



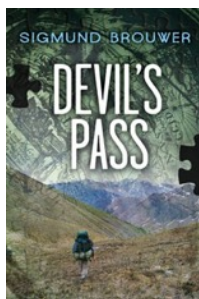
**Each Writer in Residence offers the following components to the school:**

**School Culture**

The WIR Program was inspired by a three-year focus on literacy at St. Francis of Assisi Middle School, in Red Deer, Alberta. The administrator was initially skeptical that a program might be able to show trackable results, yet from year to year, the student scores in literacy consistently rose across all grade levels. For example, in the third year, students returned to school after summer vacation with higher reading level scores than at the end of the school year before summer vacation.



It was successful because the administrator made literacy a school culture, including specific times carved from the schedule for voluntary free reading. Another key component was the involvement of an author as a writer-in-residence to support that culture, as it sent a strong message to all the students, staff and parents. (More information on the St. Francis program and the results is available at request.)



Accordingly, a school's WIR program will only be as successful as the broad commitment of the school to literacy culture, and to involvement with the program. The WIR program has all the pieces in place for a school to employ for this vibrant culture, beginning with a banner that greets all students, staff and parents as they enter the school.

## School Banner

It's important for parents to support the program at home, so the banner is designed to prominently remind parents that the school is committed to literacy via the Writer-In-Residence program. Because the program involves only authors with an excellent national reputation, it's important for parents to know the credentials of the author, and this is reflected by the author.

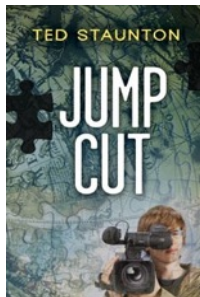


Also, the banner is designed to acknowledge the financial supporters of the program, from sponsors to parent councils.

The banner size is 2 ½ feet tall by 6 feet wide.

## Website

The heart of the WIR program is the website, where students, staff and parents directly connect and engage with the WIR author. Currently, a draft website is in place at: <http://writerinresidence.org/IMS>. As you'll see, the WIR author for the schools program is Sigmund Brouwer. Other authors are available through the WIR roster.



## Skype chats and blogs

One of the important elements of the WIR is for students to connect with the author. With that special connection, the students are motivated to read the author's stories and enjoy help from the author with writing. This is accomplished through regular skype chats, and a bi-weekly blog from the author.

## Chat forums

To help with the author/student connection, the website has a forum area, broken down for students/teachers/parents. Here, the author responds to questions and keeps conversations going that can be joined by anyone from the school, ranging to discussions on the writing process, specific books and anything related to literacy.

## Monthly send-home letters via pdf

It's important that parents and students are reminded of the WIR program, as the more involvement with the program, the better the results.

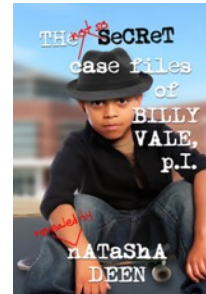
Each month, WIR supplies the administration with a one-page newsletter pdf, complete with school logo, message of encouragement from the author, and a note from the administrator. It can be emailed to parents, or posted on the school website.

## Private Youtube Channel

The school will have access to a private channel where all the author talk videos are archived.

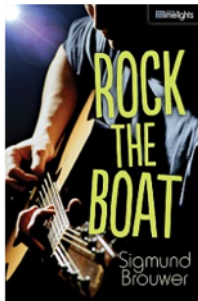
## Writing Prompts

The WIR author will help teachers by providing fun writing prompts.



## On-line teaching by the WIR author

Through Google Hangout and BlackBoard collaboration, regular classroom times are scheduled and spots are made available for students to sign up for classes with the WIR author. This allows for real-time video interaction during the teaching process, and real-time blackboard interaction. Students sign up for this on a voluntary basis, and a per student fee is required.



## Editorial Services

WIR authors are rarely able to provide editorial help for teachers and students trying to get published, but the WIR program is able to provide a link to reputable free-lance editors to arrange for those services.

**Each Writer in Residence offers unique components to their residency. Please visit their individual page to view their Writer in Residence PDF to find out more.**

