

Elly Swartz

www.ellyswartz.com



School Visits

Elly Swartz loves connecting with kids, and that is never more evident than when she is spending time with them in their school. Her classroom visits have been called “engaging” “powerful” “memorable” “authentic” and “energizing” by the teachers and librarians whose schools she has visited. And those visits have made a lasting impact.

Swartz’s debut novel, *Finding Perfect*, was selected as a 2019-2020 Iowa Children's Choice Book, a Kentucky Blue Grass Master List Pick, honored as a Child Mind's Institute Best Children's Book About Mental Health, [chosen to be](#) part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee’s [Great Words Great Works](#) program, and a 2017 [Global Read Aloud contender](#). *Smart Cookie* was a **2019 ILA/CBC Children’s Choice for grades 3 and 4** and educator Colby Sharp deemed *Smart Cookie* one of his favorite books for 2018. And in 2019, *Give and Take* published. Becky Calzada, Coordinator Library Services, Leander ISD shared, “Readers of *Give and Take* will quickly become endeared with Maggie’s spirit and heart. Elly Swartz has written a book where the characters love fiercely, and family is forever.” *Give and Take* was named one of the best books of 2019 by [Pernille Ripp](#) and [A Mighty Girl](#). Elly Swartz lives in Brookline, Ma.

Programs

A **full day visit includes** up to 3, 45-60 minutes presentations with an opportunity for Q&A. Elly is also happy to have lunch with the kids and/or staff, and will sign copies of her books, and bring swag for the students.

Presentations can be **workshops in the classroom or assembly style**. Elly is happy to work with the staff or event coordinators to ascertain what configuration works best. And appreciates the school arranging sales of her books prior to her visit.

ALL SCHOOL/COMMUNITY READS. Elly was humbled and grateful that *Finding Perfect* was selected as the all-school read for the Cape Elizabeth Middle School’s Mental Health Initiative, “You Will Be Found...@CEMS.” The hope was that the shared experience of reading this book would start conversations that would begin to break down stereotypes and stigmas surrounding mental health. And it succeeded! This initiative culminated in a very moving and incredible special school visit. Other schools are now embracing this model and using Elly’s

books as an all-school read. To learn more -

<https://sites.google.com/capeelizabethschools.org/CEMSmentalhealth/finding-perfect?authuser=0>

AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE. Elly loves the collaboration and connection that comes with being an author in residence. She kicks-off getting to know the students with an all school assembly and then jumps into more interactive, hands-on writing workshops, including: Finding Ideas, Creating Authentic Voice, and Revision. Elly is willing to work with a school to find the programming that best supports their community of learners.

FINDING YOUR INNER SUPERHERO: Dreaming big, persevering, and what it truly means to be brave. (45-50 minutes. Assembly-style presentation, 3rd grade and up)

With equal parts gratitude, commitment, passion, and inspiration, Swartz shares her journey to yes and her thoughts on dreaming big, preserving, and what it truly means to be brave. To Swartz, bravery goes beyond the tropes in superhero movies. Bravery is what gives you the courage to stand up for yourself and others. The spark to be curious. The freedom to make mistakes. And the strength to get back up. It gives you the room to dream and the patience you need to get there.

As Superman said, “There is a superhero in all of us. We just need the courage to put on the cape.”

WHO ARE YOU? A workshop on identity and empathy. 45-50 minutes. 3rd grade and up

In this interactive workshop, students focus on identify, self-acceptance, and empathy. They’ll tackle the Unfolding Identity Project, where we’ll explore folding and unfolding their own identity. They’ll begin with a writing exercise. [You can download the full exercise here.](#) Through this project they will discover that no one is just one thing. Together each student is a blend of attributes, inside and out!

In this interactive workshop, students focus on identify, self-awareness, and empathy. All themes embraced by the characters in *Finding Perfect*. And, while Molly’s situation may seem unique, we’re all a little like Molly—the person we present to the world is not always in perfect alignment with the person we are inside. With the elementary and middle school students, we’ll tackle the [Unfolding Identity Project](#), where we’ll explore folding and unfolding our identity. We’ll begin with a writing exercise. Through this project we’ll discover how we view ourselves and how we believe others perceive us. In the end, students see that no one is just one thing. Together we are all a wonderful blend of attributes, inside and out! With middle school classes, we’ll take the identity discussion online. What does your online profile and pictures say about you?

