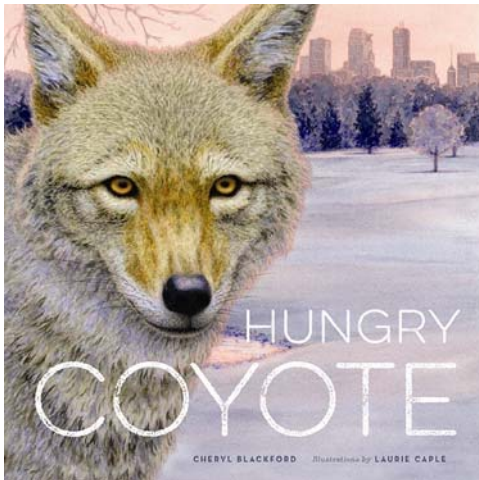


Cheryl Blackford: Author Visits

School Assemblies, Classroom Visits, Writing Workshops

Cheryl Blackford is a former elementary school teacher and technical writer who once wrote scripts for The Oregon Trail® educational simulation. Cheryl is the author of five children's books. *HUNGRY COYOTE* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, May 2015) won the 2015 Moonbeam Award for picture books for ages 4-7. *LIZZIE AND THE LOST BABY* (HMH Books for Young Readers, Jan 2016) is a historical fiction novel for ages 8-12. Cheryl is available for author visits at your school and can offer large-group assemblies or small-group classroom visits and writing workshops. Teacher in-service and evening parent/child story time and craft sessions are an option.



Assemblies

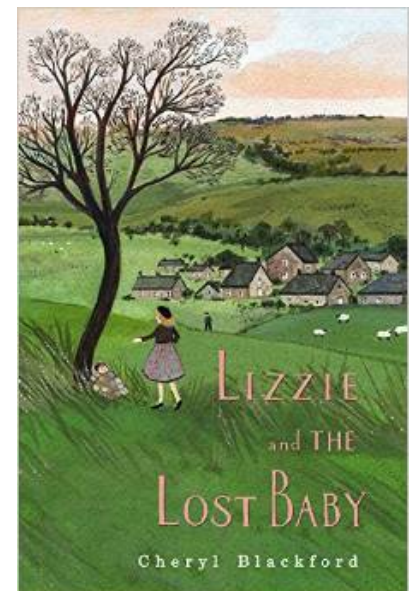
In lively interactive assemblies Cheryl focuses on the process of creating a book — from inspiration to publication — and the three Ps: Practice, Persistence, and Patience. She talks about inspiration, bad first drafts, and revision strategies. In a slideshow presentation Cheryl displays photos associated with her books and discusses the inspirations for her stories. In an engaging Q&A format Cheryl explores students' existing knowledge and common misconceptions about coyotes (for *HUNGRY COYOTE*) or about World War II England (for *LIZZIE AND THE LOST BABY*). She ends her *HUNGRY COYOTE* assemblies with a fun puppet-led howling competition.

Classroom Visits and Writing Workshops

Tailored for smaller groups, classroom visits (30 mins) and writing workshops (60 mins) allow students a more personal experience with the author. Cheryl covers similar topics to those in her assemblies but can customize her visit to your needs. For example, in a *HUNGRY COYOTE*-themed visit, Cheryl can discuss the elements of rich language incorporated in the story, such as active verbs, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. For *LIZZIE AND THE LOST BABY* the focus could be on point of view (the story is told from dual points of view) or historical accuracy and research. Group activities can focus on discussing the basic components of a story (character, problem, setting, actions, and resolution) followed by individual writing practice, discussions about observation and inspiration, and discussions about revision with some writing practice.

Teacher In-Service

Optional brief in-service sessions: Selecting nature books for use in the classroom. Using historical fiction to understand modern problems.



For more details about Cheryl's books and presentations, visit www.cherylblackford.com.

For fee information and to book a visit, contact Cheryl at cheryl.blackford@gmail.com

