

# BRUCE HALE

## Author Visit Information

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### **Author Day Visit (grades K-6)**

Have Bruce come visit your school and inspire kids to write, read, and be creative! A one-day visit includes three 50-minute presentations which may be customized to meet the school's needs. The school can choose between assemblies and writing workshops for its three sessions.

#### • **Author Assembly (for grades K-6)**

A blend of character education, stand-up comedy, and pro-literacy message, this highly interactive assembly includes:

- **Storytelling** from one of Bruce's books;
- **Audiovisual presentation** about his journey from reluctant reader to author;
- **Question-and-answer** session with the audience; and
- A brief **cartooning lesson**.



Although the basic presentation remains similar, Bruce will alter it for different grades to be age-specific. No limits on the number of students in an assembly.

#### • **Story Power Workshop (grades 3-6— for groups of 100 or less)**

Energize your writing program by introducing your students to the fundamentals of story writing in a fun, lively format. Session includes storytelling, the creative process, basic story elements, and the creation of a group story right on the spot.

Workshop is a 50-minute, interactive session – for no more than 100 students. Student and teacher workbooks are available for photocopying by school. For more information on Story Power workshop content, visit the website's **How to Write a Story section** at: [www.brucehale.com/howto.htm](http://www.brucehale.com/howto.htm)

Note: Bruce is open to the possibility of a brief stop-in visit to kindergartners, if desired.

For those students and staff purchasing books, Bruce will gladly autograph them

on the day of the visit, separate from the presentations. If your PTA is interested in earning some additional revenue by acting as the “bookseller,” please ask Bruce about this.

### **SKYPE SESSION ADD-ONS**

If you’d like the positive impact of the author visit to last, consider doing follow-up Skype sessions with Bruce. These half-hour sessions can be customized to support the school’s goals. Topics include: 1) **Quick Draw**, a cartooning workshop; 2) **Story Power Junior**, a condensed writing workshop; and 3) **Self-Editing Secrets**, a follow-up to the Story Power workshop that helps student writers understand how and why to edit their work.

### **SCHOOL MUST PROVIDE**

- Reimbursement for breakfast and a casual lunch on the day of the visit. Either a vegetarian or fish meal would be fine. (And Bruce is glad to dine with the teachers, staff, or selected kids.)
- An honorarium in the agreed-upon amount, delivered on the day of the school visit.
- A microphone, bottled water, small table, chalkboard and chalk (or white board/flip-chart and pens), and a LCD digital slide projector with speaker hook-up for the presentation.
- A presentation schedule that allows at least 10-15 minutes between sessions (for recovery time).

**IMPORTANT:** The key to a successful author visit lies in **familiarizing students with the author’s work** before the event. Please let Bruce know if you need copies of his books for this purpose; they will be provided at a scholastic discount.

### **OBTAINING BOOKS**

Bruce’s *Chet Gecko Mysteries* and *Snoring Beauty* can be obtained directly from your local bookstore, or from the publisher, Harcourt Inc. (1-800-543-1918). His *Underwhere* series and *Clark the Shark* can be obtained from HarperCollins, while the *School for S.P.I.E.S.* series comes from Hyperion. To purchase the Hawaiian picture book series at a scholastic discount, contact Bruce directly.

### **PLANNING RESOURCE**

*Terrific Connections with Authors, Illustrators, Storytellers: Real Space and Virtual Links* by Toni Buzzeo and Jane Kurtz, makes a great faculty resource. Clear guidelines for a wonderful author visit and much more. Available from: Libraries Unlimited - 1-800-237-6124.

## **COSTS**

### **Author Day**

\$2,000 per day plus expenses for three 50-minute presentations (or a prearranged alternative schedule) for out-of-state visits.

\$1,100 for a visit in California outside the Santa Barbara area.

### **Skype Add-ons**

\$200 per session (normally \$250)

*(Please make out checks to Story Power Communications, Inc.)*

***For visits outside Bruce's home area, transportation and lodging expenses will be covered by event sponsor.***

For more information, contact:

## **Bruce Hale**

**P.O. Box 91835, Santa Barbara, CA 93190**

**Tel. (805) 563-7337 • E-mail. [writerguy@brucehale.com](mailto:writerguy@brucehale.com)**

**[www.brucehale.com](http://www.brucehale.com)**

## About the Author

### BRUCE HALE

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Bruce Hale is an award-winning author, illustrator, storyteller, and Fulbright Fellow. He has written or illustrated over 35 books for young readers, including *Clark the Shark* and the popular *Chet Gecko Mysteries*. *The Malted Falcon* was nominated for an Edgar Award, and *Murder, My Tweet* won the Little d Award for humorous juvenile literature. His newest series is *School for S.P.I.E.S.*

Raised by wolves just outside Los Angeles, Bruce began his career as a writer while living in Tokyo, and continued it when he moved to Hawaii in 1983. He worked as a magazine editor, gardener, deejay, actor, and corporate lackey before publishing his first children's book in 1989.

