

SCHOOL VISITS with author EMMA OTHEGUY

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As a former teacher, I love visiting schools and talking to young readers! I offer hands-on workshops as well as assembly-style presentations, and as a native bilingual in Spanish and English I can speak in either language (or both). Below are some of my program offerings, which can be tailored to fit your needs.

I am also available for keynotes and presentations at educator conferences and professional development events.

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

SOFÍA ACOSTA MAKES A SCENE (Grades 3 & up): I will speak to students about the central themes of *Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene*, including sibling rivalry, immigration history, life in the suburbs, and, of course, ballet. Kids will laugh at stories of my own dance mishaps and learn about how the dance traditions of the United States and Latin America are intertwined. Sofia develops into an outspoken advocate as she discovers her family's immigration story and her own voice, so this presentation is ideal for immigration units and classes exploring change-making and activism.

A SLED FOR GABO (Grades K-3): I talk to students about diverse snow day traditions and my experiences with snow growing up. We will discuss the challenges and joys of making new friends in a community, particularly if you feel left out at times. I will also introduce the Latin American treats in *A Sled for Gabo*, such as dulce de leche and guava.

MARTÍ'S SONG FOR FREEDOM (Grades 3 & up): This presentation introduces students 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.

SILVER MEADOWS SUMMER (Grades 3 & up): In this presentation about family, friendship, and immigration, I talk to students 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.

SECRETS OF THE SILVER LION: A CARMEN SANDIEGO STORY (Grades 3 & up): Students will learn about the real-life culture and history that inspired Carmen Sandiego's latest quest, as well as the research smarts Carmen uses to crack the secrets of the silver lion. I will invite questions about international travel, historical research, writing original stories about favorite characters, and growing up bilingual and bicultural.

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP (Grades 4 & up): 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. The group will brainstorm emotions, fears, and dreams, then write a mimic poem. To conclude, students will be invited to write a free verse poem.

CHANGE-MAKERS WORKSHOP (Grades 3 & up): The workshop begins with brainstorming important figures in history and how they changed the world, and ends with writing newspaper headlines and letters from the perspective of historical figures. Students, particularly students from diverse backgrounds, have the opportunity to integrate their own heroes and role models into this workshop.

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.

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