REVISING WITH PURPOSE: Tips from an author’s notebook 45- 50 minutes. 3rd grade and up.

No matter how hard you try, no matter how thoughtful you are, the first draft is always just the beginning. The blocks from which to build. So, don't get attached to any character, point of view, setting, or plot twist. Because to make your story better, you may just have to delete your favorites, kill your darlings, resurrect your villains.

In this revision workshop, author Elly Swartz, introduces REVISION BINGO and gives your students the tools and tips they need to take the dread out of revision. She shares how Emojis, color codes, Dear Character letters, and read alouds allow your students to see revision from a different lens, recognize what's working, and revamp what's not. Swartz explains how it took 15 years, 5 books, and hundreds of revisions to finally get published. How she had to lose her original, dual POV version of Finding Perfect, and reimagine the entire story from Molly's POV only. She offers how revision and letting go of her original plan, while challenging, allowed the story to develop in wonderful, unexpected ways.

First drafts are the framework, revision builds the house. Learn how to take the dread out of revision with Elly Swartz.

LET'S GET REAL: A writing workshop on finding, creating, and embracing voice. 50-90 minutes. 3rd grade and up.

What happens when a character pops into your head, is there when you go to sleep and when you wake-up in the morning. How do you write her story? How do you create an authentic voice? Where do you even begin?

In this workshop, Swartz shares the tools you'll need to discover and embrace your unique voice. She offers tips on how to use your senses and the emotion in your life to guide your writing. How character letters and emojis can help crystalize voice. And how consulting experts, finding resources, mining YouTube, and digging into old-fashioned research, can help you write beyond stereotypes and embrace true authenticity.

Remember! Only you can write your story. So together, let's find, create, and embrace your voice. So next time that character comes into your world and whispers in your ear, you're ready to listen. And to write.

READER'S THEATER: A Multi-day interactive workshop on revision and voice that builds towards a play written and performed by the students based on the tools they've learned. 4th grade and up.

Contact Lisa Nadel for more information.

WHOSE GOT MY BACK: A workshop on embracing your idiosyncrasies and finding your herd. 45-50 minutes. 3rd grade and up

We are all wonderfully unique individuals with herds who love and support us. Sometimes, however, that can be hard to see. And, even harder to feel. Especially for kids. This interactive

workshop uses books as a foundation for readers to recognize and celebrate their unique traits and herds. To reflect on identity, self-acceptance, and empathy.

This workshop allows readers to recognize and celebrate their unique traits and herds. Readers are given a “Smart Cookie” jar/cup to fill with their idiosyncrasies and a list of those who support them. They’re encouraged to look beyond their family, to the whole “herd” of people in their life. In the end, readers have a jar that holds what makes them Smart Cookies – their unique traits and their unique herd.

This workshop can be adapted for older classrooms using hashtags, playlists and/or poetry to have readers express their idiosyncrasies and thoughts on their herd.

GO ON, CHANGE THE WORLD! An educator workshop on empowering students during Covid 19. 45–50 min. Educators.

A discussion with educators on empowering students and helping them navigate their range of emotions while remote learning and socially distancing during Covid 19. In this unsettled time, we have lost our anchor – what tethers us and allows us to feel strong, confident, and capable as we transition and move forward. This program provides empowerment activities that educators can bring to their in-person or remote classrooms today.

Here’s what Brenda Maurao, Principal of Stapleton Elementary School said about Elly’s presentation to the educators in her school:

“Elly's thoughtful and genuine approach to discussing emotions allows her audience to feel alongside her. Elly and I connected a few weeks back to discuss the current pandemic and the impact of this time on our students and staff, especially as we prepare to close out this very unusual school year. Elly offered to join our virtual staff meeting to share specific strategies that staff can use in their personal lives and with students to help articulate their feelings and feel empowered to use their feelings to bring closure for themselves and others. When Elly shared her quote, "Go on, change the world" with our staff, I couldn't help but think that she exemplifies this quote in her work every day.

Other programs

Elly Swartz is also available to talk to adults about her fifteen-year author journey, publishing tips, persevering and overcoming rejection, writing from the heart, and the true inspiration behind her books.

Fees

For fees and scheduling, please contact Lisa Nadel at lonnilanemarketing@gmail.com.