Besides his writing and illustrating, Bruce has performed extensively on stage and television. He has appeared in numerous plays and musicals, TV commercials, and in an independent film called "The Ride," where he plays a surfer's agent.

Bruce is a popular speaker and storyteller, both with adults and children. In 1998, he won a Fulbright Grant to teach storytelling and study folklore in Thailand. He has also been a featured storyteller at Honolulu's annual "Talk Story" festival and the L.A. Times Festival of Books.

As a presenter, Bruce has spoken at national and regional conferences of booksellers, educators, and writers — including the International Reading Association, the Society for Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, the Maui Writers Conference, and others. He has visited schools both nationally and internationally, and has taught writing workshops at colleges.

In his spare time, Bruce enjoys playing and performing jazz and salsa music, as well as bicycling, hiking, and kickboxing.

*"It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Bruce Hale as a speaker, workshop leader, visiting writer, or any other role remotely related!"*

— Diane Mark, Creative Writing Program Coordinator  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

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# Books by BRUCE HALE

\* indicates particularly recommended books

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## NOVELS

### **\*The Curse of the Were-Hyena**

What do you do when your favorite teacher starts turning into a were-hyena? When best friends Carlos and Benny decide to find out what's happening to Mr. Chu, they get caught up in some serious moonlight madness. And it looks like just the beginning of the weirdness that has arrived in the town of Monterrosa... or should we say, Monstertown?

• *"A series kickoff with a promising mix of chills and chortles."* Kirkus Reviews

Disney-Hyperion, 2016, 224 pages, ISBN 978-1-4847-1325-9, \$14.99 hardback, ages 8-12 • Call 800-759-0190 for author visit book orders.

### **\*School for S.P.I.E.S.: Playing with Fire**

Orphaned Max Segredo, tossed out by yet another foster family, lands in Merry Sunshine Orphanage. But what kind of group home offers classes in surveillance, lock picking and martial arts? As he trains to become a spy, Max learns that his father Simon may still be alive — and Max just might have to make a sacrifice to be reunited with him.

• *"This kid-spy romp should find some eager readers."* Kirkus Reviews

Disney-Hyperion, 2013, 320 pages, ISBN 978-1-4231-6850-8, \$15.99 hardback, \$6.99 paperback, ages 8-12 • Call 800-759-0190 for author visit book orders.

### **\*School for S.P.I.E.S.: Thicker Than Water**

Max Segredo and his fellow trainee spies have the fight of their life, as Merry Sunshine Orphanage is being threatened from without and within. LOTUS is trying to drive the school out of business, and S.P.I.E.S.'s last hope rests on stealing a mind-control device for an eccentric billionaire. The catch? LOTUS is after it too, and time is running out.

• *"This entry boasts a generous balance of droll narration, comedic dialogue, and racing action."* *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

Disney-Hyperion, 2013, 320 pages, ISBN 978-1-4231-6851-5, \$16.99 hardback, \$6.99 paperback, ages 8-12 • Call 800-759-0190 for author visit book orders.

### **\*School for S.P.I.E.S.: Ends of the Earth**

Under lock and key at LOTUS HQ, Max Segredo worries whether his father and the S.P.I.E.S. team are still alive. And what's worse, LOTUS's ruthless leader, Mrs. Frost, wants to adopt him. Max would give anything to be a normal kid with a normal family, but to achieve this, he must first evade a hungry tiger, fly a jetpack, and use all his mad spy skills to stop LOTUS from taking over the government with its mind-control device.

Disney-Hyperion, 2015, 304 pages, ISBN 978-142316852-2, \$16.99 hardback, ages 8-12  
Call 800-759-0190 for author visit book orders.

### **\*Big Bad Detective Agency**

When the houses of all Three (not-so-) Little Pigs are ransacked, Prince Tyrone arrests the obvious suspect — Wolfgang, the Big Bad Wolf. Just one problem: he's innocent. Wolfgang reluctantly teams up with the fourth Little Pig to catch the real culprit. But can he succeed before being sentenced to a lifetime diet of porridge in the prince's dungeon?

