \$4 on every book sold. Sell 100 books and your school earns \$400.

In-School Field Trip – Why hassle with scheduling buses and coordinating an off-site field trip when you can have an in-school field trip? Bring an author/illustrator in for a fun-filled day of live performances. For less than the cost of a movie per student, you can expose them to literature and world cultures. A per-student-cost of \$3 to \$5 can cover some or all of an author's fees, depending on the amount of students participating.

Spare Change/Penny Drive – Ask children to start a penny drive or spare change drive to fund bringing in their favorite author or illustrator. You would be surprised how quickly collecting coins can add up. Plus, children take ownership and pride in knowing they were part of the visit.

TITLE I FUNDS

If your school qualifies for Title 1 funds, you may be eligible to apply some of your funding towards special programs like author visits. These author visits provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to help low-achieving children master challenging curricula and meet state standards in core academic subjects.

WRITE A GRANT

- **Amber Brown Grant** – The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) accepts submissions Nov. 1 to April 15.
- **Dollar General Literacy Foundation’s** grant programs support all ages to help improve the lives of people in many different communities by supporting schools and libraries to expand or implement literacy programs.
- **Target Community Grants** – Target Stores supports a variety of arts and cultural experiences in their communities, giving local schools and arts organizations resources for outreach and education.
- **State Humanities and Arts Councils** – Many state arts councils across the United States fund programs by visiting artists. Check with your state’s art council for more information.
- **Educational Enrichment Foundation** offers classroom grants, with applications open January through mid-March.



• **National Endowment for the Arts** is committed to providing leadership in arts education. The arts are an essential component of education, and all children, not only those with specific artistic talent, benefit from an education in the arts including opportunities to create, perform, and communicate through various artistic media.



• **Donors Choose** empowers public school teachers from across the country to request much needed materials and experiences for their students.

• **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)** offers a number of grant programs that support the arts and humanities. Grant guidelines and deadlines can be found on the NEH website.

• **Crayola Creative Leadership Grant program** provides grants for innovative, creative leadership team building within elementary/middle schools.

• **Grants for Teachers** can fund professional development, classroom enrichment, school supplies, field trips and almost anything else that goes into bettering the quality of education, including author visits.

• **AIAA Foundation Classroom Grant Program** offers grants for STEM-related projects.

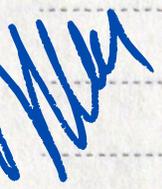


• **IRA Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Grant** from the International Literacy Association honors an outstanding K-8 teacher dedicated to improving how reading and writing is taught across the curriculum.





• **ILA Leaders Inspiring Readers Award**, sponsored by Achieve3000, is presented to a researcher or practitioner who has contributed significantly to educators of struggling readers.



• **National Book Fund Grants for Educational Materials**, from ProLiteracy, provides educational materials to help teach adults to read.

• **Grants Alert** has information on a number of funding opportunities for schools, districts and communities.

• **Barnes & Noble** considers support requests from non-profit organizations that focus on literacy, the arts or education for pre-K to 12. [information here.](#)

• **Fundsnet Services** has links to more education and literacy grants.



*Information collected from thebookingbiz.com

