

## VIRTUAL SCHOOL VISITS with author EMMA OTHEGUY

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Dear Educators,

*We don't know what schools will look like in the fall, but I do know that I still love connecting with young readers and sharing my passion for books, writing, and Latinx history and culture. I still believe that our time with children, whether in-person or on-screen, is precious and that we should make the most of it. To that end, I have spent the last few weeks considering how to revamp my in-school author programming to get students reading and writing. These programs are designed to be fun, interactive, and include an off-screen portion whenever possible. I hope to be able to visit your school in person soon, but until then, please take a look at this program guide and get in touch to schedule your virtual author programs!*

Sincerely,

Emma Otheguy

### PROGRAMS OFFERED

**WRITE TOGETHER:** An intensive, project-based virtual residency with your students spread over three sessions. Each student will complete a finished piece of writing and receive written feedback from me on their project.

**FAMILY SESSION:** An interactive program to bring families into your virtual classroom by engaging them in storytelling and reading with their children.

**WORKSHOP:** A one-time writing workshop structured around a mentor text. Students will work on a short poem or story during the session.

**ASSEMBLY:** A virtual version of my in-person events, including an engaging reading and time for questions, plus new interactive opportunities such as rapid-fire book trivia.

\*I am a native bilingual in English and Spanish. All programs can be offered as either English, Spanish, or bilingual presentations.

### BOOKING FEES

#### Suggested Honorarium

**Write Together:** \$1,500

**Family Session:** \$300/session OR purchase of 30 books + \$50 booking fee

**Workshop:** \$300/session OR purchase of 30 books + \$50 booking fee

**Assembly:** \$300/session OR purchase of 30 books + \$50 booking fee

### DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

**WRITE TOGETHER:** In this intensive virtual residency, I will meet with your students over three sessions to complete a writing project with a hands-on artistic component. During the first session, I will talk to your class about my books and writing process, introduce the project, and coach students through a brainstorming process. During the second session, we will share our ideas and discuss mentor texts. In between sessions, I will read student work and offer written feedback to each student. Our third session will be devoted to sharing our progress, discussing revision, and celebrating our work. The writing project selected will vary based on the age of the students and your curriculum plans, but suggested topics include community and identity, change-makers, or poetry and voice.

- **Length:** Three 45-minute sessions + written feedback in between sessions
- **Best for:** Grades three and up
- **Up to:** 30 students; if you have a larger group we can discuss scaling the program

**FAMILY SESSION:** With children learning from home, engaging parents in school is more important now than ever. During this interactive session, I'll share a lively reading, then guide kids and parents through telling their own story together through writing and drawing from home. We'll end with a question and answer period, during which I will encourage families to continue to tell and read stories together.

- **Length:** One 45-minute session
- **Best for:** Any grade level
- **Up to:** 100 participants

## **WORKSHOPS:**

### **Poetry Writing Workshop**

This workshop uses Robert Frost and Antonio Machado's poetry (each quoted in *Silver Meadows Summer*) as models to help students express their hopes and fears through poetry. After a brief introduction, we begin by brainstorming emotions, fears, and dreams, then write a mimic poem using one of the poems quoted in *Silver Meadows Summer* as a scaffold. Finally, students are invited to write a free verse poem. Kids leave feeling confident in their ability to write poetry and engage with poetry.

- **Length:** One 45-minute session
- **Best for:** Grades two and up
- **Up to:** 30 students; if you have a larger group we can discuss scaling the program

### **Change-Makers Workshop**

In this workshop, students will learn to make thematic connections between different change-makers in history. We begin by brainstorming important figures in history and how they changed the world, and end up writing newspaper headlines and letters from the perspective of historical figures. Kids, particularly kids from diverse backgrounds, have the opportunity to integrate their own heroes and role models into this workshop.

- **Length:** One 45-minute session
- **Best for:** Grades three and up
- **Up to:** 30 students; if you have a larger group we can discuss scaling the program

## **ASSEMBLIES**

### **SILVER MEADOWS SUMMER**

This is a presentation about family, friendship, and immigration. I will talk to kids about the personal experiences that inspired *Silver Meadows Summer*: growing up Cuban-American, spending summers with family in Puerto Rico, and falling in love with farms and forests while working in upstate New York. After an engaging reading from this novel about eleven-year old Carolina, her move from Puerto Rico, and the abandoned cabin she discovers in the woods, I will invite questions. During the question and answer period, I will try and talk about being yourself, the healing power of art, and the importance of home in all of our lives.

- **Length:** One 45-minute session
- **Best for:** Grades three and up
- **Up to:** 100 students

### **MARTÍ'S SONG FOR FREEDOM**

In this presentation, I introduce kids to the culture of Cuba and the very important connections between Latin America and the United States. I discuss the power of change-makers like José Martí and the value of poetry and literature as bridges between cultures. After a lively reading, I invite questions. During the question and answer period, I try and talk about growing up bilingual, my research process, and the challenges and joys of editing and revising.

- **Length:** One 45-minute session
- **Best for:** Grades three and up
- **Up to:** 100 students

### **SECRETS OF THE SILVER LION: A CARMEN SANDIEGO STORY** (New in 2020)

Carmen Sandiego's latest quest to stop VILE takes her from the bustling streets of New York City to the cobblestones of Spain and the silver mines high in the Andes Mountains of Bolivia. Kids will learn about the real-life culture and history that inspired the book, as well as the research smarts Carmen uses to crack the secrets of the silver lion. After an engaging presentation and reading, I will invite questions about international travel, historical research, writing original stories about favorite characters, and growing up bilingual and bicultural.

- **Length:** One 45-minute session
- **Best for:** Grades three and up
- **Up to:** 100 students

### **ABOUT EMMA OTHEGUY and her BOOKS**

**Emma Otheguy** is the author of the bilingual picture book *Martí's Song for Freedom* (Lee & Low 2017) about Cuban poet and national hero José Martí, as well as the middle-grade novel *Silver Meadows Summer* (Knopf 2019), which Pura Belpré-winning author Ruth Behar called "a magnificent contribution to the diversity of the new American literature for young readers." *Martí's Song for Freedom* received five starred reviews, was named a Best Book of the Year by Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal, and the New York Public Library, and was the recipient of the International Literacy Association's 2018 Children's and Young Adult Book Award in Intermediate Nonfiction. Emma co-authored *The Unicorn Rescue Society: The Madre de Aguas of Cuba* (Dutton 2020) with Newbery Honor-winning author Adam Gidwitz. Forthcoming books from Emma include *Secrets of the Silver Lion: A Carmen Sandiego Adventure*, inspired by the hit Netflix series, and a new picture book *A Sled for Gabo* (Atheneum 2021).

Emma attended Swarthmore College, where she studied children's literature with Donna Jo Napoli and graduated with Honors. Later, she worked in farm-based education, at a children's bookstore, and as a Spanish teacher. She holds a Ph.D. in History from New York University, where she focused on Spain and colonial Latin America. Emma has held fellowships and grants from the Mellon Foundation, the American Historical Association, the Council of Library and Information Resources, and Humanities New York. Emma lives in New York City.