



# Mary Rowlandson Elementary School

Derek O'Riorden



# Innovator's Mindset and the Workshop Model

The workshop model encourages students to read like writers and write like readers. Inspiration from *The Innovator's Mindset* has helped us get inside the minds of some of our favorite authors.



# Engagement & Empowerment

## Engage Students

- What teachers can do for students?
- When do they take learning into their own hands?


## Empower Students

- What students can do for themselves?
- How do they improve specific aspects of their writing?
- Kids are naturally curious. We can't know all their questions unless we give them a chance to ask.



# How Do We Do This?

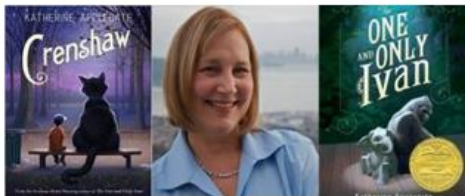
Let the kids ask the questions!



“Technology is not just a tool. It can give learners a voice that they may not have had before.”

**George Couros**

## K. A. Applegate



**Derek O'Riorden** @doriorden · 20h

@kaaauthor Hi, Ms. Applegate. Kamilly and Amanda love your book One and Only Ivan. They wanted to ask, "Why did you make Ivan a monkey?" Thanks for making reading so much fun for my students! #readingrocks @MREschool



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**Katherine Applegate** ✓

@kaaauthor

Following

Replying to @doriorden @MREschool

Thanks for reading, Kamilly and Amanda! That's a good question, and I have an answer that may surprise you: Did you know that the book is loosely based on a true story? Ivan was a real gorilla, and he spent the first 27 years of his life in a shopping mall in Washington State.



**Katherine Applegate** ✓

@kaaauthor

Following

Replying to @doriorden @MREschool

One day, I was reading the newspaper and I saw the headline 'Gorilla Sulks in [a] Mall as His Future Is Debated.' I read the article and knew that I had to tell Ivan's story.

12:40 PM - 19 Nov 2018

1 Retweet 2 Likes



**Katherine Applegate** ✓

@kaaauthor

Following

Replying to @doriorden @MREschool

The other characters in the book, like Stella and Ruby, came from my imagination. But I actually based Bob on my own dog, Stan! He likes to sit on my lap when I write. Which is great, except for his terrible breath.

Thanks again for your question, and happy reading!

## Suzy Becker



On the New York Times best sellers list for 28 weeks for her first double platinum seller, "I Needed to Know I Learned from My Cat", Suzy has gone on to write and illustrate other lively, funny, moving and thoughtful books for her audience which ranges from ages 0-104.



**Derek O'Riordan** @doriordan · 4 Dec 2018

@thesuzybecker Hil Kin from my class wanted to tell you he loved the book. Kids Make it Better. He wanted to know why you decided to make it a journal book? Thanks! @MREschool #readingrocks



**Suzy Becker**

@thesuzybecker

Following

Replying to @doriordan @MREschool

I'm a terrible tweeter. Does Kin know I live right up the road in Bolton? I'd be happy to answer his question in person, to make up for the lag time. I could spend up to 45 minutes answering any questions about KMIB or writing or drawing or changing the world... Thank YOU!

## Max Brallier



Derek O'Riorden @doriorden · 22h

@MaxBrallier Hi Mr. Brallier. My students have enjoyed your Last Kids on Earth series quite a bit. Thank you! Lizzie wanted to ask you two questions. How did you write the book? Are any of the characters based on people you know? Thanks! @MREschool #readingrocks



Max Brallier

@MaxBrallier

Following

Replying to @doriorden @MREschool

i wrote the 1st book over the course of a few years, it was crazy hard, i wanted to quit! i outline like crazy before i write. jack is based a little bit on me (he's the cool version of me) and other characters are definitely inspired by people i know. thanks for readign Lizzie!

9:11 PM - 28 Nov 2018

## Melissa Savage



Melissa D. Savage

@melissadsavage

Following

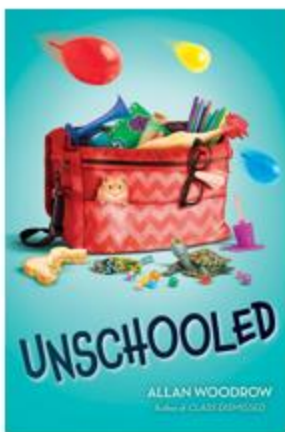
Hello Mr. O'Riorden and Vincent! Thank u for reading Lemons! I'm so glad to hear u are loving it. I don't want to spoil any details, but u will find out what happened to Lem's mom. And yes, the book has many personal references, including Tobin who is named after my amazing son.

Derek O'Riorden @doriorden

Hi @melissadsavage. Vincent in my class has been reading Lemons and has really enjoyed it so far. He was wondering what happened to Lem's mother? Also, did you base the character off of anyone you know? Thanks! @MREschool #readingrocks



## Allan Woodrow



**Derek O'Riorden** @doriorden · 18h

@alwoodrow Hi Mr. Woodrow! Lilly in my class is also reading Unschooled. She loves Lilly's character in the story (Surprising!), but wanted to know why you decided to have George and Lilly on different teams? Would the story be possible if they weren't? Thanks! @MREschool



**Allan Woodrow**

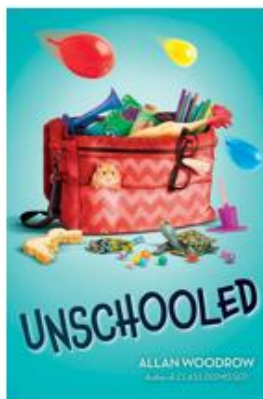
@alwoodrow

Following

Replying to @doriorden @MREschool

George and Lilly learn that friendship and playing fair is more important than winning; I don't think they would have learned those lessons if they were on the same team; only by almost breaking their friendship did they realize its importance.

## Allan Woodrow



**Derek O'Riorden** @doriorden · 18h

@alwoodrow Hi Mr. Woodrow. John from my class is reading Unschooled and had a question. He was wondering why you chose to begin the book in a hot sweating gym at the start of Spirit Week? Thanks!

@MREschool #readingrocks



**Allan Woodrow**

@alwoodrow

Following


Replying to @doriorden @MREschool

The story begins with the announcement of Spirit Week, so that seemed like the best place to start. It was just a shame the A/C didn't work, which made an uncomfortable situation a little more so.



# Conversation Highlights with Authors

- Where do you get your ideas?
  - “I get my ideas from real life. I like to make my dreams come true...when I write, I can always do that.” - Suzy Becker
  - “I got the idea for The One and Only Ivan from an article I read in the paper about a real gorilla who was living in a mall. I had to tell that story.” - Katherine Applegate
  - “Most of the events in the stories are based on real experiences my girls had or I had in middle school.” - Rachel Renee Russell
- How do you become a better writer?
  - “I read a lot, and I write a lot. Reading makes you a better writer.” - Melissa Savage
  - “I never stop learning. I ask for criticism...it makes you better.” - Melissa Savage
- What motivated you to write your story?
  - “I wanted to show the values of friendship and good sportsmanship, and I remembered all the spirit weeks and field days from when I was a kid.” - Allan Woodrow
- Why is the setting created in a certain way?
  - “I made the A/C not work to make an uncomfortable situation even more uncomfortable.” - Allan Woodrow
- What’s the writing process like for you?
  - “It took me about 6 months to write the story, and a year to edit and revise it.” - Melissa Savage



“Reading makes  
you a better  
writer.”

- Melissa Savage, author of *Lemons*, while speaking to students of Mary Rowlandson Elementary