

Margaret Finnegan

Author Visit Information

Margaret Finnegan’s dynamic and interactive school visits bring the thrill of reading and writing alive. Students learn not only about writing, but they learn best practices to grow as writers themselves.

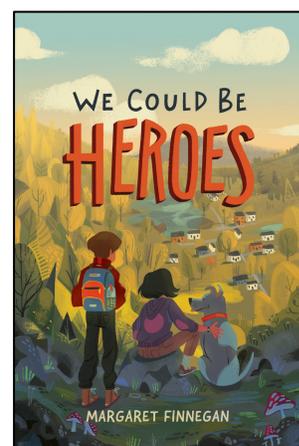
Interactive Presentations (Ideal for third graders and up)

How to Write an Everyday Hero

- Reading from *We Could Be Heroes* and Q&A
- Power Point comparing superheroes (like Thor) to everyday heroes (like Hank and Maisie), and that talks about how heroes choose to confront obstacles and how writers need obstacles to keep a story going.
- Community norms and story exercise

You Can be a Hero

- Neurodiversity Power Point that highlights famous neurodiverse “heroes,” provides tips for supporting neurodiverse individuals, and explains Margaret’s inspiration to write *We Could Be Heroes*.
- Community norms and story exercise
- Reading from *We Could Be Heroes* and Q&A



When Life Throws You Lemons...(ideal for grades 6 and up)

- Biographical PowerPoint that includes obstacles (including family trauma, childhood poverty, and the demands of raising special needs children) that Margaret has faced and how she has used reading and writing to cultivate grit, perseverance, and perspective.
- Community norms and story exercise
- Reading from *We Could Be Heroes* and Q&A

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff—A workshop for reluctant writers (ideal for grades 6 and up)

- PowerPoint on how to write fast and build content through revision. Special attention paid to using evidence and specific details.
- Brief reading from an early draft and then the final draft of *We Could Be Heroes*.
- Community norms and story exercise

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff—A workshop for teachers and/or parents

- PowerPoint on how to help children grow as writers by learning to focus on content before conventions (such as spelling). Special attention paid to research on the teaching of grammar.
- Written self reflection
- Think pair share
- “Golden Lines” critical reading exercise and debrief

Custom Presentations

- Have a writing concept you are eager for students to explore? Margaret is happy to put together custom presentations—just ask.

Fees and Specifics

Full Day Visits:

Margaret would love to spend a day with you! Full day visits include three presentations, autographs, lunch with teachers, parents, and/or select students (if desired), and *We Could Be Heroes* bookmarks. Presentations range from 40-55 minutes, depending upon your needs.

Full Day Rates:

Southern California: \$1200

Central and Northern California: \$1400

Out of state: \$1600

Outside of Los Angeles County: Unless otherwise agreed, host school/venue happily picks up all expenses for long-distance travel, lodging, and meals.

Half Day and Single Presentations:

Spending even a little time with you would be delightful!

Single Presentation (up to one hour), autographs, *We Could Be Heroes* bookmarks: \$450

Half Day (two consecutive, 40-55 minute presentations), autographs, *We Could Be Heroes* bookmarks: \$750

Outside of Los Angeles County: Unless otherwise agreed, host school/venue happily picks up all expenses for long-distance travel, lodging, and meals.

Classroom Skype Visits:

A virtual visit! Sounds fun and affordable!

20 minute Q&A Skype sessions are FREE for any group/class/grade reading *We Could Be Heroes*.

Other Visits:

What do you have in mind? Contact Mail@margaretfinnegan.com

Book Orders and Autographs:

Make this author visit one to remember! Make *We Could Be Heroes* available for purchase from your school. Book orders can be arranged through your local bookstore or at a discounted rate from Simon & Schuster. Good news! Simon & Schuster offers a scholastic discount and will accept unsold books back. For more information, call Simon & Schuster Customer Service 1-800-976-1726 or 1-877-989-0009 or go to <https://www.simonandschuster.biz/c/biz-author-appearances>

To avoid delay and confusion, distribute book pre-order forms (next page) to students at least two weeks before the visit.

Of course, no matter how students purchase their books, Margaret will happily personalize and sign them.

AUTHOR VISIT: MARGARET FINNEGAN

Author Margaret Finnegan will be visiting our school on _____ to talk with students and personally sign copies of her novel *We Could Be Heroes*, a Junior Library Guild Selection.

If you would like your child to have an autographed copy of this acclaimed book, please fill out this order form and return along with your payment.

Make your check payable to: _____

Order due date: _____

Turn in completed order form and payment to: _____

About the book

***We Could Be Heroes* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Ages 8-12)**

***Shiloh* meets *Raymie Nightingale* in this funny and heartwarming debut novel about a ten-year-old that finds himself in a whole mess of trouble when his new friend Maisie recruits him to save the dog next door.**

Hank Hudson is in a bit of trouble. After an incident involving the boy's bathroom and a terribly sad book his teacher is forcing them to read, Hank is left with a week's suspension and a slightly charred hardcover—and, it turns out, the attention of new girl Maisie Huang.

Maisie has been on the lookout for a kid with the meatballs to help her with a very important mission: Saving her neighbor's dog, Booter. Booter has seizures, and his owner, Mr. Jorgensen, keeps him tied to a tree all day and night because of them. It's enough to make Hank even sadder than that book does—he has autism, and he knows what it's like to be treated poorly because of something that makes you different.

But different is not less. And Hank is willing to get into even *more* trouble to prove it. Soon he and Maisie are lying, brown-nosing, baking, and cow milking all in the name of saving Booter—but not everything is as it seems. Booter might not be the only one who needs saving. And being a hero can look a lot like being a friend.

Praise for *We Could Be Heroes*

"Finnegan successfully explores bullying, physical and mental differences, empathy, trust, intergenerational friendships, and compassion for animals. A sweet story with excellent read-aloud potential." – *Booklist*

"A coming-of-age story of friendships young, old, and canine." – *Kirkus Reviews*

"[A] good-natured tale of two unlikely friends determined to save a life." – *Publishers Weekly*

ORDER FORM:

WE COULD BE HEROES by Margaret Finnegan (ISBN13: 9781534445253)

Student's Name: _____

Room #: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Price: \$ _____ Qty: _____

Total: \$ _____

Inscribed to (please print): _____

