

Milkweed Editions Alliance for Reading Books and Programs

The Alliance for Reading is an outreach program of Milkweed Editions focused on activities that encourage reading for pleasure among middle grade children. The Alliance has been active for more than ten years in Twin Cities area schools, bringing authors into the classroom and collaborating with other organizations to engage kids in reading and the arts.

The following books and programs are available for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years. Alliance for Reading coordinator Debbie Meister is also available to customize or adapt other book-related programs for your school. She can be reached at 651-647-6816 or meisterd@quest.net.

The Alliance for Reading is please to offer programming and books at no cost to qualifying schools; please contact Debbie Meister for further information.

Milkweed Books

Milkweed books are available to classrooms at a 40% discount. Information can be obtained about each book at Milkweed's Web site at www.milkweed.org or by calling 612-215-2560.

Teaching Guides

Guides are available for several Milkweed books. Teaching guides can be downloaded free from Milkweed's Web site at www.milkweed.org or email orders@milkweed.org to have the guide mailed to you.\

Author Visits or Web Chats

Milkweed will bring published authors to schools – in person or via live Web chats. As with actors or musicians who visit schools, the authors will interact with the kids about their creative process, answer questions about how their work comes to the public and engage in activities that put the students in the creator role.

*Classroom set of books (30/set)	\$125 + shipping
Author web chat	\$50 **additional costs for tech support may apply
Author visit	\$100/hr **additional travel expenses may apply

Poetry-journal Workshops with John Caddy, Author of *Morning Earth*.

John Caddy is the author of *Morning Earth: Field Notes in Poetry*. Caddy, a local writer is available throughout the year for workshops with students who have read his book and have begun their own poetry writing. Both the book and author visit are most appropriate for 6-9 graders. In *Morning Earth*, John encourages writers of all ages to write down quickly each morning the direct experience of the new day. His book presents a year of poems with ecological commentary. John says that students are always surprised by the amazing things they write. John's ongoing daily poetry journal via email is available to participating classrooms.

Classroom set of books (30/set)	\$250 + shipping
Author workshop (1 ½ hour)	\$150

Read, Explore, Create

In this unique partnership program, schools choose a Milkweed Editions book and, working with Young Audiences of Minnesota, choose one or more artistic collaborators to help the students achieve deeper understanding of the book's themes. Combining reading with artistic workshops or residencies also helps students express their own reactions to the book in a collaboratively creative way.

- Students can explore issues of racism, body image, the environment and more.
- The program can be keyed to your curriculum goals.
- Students build skills in the following areas: Reading & Writing, Critical Thinking, Communication, & Artistic Expression
- Young Audiences and Milkweed assist in selecting the artist(s) and developing an end of residency performance or exhibition that gives your students a chance to shine.

This program was successfully piloted at Monroe Community School in St. Paul. Sixth-graders read Milkweed Editions' *The \$66 Summer* by John Armistead and worked with artists to explore the history, emotions and beliefs that fueled the era of segregation in the South. Through workshops with poet Kelechi Jaavaid, students transformed their ideas about racism into poetry. Through a residency with Youth Performance Company, students created a theatrical performance based on their poetry and journal writing activities inspired by the book. The project culminated in a stage production of "The Challenge," followed by a web chat with the author.

Other potential books and ideas:

- Using Natasha Friend's novel *Perfect*, explore issues of peer pressure and body image through residencies or workshops in dance or photography.
- Explore immigration, Minnesota's ethnic history and mining through Isabel Marvin's *A Bride for Anna's Papa* with residencies in theater, storytelling or dance.
- Learn about wolves through Frances Wilbur's *The Dog with Golden Eyes* with residencies or workshops in music or visual arts.

The program can include these options:

- Books – classroom sets (30 copies)
- Artist performance
- Teaching guides keyed to curriculum (guides are free if already prepared)
- Artist workshop
- Web chat or live visit from author
- Artist residency
- Pre-planning meetings
- Professional development

Stories from Where We Live – *The Great North American Prairie*

The Great North American Prairie showcases the prairie's distinctive plants, animals, habitats, and weather through stories, poems, and essays in which kids are often the protagonists. After reading selections from the book, students visit the Bell Museum or a local nature center to experience first-hand the wonders of the prairie environment.

Classroom set of books (30) \$198/set or \$6.60 each

Curriculum guide Can be downloaded free at www.milkwee.org

Maplewood Nature Center

MNC features hiking trails, a pond, boardwalk, rain gardens and exhibits.

The Priority site, a 46-acre natural preserve on the corner of Larpenteur and Century Avenues, features bridges, boardwalks and trails and provides the opportunity to compare oak woodlands to oak Savannah.

Staff Development \$100/hr

\$3/student with minimum charge of \$20. The workshop can accommodate 60 students but groups of 30 or less are preferred.

Bell Museum – this option is in development.

Stories from Where We Live Staff Development Workshops

Using *The Great North American Prairie* or *The Great Lakes* anthology, workshops are specially designed to explore ecoregions through literature, social science and science. Speakers provide the social ecological perspectives along with classroom strategies and hands-on activities around the book.

A minimum charge for this half-day workshop is \$500.

Book Clubs

At book club sessions, kids experience books more as connoisseurs than students. Lead by an outside facilitator, the clubs have a program of reading, much like in-school series of musical performances or plays. Kids will be encouraged to express their opinions and share favorite passages. The goal is for kids to become enthusiasts and instill in each other a real eagerness to experience books. Each child will receive a book of their choice at the end of the program, thereby bringing books into the home. A minimum of 4 sessions is recommended.

Classroom set of books (30) \$125/set + shipping

Facilitator \$65/session

Milkweed will donate a book to each student who successfully participates in the book club.

Open Book Workshops

Open Book is a literary center housing Milkweed Editions, Minnesota Center for Book Arts, and The Loft Literary Center. There are two options for workshops; both are most appropriate for 5th grade and up.

- *Option 1*: A brief tour of Open Book with a visit to Milkweed to explore “From Ideas to Books: How Stories Get Published.” Students also hone their writing skills with a
- *Option 2*: Students participate in a hands-on bookmaking activity at MN Center for the Book Arts (descriptions and prices are available on request) and the publishing activities at Milkweed (see Option 1). This workshop can accommodate 60 students and is two hours long. There is a charge of \$1.50 per student with a minimum cost of \$25 for the milkweed portion of the tour and a per student fee at MCBA depending on the activity selected – generally \$4.50-\$6/student.

Milkweed Editions at Your School

Milkweed can bring the “From Ideas to Books: How Stories Get Published” workshop to your classroom (see tour Option 1). This presentation costs \$1.50 per student with a minimum charge of \$25.

Develop a Program

Opportunities about for linking Milkweed books with local artists and resources. Milkweed’s Alliance coordinator can work with your school to customize activities and programs. Some ideas are:

- Joining storytellers with books on given themes.
- Joining literature with activities at museums and the zoo. Milkweed’s *Dog with Golden Eyes* is a great book to read before visiting the MN Zoo’s wolf exhibit with a Zoo naturalist.

For more information please contact:

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