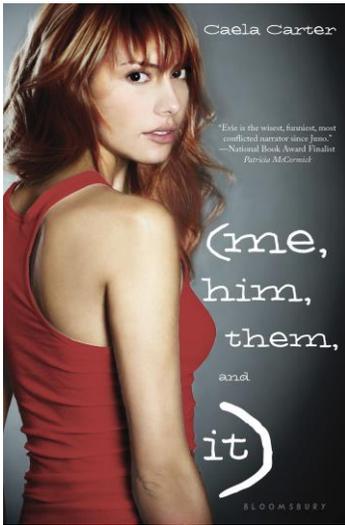


CAELA CARTER

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Dear Teachers,

Thank you for your interest in hosting an author visit with me! As a former teacher, I am eager to get back into the classroom and do what I can to promote literacy and passion for writing and the arts!

Contact Information

Please email me at caelacarterwrites@gmail.com to schedule your author visit.

The Book

* My debut novel is titled *Me, Him, Them and It* and it will be published by Bloomsbury in February 2013.

* It is on sale for pre-order on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Follett and after February 26th, it should be available wherever books are sold.

* *School Library Journal*: "Characters feel true...a poignant tale that is like to appeal even to reluctant readers."

* *Romantic Times*: 4.5 out of 4 Stars and a Top Pick. "Breathtaking, brutal and beautifully real, Carter's debut is stunning. She unflinchingly explores the intricate, difficult choices a pregnant teen must face...there is something about this story that will keep you hooked."

* *Publishers Weekly*: "In this introspective first novel, Carter persuasively traces the vacillating emotions and opinions of a distraught pregnant teenager, showing how a 16-year-old mother-to-be finds the support and courage she needs to make necessary choices."

Nuts and Bolts

* As a former teacher, I approached designing author visits as I would lesson plans. As such, they are most appropriate for a classroom setting. Please discuss other options with me if you would prefer an assembly or larger setting.

* The lessons are designed for a traditional "Young Adult" audience and are therefore most appropriate for students in grades 7 through 12, though this can also be adjusted.

* The lessons are designed to last the length of a traditional high school class, 40 to 60 minutes. They can easily be extended and/or combined, but due to the interactive nature, it would be difficult for them to be shortened. If you have fewer than 40 minutes available, please stick with the "Reading" program, as this is the most flexible.

* These lessons are simply guidelines. If you would like to discuss a different focus or objective, I am certainly open to adjusting to whatever would be best for your students.

* Books: only the "Reading" program requires that students have read the book ahead of time. However, all programs will be most effective if students have read or are reading the book. More about purchasing books below.

Lessons

Lesson 1: Reading

Objective: To promote literacy, discuss reading and writing, and demonstrate that becoming an author is an achievable goal.

Exercises

- * I will share a brief history of my childhood, writing progress, and path to publication.
- * Students and I share favorite parts, both theirs and mine, of *Me, Him, Them and It* through dramatic reading
- * Students engage in a Q and A about the book, the writing process, and an author's career and daily life.

Student materials: a copy of *Me, Him, Them and It*

Program 2: Writing

Objective: To craft the first few pages of a novel for young people and learn how to proceed until it becomes a full-length book

Exercises

- * In sharing a series of passages from *Me, Him, Them and It*, I will discuss three of the most important elements in constructing a book for young people: voice, the essential problem, and the ticking clock.
- * Students will experiment with writing in a voice that is fundamentally different from their own identity.
- * Students will determine an essential problem and a ticking clock for their characters and discover how that changes the pace of their writing
- * Also discussed: drafting, outlining, revision, minor character development, writing "tricks", writerly habits

Student Materials: pencil and paper, optional copy of *Me, Him, Them and It*

Provided Materials: a "cheat sheet" of the writerly terms discussed during the lesson

Program 3: Publishing

Objective: To empower students to pursue writing fiction as a life goal. Everyone knows the steps he or she must take in order to become a doctor, lawyer, etc. This is a crash course in those steps to becoming an author.

Exercises

- * I share a brief history of my life from the time I started writing *Me, Him, Them and It* until it was published.
- * Students and I discuss how to proceed through education if their goal is to be a writer: what to read, what to study in college, and the benefits vs. costs of pursuing an MFA
- * Students learn the novel-publishing vocabulary including agent, query letter, imprint, submissions, etc.
- * Students read examples of query letters and learn how to write them.
- * Students learn how to research agents, publishers, and writing communities

Student Materials: pencil and paper, optional copy of *Me, Him, Them and It*

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Provided Materials: copy of a query letter, list of agents and publishing houses, list of MFA programs and websites



How to Prepare

- * Please ensure that the students know that I am coming, who I am, and a bit about my book if they have not read it.
- * Please ensure that students have all required materials.
- * Please provide me with specific directions to your school and to your classroom
- * Please provide me with essential details about your class such as:
 - What grade level?
 - Are they basically reading on grade level, ahead, or behind?
 - How enthusiastic are your students about reading and writing?
 - Any other helpful details.

Business Details

- * Cost: No cost. I simply appreciate gaining access to your students at this early point in my career.
- * Books: Your school can order books directly from Bloomsbury for a 40% discount. This must be done a few weeks ahead of time in order for the books to arrive. You as a school can then use books as a classroom set and/or sell the books to your students (either at full price as a school fundraiser, or at a discounted price). Any books that you do not sell can be returned to Bloomsbury for a 100% refund. We can talk more about this as we arrange my visit.
- * Signing: I am more than happy to sign books (or anything else like strips of paper, napkins, casts, etc) until my fingers fall off. If your students are interested in this, please provide time for it outside of the designed lessons.

Thank you for taking the time to consider an author visit from me. If you choose to have me in your classroom, I promise to be professional, inspirational, and dedicated to your students.

Caela Carter
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