



SUCHETA RAWAL

Author of *Beato Goes To* series of children's books

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ABOUT THE BOOKS:

Beato is a multi-cultural curious Norwegian Forest Cat who travels around the world to learn about what's beyond his suburban home in Atlanta. As he makes his way to **Greenland, Israel, Indonesia, Japan and Brazil** in the first 5 books, he meets local kids, who become his tour guide for the rest of his stay. Together, they gather information about the country's landscapes, historic sites, food, animals, music, dance, and sports, through a series of enlightening adventures. The stories are based on real life events and actual pictures taken by the author during her journeys.

Through Beato, children will learn about different countries and cultures. Reading the book, designed in a lighthearted story telling manner, with vivid illustrations of destinations around the world, children will learn the value of accepting one another regardless of race, culture or nationality. *Beato Goes To* series of books make for great international learning tools.

AUTHOR VISIT OVERVIEW

- Length of presentation – allow 45 minutes for each session (includes storytelling, Q&A, time to settle in)
- Focus – Showing the difference between a real story (nonfiction) & made-up story (fiction)
- Sub-focus – How an author finds facts & put them together in an interesting book
- Big Picture Take Away – Sheer joy of learning more about the world, through a character you love. In this case, a cat!
- Table props – Author's books, flags, items from the country

- Music – As kids file in, we will play music relevant to the country
- Visual – Display the illustrations on an overhead projector so more kids can follow along the story

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO SPEAK AT YOUR SCHOOL? PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHEN SENDING YOUR INQUIRY.

- What kind of event do you want to plan: author visit, book signing, interactive workshop, illustration component, reading incentive, family event, author fest, teacher workshop?
- How many children will be involved?
- Will there be adults, children, or both in the audience?
- What is the age range of the children in the audience?
- How many presentations do you want me to make?
- What tentative dates/ months are you looking at?
- What subjects are currently in the curriculum?
- In conjunction with the visit, do you want to have a book sale and signing for the students, or provide books for classrooms or the library?
- Name and location of your school/ venue.
- If outside Atlanta, would you be interested in asking a nearby school to invite me for part of the trip to share costs? (You would need to handle this as you know the schools.)

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE AGE GROUP FOR THESE BOOKS?

Beato Goes To picture books are meant for ages 4-8, though older kids enjoy it too.

HOW LONG DOES EACH PRESENTATION LAST?

Depending on the class size, age of the students and topics covered, presentations will be 30 minutes-2 hours.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL PRESENTATION LOOK LIKE?

Each presentation is tailored to the class and curriculum. Typically, I would read the story, show pictures, talk about Beato the cat, and engage the students in Q&A. The books cover information about the country's facts (capital, currency, language, food, dress, animals), as well as introduces them to how kids live in that country. We would talk about the book writing process and I will tell them about my life as an author.

Additional resources such as coloring pages and augmented reality application can be provided to the students as well.

It is very helpful if the kids have a copy of the book in their hands and can follow along the picture pages.

Other topics I speak about include...

- Writing and journalism workshops
- Travel, socially responsible travel and volunteer travel
- Following your passion and finding your dream job
- Entrepreneurship and leadership

DO YOU REQUIRE ANY AV EQUIPMENT?

It would be nice to have a projector/ screen/ computer so I can show pictures on the screen.

CAN THE KIDS GET BOOKS AUTOGRAPHED?

Yes, I highly suggest that you send a book order form home in backpacks or post it on the school web page for parents to download beforehand (see example at the end of this document). The school can order discounted bulk copies, and put signing slips in each of the books with the child's name spelled out.

For over 30 signings, please collect the books beforehand with a slip of paper in each book with the child's name on it. Getting through a stack of books this way may be simpler than having 50 anxious children stand in line.

I cannot emphasize how important it is to have books available to be signed by the author. For many students, meeting an author in person is a once in a lifetime opportunity, especially if they have connected with her. Don't disappoint your students!

DO YOU CHARGE TO SPEAK?

Yes, author presentations involve a fee of \$200/ hour plus mileage calculated at the IRS standard rate (53½ cents per mile as of 1-1-17). Out of state travel expenses including flight and lodging must be covered. If the driving distance is over 2 hours, overnight lodging may be required.

Author visits at book signings (no presentation) are free if I am within 30 miles of you.

WHERE DO THE FUNDS COME FROM TO PAY FOR A SCHOOL VISIT?

There are many possible sources for funding school visits:

- Your school, library or organization may have discretionary funds that could be budgeted for future school visits.

