

ABOUT ANIKA DENISE'S SCHOOL VISITS

Anika makes frequent visits to schools, where she does large assemblies and smaller group mini workshops. The goals of her visits are to ignite a creative spark; to connect her writing process to concepts students are learning in class; and to further encourage a love of reading.

WHAT SHE COVERS IN ASSEMBLIES

Anika's assemblies include a behind-the-scenes look at an author's/artist's studio; a read-aloud of her books (projected on the screen); and a peek into her creative process — where she takes students on a journey from inspiration, to finished book. She concludes with a fun (and often silly) brainstorming “What if?” exercise, followed by Q&A. Typical length for an assembly is one hour, though with pre-k and k, Anika follows more of a story time format, with the session lasting approximately 30-40 minutes.



Visits can be structured as a series of assemblies to different grade levels, or a combination of assemblies and mini workshops.

MINI WORKSHOPS

Mini-workshops can range from 45-90 minutes, depending on grade level and schedule. These smaller classroom and library workshops build off concepts touched upon in the larger assembly.

- **MINI WORKSHOP # 1: GETTING INTO CHARACTER** (Best for grades K-3)

In this session, children explore “character” in fictional stories, using Anika’s character-based picture book *Starring Carmen!* as a mentor text. Utilizing costumes, props and role play, students gain a deeper understanding of character traits, in a fun, interactive learning environment.

- **MINI WORKSHOP # 2: WORD MASH UPS** (Best for grades 4 & 5)

This workshop builds on the “What if” exercise in the larger assembly, by presenting students with three unrelated words, and challenging the children to build a story around them. Anika uses her picture book *Monster Trucks* as a mentor text. Students brainstorm characters, setting, and have a rough outline of their story by the end of the session.

- MINI WORKSHOP # 3: THE BEAT GOES ON (Best for grades 3, 4 & 5)

From Dr. Seuss, to the Broadway musical Hamilton, poetic devices are effective tools to enhance storytelling. This mini workshop looks at how poetic techniques such as rhyme, rhythm, repetition, alliteration and onomatopoeia can spice up a story. Anika uses her books, *Pigs Love Potatoes*, *Bella and Stella Come Home*, and *Monster Trucks* as mentor texts. Students then experiment with sprinkling a little poetic fairy dust of their own.

BOOKS AND AUTOGRAPHING

Anika is happy to sign books during her visit. She does not sell her own books, but orders can be placed directly from the publisher (at a discount) or through a local bookstore. You can use the order form provided on Anika’s website: <http://www.anikadenise.com/school-visits> or create your own. (Just be sure to include a space for indicating autographing instructions.)



LENGTH OF VISITS

- FULL DAY (4-5 total sessions)
- HALF DAY (2-3 total sessions)
- SINGLE ASSEMBLY (1 hour)

FEES

| | RHODE ISLAND/ S. MA/ N. CT | USA (Outside of Southern NE) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| FULL DAY | \$900 + expenses* | \$1,200 + expenses* |
| HALF DAY | \$600 + expenses* | contact Anika |
| SINGLE ASSEMBLY | \$300 + expenses* | N/A |

* Expenses include: mileage for travel (if traveling greater than 30 miles), airfare, lodging and meals, if applicable.

WHAT SCHOOLS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE FOR ANIKA'S VISIT

- Directions to the school (& any special instructions for parking)
- Contact phone number for school plus cell number for contact person (for emergencies)
- Check for payment in full on day of visit
- If a visit spans the lunchtime hour, providing lunch, or a menu to order from, is greatly appreciated.

WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO TO PREPARE

- Familiarize the students with Anika's books
- Discuss questions the students might ask the author
- Review behavioral expectations for the visit, so everyone has fun and enjoys

AV EQUIPMENT/ SUPPLIES NEEDED

(For Assemblies)

- Microphone (preferably wireless)
- LCD projector & screen
- Easel with notepad and markers

(For Smaller Group Sessions)

- White board with VGA connector to connect a laptop (Anika will bring the adapter to connect her MACBOOK to VGA cord)
- Writing and drawing supplies

RESCOURCES/ IDEAS FOR FUNDING A SCHOOL VISIT

- [The NEA \(National Education Association\)](#)
- [How to Write a Grant Proposal](#)
- [Wells Fargo Charitable Contributions for Education & Educators](#)
- [Amber Brown Grant from SCBWI](#)
- [The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation's Academic Enrichment Grants](#)
- [Title I Grants](#) (if your school is eligible for Title I funding)
- [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#) (look up your state)
- Host a Read-A-Thon
- Sell books (purchased from publisher at 40% discount)
- Split the visit, and the costs, with another school in your district or city
- Seek support within your community from organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, Elks, Eagles, and Lions.