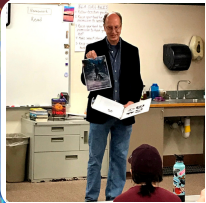


MISFIT'S MAGIC

Fred Gracely

Author's Visit

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When I conduct an author's visit, I do my best to make the experience fun for the students and also positive, encouraging, and informative. I take the opportunity to speak to the children very seriously. I remember how influential such speakers were to me as a young boy

I start by introducing myself and the book. Then I engage them in a few activities to establish a friendly, accepting environment where they feel free to interact. For instance, I often ask them if the gargoyle image from my book is one that would bite you or tell you good jokes. I might then ask them to try saying *Gold Gargoyle* five times fast.



After the introduction, I let them know I will answer any questions they have after I read to them and start reading a 15 minute segment of the book. I have lots of fun doing it. I walk around, add hand gestures, stomp the ground, and thump my chest when the character's heart is pounding. The room is usually pin-drop silent during the reading, except for maybe an occasional laugh or gasp.



friendship
struggling bullying
tolerance
uniqueness
respect trust
determination
kindness

Then questions! How long did it take to write? Why this book? While I answer any question asked, I have an agenda. I weave into the answers conveying the supportive, encouraging, inspirational messages I would have benefited from hearing when I was young. For instance, I talk about my history with being bullied, struggling as a student due to ADD and dyslexia, and how we are all uniquely special and should respect that in ourselves and others



In closing, I thank them all for being a terrific audience and then hand out bookmarks for them each to take home. Afterwards, I donate two books for the students to enjoy. On recent visits, I was told I got "*high marks all around*" and that I'm a "*natural with the kids.*"



- M.A. in Human Relations, Specializing in Holistic Counseling Psychology, Lesley University, 2019
- B.S. in Psychology, Framingham State University, 1989
- No fee for visit and flexible scheduling
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