

## PRESENTATION OUTLINE FOR NICK MASK AUTHOR VISIT.

Length: 35 minutes including book reading, slideshow and a draw along.

Grade Level: I present to all elementary grades, K-5.

- A. Introduction.
  - a. My name and what books I write and Illustrate, introduce Waffles the Cat.
- B. Book reading.
  - a. I read a book from the Waffles series. Currently reading *Waffle Flies*.
- C. Who am I?
  - a. Where I was born, family, school days, work days.
- D. Why do I make books?
  - a. My cat, Waffles, who loved eating and sleeping all the time. She inspired my character.
  - b. Becoming an uncle and wanting to make a book for my nieces.
  - c. Inspired by an author I met who inspired me to make my own books. This was a dream I always had and now I had seen that it was possible and I went for it.
- E. How do I make Waffles the Cat books?
  - a. First I created the character Waffles the Cat. Show Examples of different designs.
  - b. Then I need an idea for a story. Brainstorming.
  - c. Example of a simple story. Setting, Characters and Plot.
  - d. Importance of family and friends reading the first draft and editing.
  - e. Initial sketches - I show how my Illustration process starts.
  - f. Final illustrations - I show how I illustrate the final art.
- F. How long does it take?
  - a. Explain that it takes longer than a couple of hours to make a book.
- G. What should Waffles' next book be?
  - a. Opportunity for kids to suggests story ideas using their imaginations
- H. Stories can be inspired by real life.
  - a. I show how the book we read, *Waffle Flies*, was inspired by my thru hike of the Appalachian Trail.
  - b. Show pictures of animals I met along the way. Some of which became characters in the book.
  - c. Explain how a hiker I met became the inspiration for a character in the book.
- I. They can make their own stories about Waffles the Cat.
  - a. Show examples of Waffles the Cat books made by students their own age.
- J. Draw Along
  - a. I lead the class in a draw along of Waffles the Cat
  - b. They draw their waffles in their own adventure while I answer questions and wrap up the presentation.

**\*Schools are encouraged to use my activity sheets and youtube videos to introduce Waffles the Cat prior to the visit. Available here: <https://www.nickmask.com/fan-club-hub>**