- *"Classic fairytale characters get entertaining modern updates in Hale's revisionist whodunit." Publishers Weekly*
- *"Funny and flip, like Saturday morning cartoons." Kirkus Reviews*

Scholastic, 2015, 128 pages, ISBN 978-0-545-66537-7, \$15.99 hardback, \$4.99 paper, ages 7-10  
Call 1-888-724-1872 X 8015 for author visit book orders

### **\*The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse**

Chet Gecko, Private Eye, is a wisecracking fourth grader with a nose for mysteries and a taste for stinkbug pie. He's got to find Shirley Chameleon's missing brother Billy, outwitting the evil Rat Sisters and that sixth grade menace, Herman the Gila Monster, in the process.

- *Working Mother Magazine's "Favorite Books of 2000"*
- *"Bruce Hale leaves no stones unturned in this fast-paced read that will entice juvenile readers and listeners alike to join the fun." Book Wholesalers Inc.*

Harcourt Inc., 2000, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202281-3, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **The Mystery of Mr. Nice**

When Chet is sent to the principal's office, he stumbles on a fiendish plot involving a bogus Principal Zero. Chet's first clue: the principal was *nice* to him. Now it's up to the school's best lizard detective (with the help of his partner, Natalie Attired) to save Emerson Hicky Elementary from a gang of crooks.

- *Working Mother Magazine's "Favorite Books of 2000"*
- *"Hold onto your fedoras; this gecko's going places." Kirkus Reviews*

Harcourt Inc., 2000, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202271-6, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **Farewell, My Lunchbag**

Chet Gecko's hunger for mystery is matched only by his appetite for treats such as stinkbug pie. So when the cafeteria needs help catching a food thief, Chet digs into the case with gusto. But this time he may have bitten off more than he can chew — the culprit has framed Chet, and the gecko detective has to work double-time to clear his name and catch the real thief.

- *"A Raymond Chandler/Woody Allen literary blend." School Library Journal*

Harcourt Inc., 2001, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202275-9, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*The Big Nap**

One by one, the students of Emerson Hicky are being won over by the dark side ...and becoming mindless goody-goodies. No one talks in class, no one complains about homework — heck, the line to clean the chalkboard erasers is out the door! Chet suspects the new librarian — a zombie expert who's as shady as a Louisiana weeping willow. But time's running out. Can Chet save the school, or will he and Natalie find themselves sleeping The Big Nap?

Harcourt Inc., 2001, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202521-9, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **The Hamster of the Baskervilles**

Vandalism rocks Emerson Hicky School. Who is responsible? Is it the suspicious librarian, Cool Beans? The campus gang, the Dirty Rotten Stinkers? Or is something supernatural going on? Chet and Natalie get to the bottom of it.

• *“The zany text reads like a mixture of stand-up comedy...and a fourth grader on an overdose of sugar.” School Library Journal*

Harcourt Inc., 2002, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-202503-0, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **This Gum For Hire**

Chet goes undercover on the football team when players start disappearing. His client? Chet's old nemesis, Herman the Gila Monster. So if he doesn't crack the case, his client might crack his head. But fear not. With Natalie Attired at his side, this gecko's got game.

- *Winner of the Choices Award from the Association of Booksellers for Children.*
- *“Will have you giggling out loud and wishing for more.” Boston Sunday Herald*

Harcourt Inc., 2002, 115 pages, ISBN 0-15-202491-3, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*The Malted Falcon**

When the winning ticket in the Malted Falcon contest goes missing, Freddie Nostrils hires Chet and Natalie to find it. Just what is the Malted Falcon? Only the biggest, chocolatiest dessert imaginable. But to get his hands on it, Chet must contend with lying clients, double-dealing marmots, and his own serious sweet tooth.

- *“The sleuth with the smart mouth shows no signs of slowing down... and should continue to draw fans like fleas to a dog show.” Kirkus Reviews*
- *Edgar Award finalist, the Mystery Writers of America*

Harcourt Inc., 2003, 115 pages, ISBN 0-15-216706-4, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **Trouble Is My Beeswax**

A cheating ring is discovered at Emerson Hicky Elementary, with Chet's old friend Shirley Chameleon fingered as the ringleader. Chet and Natalie undertake to prove her innocence as a matter of honor. Or stupidity. It's so hard to tell the difference sometimes.

Harcourt Inc., 2003, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-216718-8, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

## **Give My Regrets to Broadway**

It's no mystery. Chet Gecko can't sing, can't dance, and can't act. (Heck, he can't even act normal.) So why has he taken the lead in the school play? A new case, of course. And Chet doesn't know which is scarier: the ghost haunting the theater, or his third-act lip-lock with Shirley Chameleon.

