

Skype an Author

What you can do with a virtual author visit

- Standard author talks
- Mentoring/Longer Term Programs
 - Writing workshops
 - Virtual mentoring
- Meet an author BEFORE you hire them



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What will you need to Skype an author?

- Free Skype software (www.skype.com)
- A Skype user account
- A webcam
- A microphone (connected or built-in to your computer)
- A projector or Smartboard connected to the computer
- Audio



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How to Prepare for a Virtual Author Visit ...

- Contact the author
- Determine date/time/format together I recommend no more than 45 mins for grades 3+. Shorter for younger kiddos
- Ensure students read the book (even an excerpt is excellent!)
- Have the author “sign” for your students
- Do a test BEFORE the visit.
- A brief author-talk, then Q&A format works great. Have students come prepared with questions. Pre-select questions to get a good variety. Designate question-askers.



Important Links for More Details

- **Authors who Skype**
 - <http://skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com>
 - Most debut authors do it. Visit www.authorsnow.com and ask the author! It's that easy. Search by genre, age group, and topic!
- **Tips:**
 - <http://www.cynthealiu.com/skypevirtual-author-visit-how-it-went/>
 - <http://skypeinschools.pbworks.com/>
 - <http://kmessner.livejournal.com/91520.html>
 - www.TeachingDegree.org
 - <http://www.teachingdegree.org/2009/06/30/50-awesome-ways-to-use-skype-in-the-classroom/>
- **Security Questions for the techie in you ...**
 - <http://www.skype.com/security/universities/>

Visit www.cynthealiu.com/authorvisits to learn more about Virtual Visits from Cynthea, author of *Paris Pan Takes the Dare* (Putnam), an Oklahoma Book Award Finalist, *The Great Call of China* (Speak) and *Writing for Children and Teens* (Pivotal)