

**Author's Day books for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades**  
all available at our library to borrow (modulo other readers!)

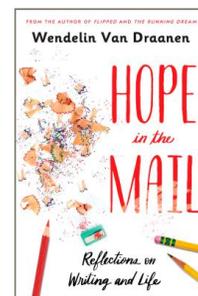
Wendelin Van Draanen speaks to 3rd-5th graders on March 26. Her website [www.wendelinvand.com](http://www.wendelinvand.com) is superb if you have time to visit. If you need brevity, this is Mrs. G's summary... come ask too! Kindness and humor are quiet superpowers, and it is rare to see them combined so eloquently, book after book. All of these books make excellent shared read-alouds. Because they reveal the thinking of other people in everyday life so well, they lead to great conversations. And there is always humor!

**3rd grade:** The Shredderman and Gecko and Sticky series, each four volumes, are a good place to start. Shredderman 1 (Secret Identity) won the Christopher Medal. It deals with one student's creative and nerdy response to bullying. Gecko and Sticky is a slightly trickier reading level (because of a talking gecko with a Spanish accent). It involves dastardly villains, a reluctant superhero, and super powers. Their adventures make for lively, funny read-alouds.

**4th grade:** all of the above, and Sammy Keyes. Sammy Keyes is a detective, somewhat constrained by being in middle school. This 18 volume series makes an excellent string of read-alouds. Readers enjoy them first as mysteries, but many reread to revisit memorable characters. The order form has the first four, and several Mrs. G favorites (#5, #7, #10, #11). You may also order the entire series (or less the gift book). I can reopen any of these, at virtually any page. Laughter and compassion are everywhere.

**5th grade:** all of the above, and the stand-alone novels. Runaway connects to Sammy Keyes #3. Flipped is told in alternating boy/girl chapters, as two neighbors grow from 2nd through 8th grade. It's about having a crush (or not!), family, and surface impressions vs. reality. Made into a movie by Rob Reiner. The Running Dream won the Schneider Family Award. Secret Life of Lincoln Jones is one of Mrs. G's favorite books, winner of the Josette Frank award for compassion... and consolingly funny.

**Hope in the Mail:** If there is anyone in your life who loves reading, or writing, or both, give them this book. The expected audience is 12 & up, especially writers. But it's a gift to readers too, with illuminating reflections on the power of writing. Who knew it could be so startling to spend time with fictional characters who become real, and influence you?



**Why Sammy Keyes #4 as the gift book?** Mrs. G has read each of these books multiple times. They are re-read worthy. Each stand-alone novel is tempting. But if I can get a student or family reading all of Sammy Keyes? 18 books to share!? That's a win! I know multiple families who reread the series. Many students will be past book 1 by Author's Day. Later volumes give away parts of the story arc for the series as a whole. Finally, last year several wished to avoid the gift book as a class read aloud... they wanted to go at their own speed with their own copy! So picking a title several books into Sammy Keyes feels right. We hope to give you the gift of sustained reading together. Last time the author visited, many students read *all* of her books! Finally, each stand-alone is powerful. They are not to be missed... but neither is Sammy Keyes.