• *“Plenty of satisfying silliness in the cast of buffoonish teachers, Chet’s tough-guy appeal, and the usual repertoire of painfully corny puns and similes.” Booklist*

Harcourt Inc., 2004, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-216700-5, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

## **\*Murder, My Tweet**

Natalie Attired is framed for blackmail and booted out of Emerson Hicky. Chet, of course, tackles the case for free. But just when it looks like he might clear her name, Natalie disappears, leaving behind a reddish smear. Is it murder, or something serious?

• *IRA-CBC Children’s Choice for Best Books of 2005*  
• *Winner of the Little d Award from Children’s Literature Connection*

Harcourt Inc., 2004, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-205012-4, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

## **\*Chet Gecko’s Detective Handbook (& Cookbook)**

Revealed at last — stunning secrets and surprises from ace detective Chet Gecko’s criminal casebook! This nifty (and very handy) handbook features tips and techniques for detective work, including suspects, evidence, documents, searches, and snacks!

Harcourt Inc., 2005, 272 pages, ISBN 0-15-205288-7, \$9.95 hardback, ages 8-12

## **The Possum Always Rings Twice**

It's muckraking time at Emerson Hicky. The race is on for student council president, but it's quickly getting fishier than the bottom of a pelican's lunchbox. Could someone be trying to rig the election? Chet and Natalie find politics is a scary (and dirty) business.

Harcourt Inc., 2006, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-205075-2, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

## **\*Key Lardo**

Has Chet Gecko at last met his sleuthing match? A new detective has arrived, and his name is Bland — James Bland. This upstart immediately cracks a case that has baffled Chet and Natalie. But when Bland goes missing, Chet's got to find him or face a stint behind bars — and we're not talking the jungle gym.

Harcourt Inc., 2006, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-205074-4, \$14 hardback, \$4.99 paper, ages 8-12

## **Hiss Me Deadly**

This time, it's personal. When a thief steals from Chet's little sister, the green gumshoe gets hopping mad. Only *he* is allowed to pick on his sister. But when valuables start vanishing from school, Chet finds he's caught up in a conspiracy that's bigger and scarier than a blue whale in a bikini.



Harcourt Inc., 2007, 144 pages, ISBN 0-15-205482-0, \$14 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*From Russia With Lunch**

A mysterious Russian scientist, Dr. Tanya Lightov, comes to Emerson Hicky, and suddenly everything is topsy-turvy. Machines are replacing staff, teachers' pets are talking back, a coven of witches has convened, and — weirdest of all — Chet's partner Natalie has turned her back on him. Can Chet bring things back to normal — or what passes for normal at *his* school?

Harcourt, 2009, 128 pages, ISBN 978-0-15-205488-5, \$14 hardback, \$4.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*Dial M for Mongoose**

What's going on at Emerson Hicky? A deadly stink bomb is unleashed, a building collapses to rubble, money goes missing — and that's just a start. Someone pins the blame on Chet's janitor pal Maureen DeBree, and it's up to Chet and Natalie to put things right. After all, Chet doesn't take that kind of monkey business lying down. (Standing up, maybe.)

Harcourt, 2009, 144 pages, ISBN 978-0-15-205494-6, \$15 hardback, \$5.99 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*Prince of Underwhere**

It's half comic book, half novel, and totally hilarious. Zeke has his hands full: there's his prissy, know-it-all twin sister; his mean cousin Caitlyn who's house-sitting; and a bully making life tough at school. As if that wasn't enough, now Zeke has to deal with zombies, midget freedom fighters, and a weird world beneath our own where people wear their underwear on the outside of their clothes.

HarperCollins 2008, 168 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-085124-8, \$15.99 hardback, \$5.99 paperback, ages 7-12

*Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.*

### **\*Pirates of Underwhere**

The Underwhere comic/novel series continues with a tale from Zeke's sister, Stephanie. She'd like nothing better than to study for her Mathletes competition and polish her reputation as all-around homework champ. But thanks to Zeke, she has to deal with magical toilet brushes, sinister talking cats, nearsighted sea serpents, feminist pirates, and all the cottony-white weirdness of Underwhere.

HarperCollins 2008, 168 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-085127-9, \$15.99 hardback, \$5.99 paperback, ages 7-12

*Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.*

## **PICTURE BOOKS**

### **\*Clark the Shark**

Clark is a shark with zing, bang, and BOOM! In love with life, he crashes through the classroom and is rowdy at recess. But when his enthusiasm proves too much for his friends, Clark's teacher, Mrs. Inkydink, helps him figure out how to tone it down.

Harper 2013, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-219226-4, \$17.99 hardback, ages 4-8  
Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.

