

Testimonials

Engaging author

She engaged our students right from the start! Our students were talking about and asking for her books! It was great to read her diverse character books!

Jose Perez, Coordinator, Library Media Services, Stafford Municipal School District

A great visit

We had a great visit with Mrs. Ellis. Our students were eager to hear Mrs. Ellis's personal story of becoming a children's author along with the stories she tells about the curious Sophie Washington. As a Houstonian, I appreciate the local flavor she adds to her books and there is just enough character building for readers to be satisfied. The visit was a great hit with the kids!

Diane King, Head Librarian, Westbury Christian School

I definitely hope to have her back.

Tonya Duncan Ellis visited our school, and she engaged students from elementary through middle school. She shared Sophie Washington stories and answered questions (LOTS of them) with our elementary students. She talked about being a writer, the writing process, and the publishing process with middle school. The Sophie Washington books have been in high demand in my library since her visit. I definitely hope to have her back!

Missy Edgmon, Librarian, Cornerstone Christian Academy

Phenomenal Workshops

The marketing workshops with Tonya Duncan Ellis were PHENOMENAL.... Tonya had SO MANY great insights, tips and examples to learn from that helped me take what are a million ideas and give them focus and direction.

Rivkah Lafille, Illustrator, Writer, and Graphic Novelist

She was such a fabulous visiting author.

Her question/answer at the end was the best we have had from any visiting author. She was so patient and thorough with her answers.

**Jennifer Lewis, Media Specialist,
Indian Knoll Elementary School**



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@TonyaDEllis

Tonya Duncan Ellis

Author



Book Me!

Contact Tonya to arrange a speaking date

✉ tonyaellis@live.com

or

☎ 281-797-3488.



Having an author visit your school, in-person or virtually, is a great way to promote literacy and reinforce classroom learning. I love kids, and one of the most rewarding parts of my job as a children's author is speaking to youth. I've done readings, presentations on the writing process, and talks about my journey as an author and other topics before thousands of preschool, elementary, middle and high school students and adults, and I'd be happy to speak at your next event. I host writing workshops to help students prepare for standardized tests. Presentations can be tailored to large or smaller groups of students. I can also speak at banquets, conferences, and other programs.

Most Popular Presentation Features

Interactive thirty to sixty minute on-site or virtual sessions are customized by grade level and can be modified based on your curriculum objectives.

From Notepad to Novel-Steps in Publishing

How do you become a published author? Learn the educational path, training, and steps I took to craft a writing career. Viewing my notes, research photos, and illustration samples, we'll go through the five steps in the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing) used to create a novel or a finished writing piece, using my book *Sophie Washington: Mission: Costa Rica* as an example. The session ends with an author Q&A. Students will walk away inspired to tell their own stories. All ages.

Story Sparks: Art Imitates Life (Using Personal Experience to Find Story Ideas) -

Our life experiences spark creative ideas. This session teaches students techniques to delve into personal experiences to enhance their writing, using Sophie Washington books, *The Snitch*, *Hurricane*, and *Class Retreat* as examples. At the end of the session, we'll do our own writing and include time for student Q&A. Grades 2 and up.



About the Author

Tonya Duncan Ellis is author of the bestselling Sophie Washington children's chapter book series and *THEY BUILT ME FOR FREEDOM* (Balzer + Bray an imprint of Harper Collins, 2024) She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), the Authors Guild, Black Creators in KidLit, and the Brown Bookshelf's Highlights Foundation-sponsored, Amplify Black Stories storyteller cohort. In 2021, she won the Austin SCBWI Cynthia Leitich Smith Writing Mentor Award. Tonya holds an MBA degree from Washington University in St. Louis and is a 2022 winner of SCBWI's Independently Published Book Launch Marketing Grant. Represented by Sara Megibow of KT Literary she lives in Houston, Texas and is married with three children.



Books

