



“Good Readers are Writers and Good Writers are Readers”

Vision: Transforming literacy one creation at a time.

Mission: Power of Words: Connecting Readers and Writers, LLC seeks to fulfill its role by providing a variety of enrichment literacy services that:

- Motivate students in developing a life-long love of reading and writing.
- Develop enriching, educational, and fun experiences for students.
- Assist students in recognizing that a bridge exists between reading and writing.
- Reinforce students in developing essential reading and writing skills to achieve success.
- Encourage students in growing reading, comprehension, vocabulary, writing, and oral skills.
- Support students in literacy activities through group workshops and other writing-focused resources.
- Encourage reading and writing across the curriculum.
- Reinforces classroom instruction.

About Vanessa Fortenberry, owner of Power of Words: Connecting Readers and Writers, LLC. Vanessa retired as a teacher-librarian from the DeKalb County School District in 2022. Her career over twenty-seven years also included teaching Music and Reading.

She is also an award-winning author of the children's series, Families Growing in Faith with the books: *Mama, I Want to See God*, *Daddy, I Want to Know God*, and *Grandma, Granddad, We Want to Praise God*. Providing relatable and memorable stories, Vanessa fulfills her mission of using her writing as a tool to inspire children and adults.

A Georgia Peach, Vanessa is a passionate singer, who worships in her church choir in Stone Mountain, Georgia and singing with the Wendell P. Whalum Community Chorus. She also enjoys baking delicious desserts for her loved ones.

To learn more about Vanessa, visit her websites: www.powerofwords.net and her author website: www.vanessafortenberry.com

NOTE: While Vanessa's Author talk mentions her three Christian books, her talk is not spiritually based. Rather, she focuses on reading and writing literacy and its importance to students.

You can also contact Vanessa by email: vfortenberry@powerofwords.net



Presentations/Workshops:

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|--|----------------|
| 1. School/Library Visit: | K-5th Grade |
| 2. Collecting Words | 2nd-5th Grade |
| 3. Poetry: | K-2nd Grade |
| 4. It's Not a Book Report, It's a Book Talk: | 3rd -5th Grade |

NOTE: Presentations include elements of the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

➤ **School/Library Visit (1 hour) – \$175.00**

K-5th Grade

Bringing literature to life through author, Vanessa Fortenberry's reading and writing adventures.

The benefits to students are to encourage them to read, motivate them to write, inspire their creativity and confidence, and empower them to follow their dreams.

PK-K: 20-minute presentation

1st- 2nd Grade: 30-minute presentation

3rd-5th Grade: 60-minute presentation

• **Full Day – \$650**

Typical Schedule (Adjustments can be made, but not to exceed 4 hours' worth of presentations/sessions listed below)

• **Half Day – \$300**

Typical Schedule (Adjustments can be made, but not to exceed 2 hours' worth of presentations/sessions listed below)

➤ **Collecting Words**

2nd-5th Grade

Words that connect, transform, and inspire.

2nd-5th Grade: 60-minute presentation

To introduce students to a variety of vocabulary words; to support their understanding of how words connect people, through story, to collect “words;” and to use them in future writing projects.

➤ **Poetry**

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

Explore feelings and thoughts through poetry that encourages students to connect and discover meaning about the world, their own experiences, and to enhance their literacy skills.

Kindergarten -1st Grade - 30-minute presentation

- Rhyming Activities

2nd Grade - Two-60 minute or Four- 30-minute presentations (can be combined within the four-day presentation for the “It’s Not a Book Report, It’s a Book” Talk, listed below.

- Writing Limericks

➤ **It’s Not a Book Report, It’s a Book Talk™**

3rd-5th Grade

Four days- 60-minute presentations - **\$750.00** (schools located within 30 – 40 minutes from Decatur, GA, only. Further away, please contact Vanessa.)

- If including **Writing Limericks** (above), **please add \$100.00 for a total of \$850.00.**

To explore and read a variety of literacy genres, expand reading comprehension, as well as writing and oral skills.

Note: Prices are negotiable. Please contact Vanessa at vfortenberry@powerofwords.net

Tips for a Terrific Visit!

For in-person presentations:

- Option 1: A smart board or projector/screen with sound and with HDMI input so Vanessa can use her own computer
- Option 2: A computer with PowerPoint, a smart board/projector/screen with sound, and a remote or touch screen to advance slides
- Microphone for large groups/spaces

Tips to Make the Most of Our Visit:

1. Prepare the students (and teachers). There's nothing better than speaking to a group of students and staff who are excited about an author visit! Students will be more engaged and will ask great questions if they know something about the author and her books BEFORE the event day. Visiting Vanessa's website at www.vanessafortenberry.com, is a great place to start!

2. If there's a book sale, please participate. This is not a requirement, but so appreciated! It gives students a chance to own a personalized, signed book by a real-live author-illustrator that they actually met at their school!

Books would need to be ordered at least four weeks in advance). Please contact Vanessa at: vfortenberry@powerofwords.com for information about a discount.

Funds tight? Check out: [35 Ways to Fund an Author Visit!](#) The site is somewhat dated, but it provides great info. And, for organizations in Georgia, check to see if you qualify for the [LEGG Grant](#).

*Also, Vanessa is part of the Georgia Writers Registry (GWR).

<https://www.georgiawriters.org/literary-events-grant-of-georgia>

Scroll down on the Georgia Writers website to learn about possible grants. (We've noticed that the website is not updated lately, and we hope the grants have not been discontinued due to a lack of funds.)

Also, under Georgia Writers Registry (top menu) click on *list of authors* to search for Vanessa.