- Many educators write grants to obtain funds to cover several school visits within the year.
 - Other educators hold book fairs, or other fund-raising events, and use the proceeds to help fund school visits.
 - PTA fund-raising activities could be allocated for author/illustrator school visits.
- Read www.beatogoesto.com/grants-that-pay-for-author-visits/

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR MY VISIT?

- ✓ Books: I recommend that you place your book order at least 4 weeks through my publisher [Mascot Books](#), before the author appearance.
- ✓ Marketing: Prior to the day of the event, make a display of posters and books, for the library or lobby, so that all will know this wonderful visit is happening.
- ✓ Check the author's website (www.beatogoesto.com) for information about biography and presentations.
- ✓ Schedule: Make sure to go over ALL planned activities with me beforehand.
- ✓ Materials: Ascertain what I will need for the presentations (pens, pads, microphone, slide projector, podium, a room that can be darkened for slide presentations, etc.).
- ✓ Preparing Students: Prior to the visit, urge the teachers to talk about the author's visit, allow the students to read at least one of the books, and even ask the kids to write questions on a file card in preparation. The visit can be a much more valuable experience for the students, as well as for me.
- ✓ Preparing Teachers: Emphasize that teachers should lead by being present and showing interest.
- ✓ Meeting the author: Who will meet the author? When? Where? Please send me all contact information beforehand.
- ✓ Honorarium: Make sure honorarium check is made to "Sucheta Rawal" and provided during the visit.

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO TO GET KIDS EXCITED PRIOR TO MY VISIT

- Identify famous cats (of presidents, celebrities, traveling cats on Instagram, etc.)
- Read author's blog and see pictures of her cat on social media and her website
- Put together a poster or bulletin board display with pictures/ drawings of cats of the school's employees and students
- Have a country feature day (based on the book the author will read) and encourage students to bring in an item they think represents that country

Author SUCHETA RAWAL is coming to our school!

Dear Parents,

Award-winning author Sucheta Rawal will visit our school on **(date)** to do presentations, writing workshops and book signings. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to own an autographed book by an author he or she has met. You can find out more about her at www.beatogoesto.com

BEATO GOES TO GREENLAND

The first book in the series gives background on how Beato, the house cat from Atlanta started on his quest to see the world. In Greenland, Beato meets a local girl at her sheep farm, who acts as Beato's tour guide and shows him around her country. Together, they visit the largest ice sheets, see polar bears and eat with an Inuit family. Beato finds about Greenland's capital, currency, transportation, nature, food, people, games and animals.

BEATO GOES TO ISRAEL

On his next trip, Beato sets out on an adventure to Israel where he rides a camel, floats in the Dead Sea, and learns about the Holy Land. Beato is guided by a local girl, Helena, who shows him the four quarters of Old Jerusalem and teaches him about different religions. They try unique foods at the markets in Tel Aviv, climb up the Bahai garden in Haifa, encounter Bedouins in the Negev Desert and celebrate the new year at a Kibbutz.

BEATO GOES TO INDONESIA

In Indonesia, Beato meets Putu, a Balinese boy who shows Beato how to fly kites, play badminton, race on stilts and do yoga. The new friends learn about Indonesian capital, language, customs and even see many of the endangered animals! Portion of proceeds from *Beato Goes To Indonesia* will be donated to the Bali Children's Project, a nonprofit organization that helps kids in the villages on the island of Bali, receive education. Nominated for Freeman Book Award.

BEATO GOES TO JAPAN

In Japan, Beato teaches kids about why it is important to learn from elders and teachers in a fun and exciting way. His travel guide, a girl named Kazumi takes Beato on a cultural journey across Japan to experience how kids live, the sports they play and activities they do at school. They meet sumo wrestlers, learn calligraphy, sleep in a capsule hotel, and much more!

BEATO GOES TO BRAZIL

In Brazil, Beato makes a new friend who teaches him different sports. Together, Beato and Amanda (a real girl from Rio) dance in the Carnival, visit the Amazon rainforest, and eat acai berry bowls. They discover Brazil's cultural diversity with Africans, Japanese, Arabs, indigenous tribes and gauchos.

Read more about Beato Goes To books at www.beatogoesto.com

BOOK ORDER FORM

Student's name: _____

Teacher's name: _____

Books should be autographed to: _____

Books	Binding	Price*	Quantity	Total
Beato Goes To Greenland	hardcover	\$		
Beato Goes To Israel	hardcover	\$		
Beato Goes To Indonesia	hardcover	\$		
Beato Goes To Japan	hardcover	\$		
Beato Goes To Brazil	hardcover	\$		

*\$14.95+local sales tax

Order due date: _____

Please make checks payable to: _____

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