

# BRUCE HALE

## Author Visit Information

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### Author Day Visit (grades K-6)

Have Bruce come visit your school to speak to kids about writing, literacy, and creativity. Sessions can be customized to meet the school's needs.

A one-day visit includes...

Three 50-minute assemblies covering:

- **Storytelling** from one of Bruce's books;
- **Audiovisual presentation** on how he went from reluctant reader to author;
- **Question-and-answer** session with the audience;
- A brief **cartooning lesson**.



Although the basic presentation remains similar, Bruce will alter it for different grades to be age-specific. No limits on the number of students in an assembly.

Bruce is open to the possibility of brief stop-in visits to kindergartners, if desired.

For those students and staff purchasing books, Bruce will gladly autograph them on the day of the visit, separate from the presentations.

The school may choose as one of the Author Day sessions a **Story Power** writing workshop — **for groups of 100 or less**.

### Story Power Workshop (grades 3-5)

Introduce your students to the fundamentals of story writing in a fun, lively format. Session includes storytelling, the creative process, basic story elements, and the creation of a group story.

Workshop is a one-hour, interactive assembly session – for no more than 100 students. Student and teacher workbooks are available for photocopying by school.

For more information on Story Power workshop content, visit the web site's **How to Write a Story section** at: [www.brucehale.com/howto.htm](http://www.brucehale.com/howto.htm)

## **SCHOOL MUST PROVIDE**

- Reimbursement for breakfast and a casual lunch on the day of the visit. Either a vegetarian or fish meal would be fine. (And Bruce is glad to dine with the teachers or staff.)
- An honorarium in the agreed-upon amount, delivered on the day of the school visit.
- A microphone, bottled water, small table, chalkboard and chalk (or white board/flip-chart and pens), and a LCD digital slide projector (that will work with a Mac) for the presentation.
- A presentation schedule that allows at least 10-15 minutes between sessions (for recovery time).

**IMPORTANT:** The key to a successful author visit lies in **familiarizing students with the author's work** before the event.

Please let Bruce know if you need copies of his books for this purpose; they will be provided at a scholastic discount.

## **OBTAINING BOOKS**

Bruce's *Chet Gecko Mysteries* and *Snoring Beauty* can be obtained directly from your local bookstore, or from the publisher, Harcourt Inc. (1-800-543-1918). His *Underwhere* series can be obtained from HarperCollins. To purchase the Hawaiian picture book series at a scholastic discount, contact Bruce directly.

## **PLANNING RESOURCE**

*Terrific Connections with Authors, Illustrators, Storytellers: Real Space and Virtual Links* by Toni Buzzeo and Jane Kurtz, makes a great faculty resource. Clear guidelines for a wonderful author visit and much more. Available from: Libraries Unlimited - 1-800-237-6124.

## **COSTS**

\$2,000 per day plus expenses for three 50-minute presentations (or a prearranged alternative schedule) for out-of-state visits.

\$1,100 for a visit in California outside the Santa Barbara area.

***For visits outside Bruce's home area, transportation and lodging expenses will be covered by event sponsor.***

For more information, contact:

**Bruce Hale**

**P.O. Box 91835, Santa Barbara, CA 93190**

**Tel. (805) 563-7337 • E-mail. [writerguy@brucehale.com](mailto:writerguy@brucehale.com)**

**[www.brucehale.com](http://www.brucehale.com)**

## About the Author

### BRUCE HALE

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Bruce Hale is an award-winning author, illustrator, storyteller, and Fulbright Fellow. He has written or illustrated over twenty books for young readers, including the popular *Chet Gecko Mysteries*. *The Malted Falcon* was nominated for an Edgar Award, and *Murder, My Tweet* won the Little d Award for humorous juvenile literature. His newest series, *Underwhere*, debuts in 2008.

Raised by wolves just outside Los Angeles, Bruce began his career as a writer while living in Tokyo, and continued it when he moved to Hawaii in 1983. He worked as a magazine editor, gardener, deejay, actor, and corporate lackey before publishing his first children's book in 1989.