### **Clark the Shark Dares to Share**

Sharing is caring, but sometimes it gets a bit confusing for Clark the Shark. He shares his funky shark dance with the class, but the teacher tells him to wait his turn. He shares his reef-hockey skills, but his teammates would rather Clark shared the puck. With help from his friends, Clark learns sharing can be sweet — with a hip, and a hop, and a skiddly-widdly wop!

Harper 2014, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-219226-4, \$17.99 hardback, ages 4-8  
Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.

### **Clark the Shark Takes Heart**

It's Anna Angelfish's birthday, and Clark wants to find the perfect present for her to show her how he feels. But when he tries to make a big impression with his usual zip, bang, and BOOM, things don't go quite as planned.

Harper 2015, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-219227-1, \$17.99 hardback, ages 4-8  
Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.

### **Clark the Shark Afraid of the Dark**

Clark the Shark is ready for his first big sleepover, but he doesn't want anyone to know he's just a teeny-tiny bit afraid of the dark. In this empowering tale about nighttime fears, Clark learns how friendship can help light the way through the dark.

Harper 2014, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-237450-9, \$17.99 hardback, ages 4-8  
Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.

### **\*Big Bad Baby**

Call in the fire engines and police cars! Someone delayed sweet Sammy's nap a bit too long, or served him too-sweet applesauce, and suddenly he's morphed into... Big Bad Baby! Now this giant tyke is on the loose, and he's taking the milk and cookie trucks by storm. Can no one stop him?

• *"A rhythmically funny text that offers up one funny situation after another."* Kirkus Reviews

Dial Books 2014, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-8037-3585-9, \$16.99 hardback, ages 4-8  
Call 866-206-5865 for author visit book orders at 40% discount – 6 weeks in advance

### **\*Snoring Beauty**

A furious fairy, a cruel curse, a princess enchanted by a spell. Think you know the story of Sleeping Beauty? Think again. This fractured fairy tale reveals what *really* happened. (One hint: Sleeping Beauty *snores*.)

• *"This fantastic story is a delightful treat that begs to be read aloud."*

*School Library Journal*

• *Featured on Oprah's Kids Reading List*

Harcourt, 2008, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-15-216314-3, \$16, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **How the Gecko Lost His Tail**

Moki the Gecko takes a fantastic journey into space to rescue his parents, who have been kidnapped by the Moon. Drawing on his own resources and the help of a friendly asteroid, he fulfills the Moon's demands to win his parents' freedom — and a boon for all geckos.

Words + Pictures, 1999, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-8-2, \$8.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **Moki the Gecko's Best Christmas Ever**

When Santa Claus crash-lands in the ocean, it's up to Moki the Gecko and his friends to outwit the fearsome Lone Shark and save the day. In doing so, they learn a few things about the true Christmas spirit.

• *"Pulls you in right away... Moki fans will enjoy the fast pace."* Honolulu Advertiser

Words + Pictures, 1998, 32 pages, ISBN 0-96212-6-6, \$8.95 hardback, ages preschool – grade 4

### **\*Moki and the Magic Surfboard**

Moki the Hawaiian gecko wins a magic surfboard from an ancient *menehune* (Hawaii's elves). The gecko finds the board can do much more than help him catch waves. On the magic surfboard, Moki flies, goes underwater and travels through time. But in the end, he must choose between magic and friendship.

• *"...Offers children's imaginations a lot of wiggle room."* Honolulu Advertiser

Words + Pictures, 1996, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-5-8, \$8.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **\*Surf Gecko to the Rescue!**

Moki the Gecko loves surfing better than anything. But when humans' littering endangers his friend Oldturtle, Moki challenges the top human surfers for a higher cause — motivating humans to care for the environment. After his triumph, Moki's mother has a higher cause for him: "clean up your room!"

Words + Pictures, 1991, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-1-5, \$10.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **Legend of the Laughing Gecko**

Moki is a little Hawaiian gecko who loves to joke and laugh, but his rambunctiousness annoys the other animals, who banish him from the village. After Moki befriends the king's daughter and faces down the dreaded Black Bufo toad, the others appreciate his uniqueness and the importance of laughter.

Words + Pictures, 1989, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-0-7, \$8.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

**To order books directly from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, call 1-800-225-3362**

**To order books from Hyperion, call 1-800-759-0190**

**To order books from Scholastic, call 1-888-724-1872 X 8015**

**To order books from HarperCollins, call 1-800-242-7737**

To order *Moki the Gecko* books from Story Power Communications,  
call 805-563-7337

For more information, visit [www.brucehale.com](http://www.brucehale.com)