

AUTHOR VISITS

**WITH NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING AUTHOR
AMANDA FOODY**



ABOUT WILDERLORE

- ✓ A *New York Times* bestseller
- ✓ A Barnes & Noble and Amazon Editor's pick
- ✓ A four-time state award nominee and two-time international award winner



www.wilderlorebooks.com

The Wilderlore series is an ongoing middle grade fantasy series published by Simon & Schuster. Set in a world where people bond with magical creatures, it follows an orphaned mushroom farmer who leaves his home behind on a reluctant adventure.

It is ideal for readers **ages 8-12**.

Every book features a different environmental biome, and its themes include belonging, wanderlust, and respect for the natural world. There will be seven books in the series in total.



BOOK I: THE ACCIDENTAL APPRENTICE 🍄

The last thing Barclay Thorne ever wanted was an adventure.

Thankfully, as an apprentice to the town's mushroom farmer, Barclay need only work hard and follow the rules to one day become the head mushroom farmer himself. No danger required. But then Barclay accidentally breaks his town's most sacred rule: never ever EVER stray into the Woods, for within the Woods lurk vicious magical Beasts.

To Barclay's horror, he faces a fate far worse than being eaten: he unwittingly bonds with a Beast and is run out of town by an angry mob. Determined to break this bond and return home, Barclay journeys to find the mysterious town of Lore Keepers, people who have also bonded with Beasts and share their powers.

But after making new friends, entering a dangerous apprenticeship exam, and even facing the legendary Beast of the Woods, Barclay must make a difficult choice: return to the home and rules he's always known, or embrace the adventure awaiting him.



VISIT DETAILS

Each visit is customizable. All include:



- ✓ 1 hour-long, assembly-style presentation
- ✓ 1-2 more hour-long blocks for additional presentations or workshops
- ✓ Free autographed posters for every student in attendance
- ✓ A book signing with students

CUSTOMIZATION

Most schools request to use all their blocks for Amanda's "How to Build a Magical Adventure" presentation, allowing for smaller student audiences. However, Amanda offers other options for the blocks as well.

- ✓ Classroom creative writing workshops
- ✓ Classroom / book club Q&A
- ✓ Lunch with small group of students
- ✓ "Becoming an author" career presentation

Though the blocks are intended to last one hour, their length can easily be shortened to suit the school's schedule.

Amanda is also happy to meet the unique needs of each school. If there is a particular topic or event request for the visit that doesn't match any on the list below, that can absolutely be discussed and included.

PRESENTATION

Amanda's presentation, "**How To Build a Magical Adventure**," walks through how Amanda constructed *The Accidental Apprentice*, using Barclay's adventure as context to explore storytelling concepts like plot, character, setting, and theme.

It's ideal for **grades 2-6** and is designed both for readers familiar with Wilderlore and for newcomers to the series.

Among the opening slides, Amanda reveals how Pokémon was her childhood obsession and inspiration for the story—as well as other franchises like *Avatar: the Last Airbender*, *Naruto*, *How To Train Your Dragon*, and more. Without fail, so many faces light up, especially from kids who weren't expecting a real-life author to share their love for their own favorite TV shows and video games. It's validating, and it can be a confidence boost to those intimidated by reading. Which is why so many educators have said that even some of their most reluctant readers eagerly began Wilderlore after the presentation—it makes an approachable and intriguing invitation to the world of books.

This presentation includes a "Create Your Own Beast" activity that requires basic craft supplies and is suitable even to large auditorium settings. It keeps students engaged and helps them imagine themselves into the story.

The presentation lasts 45 minutes and is followed by a 15-minute student Q&A, for a total of **one hour**. The only equipment necessary is a projector, though a microphone is always appreciated!

WORKSHOPS

Amanda offers creative writing workshops suitable for classroom settings.

“Writing like an Author”

This presentation walks through the nitty gritty of the writing process, including outlining, editing, and writing advice. It is ideal for **aspiring writers**, suitable for **grades 4-8**. This presentation is perfect for students curious about how the actual behind-the-scenes of creating any long-form project, including novels and screenplays.

The activity in this presentation is called “Frankesnstory,” in which each student draws two random famous works from a hat (ex. Sleeping Beauty and Iron Man). Students are then asked to come up with a story prompt combining these ideas. It illustrates how the brainstorming process often unfolds in waves, and it challenges students to present a story in a pitch format.

“Plotting with Character”

This presentation is for **advanced aspiring writers**, suitable for **grades 7-12**. It breaks down the components of a strong character, including their goal, obstacle, flaw, and virtue. Then it illustrates how the plot of a story can be designed around these components to encourage character change. It is perfect for students interested in learning more about story structure and writing with the audience’s satisfaction in mind.

BOOK ORDERS

As students often finish the visits excited to read the books, Amanda asks that schools offer the opportunity for students to order copies in advance of the visit. Amanda will sign all copies the day of the visit, either with the students in person or solo to then be distributed to students later, according to the school's preference.

Because Amanda likes to give all students something special to take home, she will bring signed posters for all students, regardless of whether or not they ordered a book.

As we begin coordinating a visit, Amanda will reach out to the closest store to handle book orders. She's always happy to work with a preferred vendor if your school has one to recommend.

An order form can be provided, whether hard copy or online. **Orders typically need to be placed two weeks in advance to ensure that copies can make it to the school in time for the visit.**

For any books ordered after the visit, Amanda can send the school or store signed bookplates, which are stickers that can be placed into a book to turn it into a "signed" copy.

Students who already own the books are more than welcome to bring their copies from home for Amanda to sign.

TESTIMONIALS

“My students absolutely loved how interactive her presentation was... I particularly liked how Amanda went through the writing and creative process with students—tying in character, setting, theme, and conflict. My students went into this visit with little background knowledge about the Wilderlore series—now it's all they talk about!”

– **The Maria L. Baldwin School, Cambridge, MA**

“Amanda was exciting and engaging and made even the most reluctant readers interested in picking up her books. Her presentation was excellently crafted and had the kids learning about the writing process without even realizing they were learning. She took the time to make sure each child felt special, and it was evident that she was sincerely thrilled to be there!”

– **Linden STEAM Academy, Malden, MA**

“Amanda’s session, How to Write a Magical Adventure, was a hit with our students. Amanda also participated in our author book-signing session, and the line of students was a mile long to meet her. She was so attentive to each student and really made them feel special while autographing their books.”

– **Tome Student Literacy Society, TomeCon 2023**

"Educational, engaging, and enthusiastic. That is what you get when you have the wonderful author, Amanda Foody, visit your school. From the first words of her presentation, students were extremely excited and interested in her books and who she was. A truly fantastic time and definitely an author we would love to have come back in the future."

– **Doolittle Elementary School, Cheshire, CT**

"Having Amanda Foody visit our school was an absolute delight! Her energy and passion for storytelling captivated our students from start to finish.

– **Norfeldt Elementary School, West Hartford, CT**

ABOUT AMANDA

Amanda Foody is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of fantasy novels for kids and teens, including the Wilderlore series, the *All of Us Villains* and *A Fate So Cold* duologies (with C. L. Herman), and more. Since its publication, *Wilderlore: The Accidental Apprentice* has sold over 100,000 copies, been nominated for awards in four different states, and won two awards internationally. In 2021, Amazon named *All of Us Villains* the Best Young Adult Book of the Year.

After growing up split between two households across Pennsylvania, Amanda now lives in Philadelphia with her partner and their two cats. When not writing, she unironically loves to cook.

