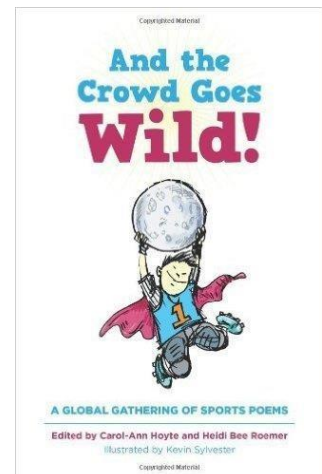
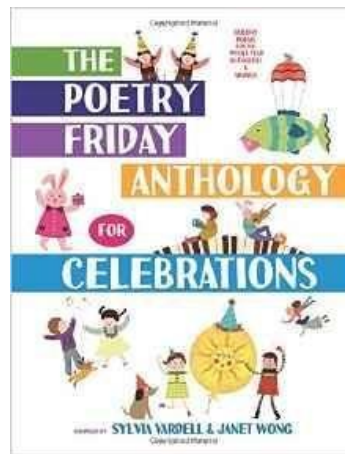
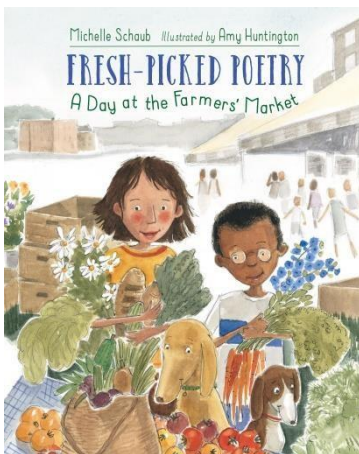




## **SCHOOL VISIT & PRESENTATION PACKET**



Let veteran teacher and children's author Michelle Schaub share the joys of poetry with your students while helping them become astute readers and precise writers through her interactive, Common Core-aligned school visits.



# About Michelle Schaub:

I started creating children’s books before I could even write. When I was very young, my grandpa used to help me “publish” these books. We’d cut, fold, and staple sheets of paper. Then I’d draw pictures and dictate words for my grandpa to record. Later, I wrote my own words. I usually didn’t plan the stories ahead of time. I just kept writing and drawing until I ran out of pages. Sometimes I had to come up with some quick endings!

While I enjoyed writing and reading all through grade school and high school, the idea that I might actually become a professional writer was snuggled deep in my mind until the end of college. In my final semester, I took a creative writing class for fun. During one critique session, a classmate pointed out that my main characters were always kids. When she asked, “Have you ever thought about writing children’s books?” the idea finally broke through and began to grow.

When my three children were young, I snatched an hour here and there during naptime to cultivate ideas for stories, poems, and magazine articles. I honed my craft by reading mounds of books to them. I also gathered ideas on our many nature walks. I finally sold my first article, “Many Moons, Many Names,” to Highlights Magazine in 2005. What a thrill it was to see my ideas bloom on the page for others to enjoy.

Since then, I have published many magazine articles. My poems appear in *And The Crowd Grows Wild: A Global Gathering of Sports Poetry* and *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Celebrations*. Finally, in 2015 I received the email that all aspiring authors hope for: Charlesbridge was interested in publishing my picture book poetry collection, *Fresh-Picked Poetry: A Day at the Farmers’ Market*. Today, I continue to hone my craft as a writing while also nurturing a love of reading and writing with my students as a middle school language arts teacher. When I’m not teaching and writing, I love hiking, biking, and exploring local farmers markets. Being outdoors is still where I cultivate my best ideas!



# Program Options:



Have you felt challenged to meet the requirements of Common Core while keeping a love of literature alive in your students? As a teacher with over ten years of experience in the classroom, I have also faced these challenges. I use my love of poetry to meeting these demands in an effective yet efficient way. Poetry provides a wonderful vehicle to make inferences, determine themes, and cite textual evidence in complex, yet manageable texts. Through my interactive programs, teachers and students can gain a new appreciation for the richness of words and specific poetry writing strategies.

I offer a variety of formats for my school visits, including assemblies, classroom visits, student writing workshops, and teacher workshops. My programs can be customized to any age of students from K to 8. If you are interested in a particular topic, I am happy to tailor a presentation to meet your needs.

## FRESH PICKED FUN

What do exploring farmers' markets and writing poems have in common? They are both treasure hunts! Using my picture book poetry collection *Fresh-Picked Poetry, A Day at the Farmers' Market* as a springboard, I will introduce students to the wonder of discovering unique, fresh-picked produce at the market and picking the most delicious words for a poem. This program meets meet CCSS's challenge to building knowledge through context- rich information. Program time: 45 minutes- 1 hour, depending on audience age and school schedule.

## HOW TO GROW A BOOK

Writing a book requires more than just the seed of an idea and time to let it bloom. Writing requires lots of patience and perseverance. I will show students how *Fresh-Picked Poetry* grew, from inspiration to publication. I will explore the topics of rejection, revision, and resilience. Program time: 45 minutes- 1 hour, depending on audience age.

## FORM, FUNCTION, and FUN: STUDENT POETRY WORKSHOP

The standards call for students to cultivate their vocabularies by determining word meanings, appreciating word nuances, and expanding their range of words and phrases. In this interactive workshop, students will dig into writing different types of poetry focused on choosing rich, precise language to create powerful poems. Program time: 45 minutes

*Michelle's programs tie in well with:*

## PICTURE BOOK MONTH (NOV)

Learn how words and illustrations come together to create the amazing genre of picture books.

## POETRY MONTH (APRIL)

Michelle will get students reading, writing, and delighting in poetry.

## EARTH DAY (APRIL)

Michelle's book *Fresh-Picked Poetry* celebrates farmers' markets and the importance of eating locally as a way to keep the earth and ourselves healthy.

# Teacher Workshops:

## FROM DULL TO DELICIOUS:

### Transforming Grammar Instruction with Poetry

Research shows that teaching grammar in isolation does not transfer to student writing. Besides, this approach can bore both teachers and students. Transform grammar instruction from dull drudgery to delicious delight by using poetry as a guide. Program time: 1 hour

## POETRY AND THE COMMON CORE:

For those challenged with how best to meet the close reading requirements of the CCSS, poetry can give you the boost you need. Poetry invites close reading and careful analysis within a succinct format. Learn how the concise-but-layered and language-dense nature of poetry can enable you to meet this challenge without overwhelming students. Program time: 1 hour



## Student Reviews:

"I learned that farmers' markets have lots of treasures." – Ayedin, Grade 2

"I learned that poetry also needs powerful words." –Ryan Grade 2

## Teacher Reviews:

"I could tell [our third graders] loved your book and stories about farmers markets. Your visit inspired them to read and write poetry, and to get outside and visit some farmers markets themselves." -Mark M, LRC Director

## Fees:

FREE - Skype Visit (About 20 minutes of Q&A - class should be prepared/have read my books in advance)

For teacher workshops, half-day, or full-day presentations please contact me at [shellschaub@hotmail.com](mailto:shellschaub@hotmail.com) or 630-697-3813 for current fees.