Besides his writing and illustrating, Bruce has performed extensively on stage and television. He has appeared in numerous plays and musicals, TV commercials, and in an independent film called "The Ride," where he plays a surfer's agent.

Bruce is a popular speaker and storyteller, both with adults and children. In 1998, he won a Fulbright Grant to teach storytelling and study folklore in Thailand. He has also been a featured storyteller at Honolulu's annual "Talk Story" festival and the L.A. Times Festival of Books.

As a presenter, Bruce has spoken at national and regional conferences of booksellers, educators, and writers — including the International Reading Association, the Society for Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, the Maui Writers Conference, and others. He has visited schools from Hawaii, to Texas, to New York, and has taught writing workshops at colleges.

In his spare time, Bruce enjoys playing and performing jazz music, as well as bicycling, hiking, and body boarding.

*"It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Bruce Hale as a speaker, workshop leader, visiting writer, or any other role remotely related!"*

— Diane Mark, Creative Writing Program Coordinator  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

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# Books by BRUCE HALE

\* indicates particularly recommended books

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## NOVELS

### **\*The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse**

Chet Gecko, Private Eye, is a wisecracking fourth grader with a nose for mysteries and a taste for stinkbug pie. He's got to find Shirley Chameleon's missing brother Billy, outwitting the evil Rat Sisters and that sixth grade menace, Herman the Gila Monster, in the process.

- *Working Mother Magazine's "Favorite Books of 2000"*
- *"Bruce Hale leaves no stones unturned in this fast-paced read that will entice juvenile readers and listeners alike to join the fun." Book Wholesalers Inc.*

Harcourt Inc., 2000, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202281-3, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **The Mystery of Mr. Nice**

When Chet is sent to the principal's office, he stumbles on a fiendish plot involving a bogus Principal Zero. Chet's first clue: the principal was *nice* to him. Now it's up to the school's best lizard detective (with the help of his partner, Natalie Attired) to save Emerson Hicky Elementary from a gang of crooks.

- *Working Mother Magazine's "Favorite Books of 2000"*
- *"Hold onto your fedoras; this gecko's going places." Kirkus Reviews*

Harcourt Inc., 2000, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202271-6, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **Farewell, My Lunchbag**

Chet Gecko's hunger for mystery is matched only by his appetite for treats such as stinkbug pie. So when the cafeteria needs help catching a food thief, Chet digs into the case with gusto. But this time he may have bitten off more than he can chew — the culprit has framed Chet, and the gecko detective has to work double-time to clear his name and catch the real thief.

- *"A Raymond Chandler/Woody Allen literary blend." School Library Journal*

Harcourt Inc., 2001, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202275-9, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*The Big Nap**

One by one, the students of Emerson Hicky are being won over by the dark side ...and becoming mindless goody-goodies. No one talks in class, no one complains about homework — heck, the line to clean the chalkboard erasers is out the door! Chet suspects the new librarian — a zombie expert who's as shady as a Louisiana weeping willow. But time's running out. Can Chet save the school, or will he and Natalie find themselves sleeping The Big Nap?

Harcourt Inc., 2001, 112 pages, ISBN 0-15-202521-9, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **The Hamster of the Baskervilles**

Vandalism rocks Emerson Hicky School. Who is responsible? Is it the suspicious librarian, Cool Beans? The campus gang, the Dirty Rotten Stinkers? Or is something supernatural going on? Chet and Natalie get to the bottom of it.

• *“The zany text reads like a mixture of stand-up comedy...and a fourth grader on an overdose of sugar.” School Library Journal*

Harcourt Inc., 2002, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-202503-0, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **This Gum For Hire**

Chet goes undercover on the football team when players start disappearing. His client? Chet’s old nemesis, Herman the Gila Monster. So if he doesn’t crack the case, his client might crack his head. But fear not. With Natalie Attired at his side, this gecko’s got game.

• *Winner of the Choices Award from the Association of Booksellers for Children.*  
• *“Will have you giggling out loud and wishing for more.” Boston Sunday Herald*

Harcourt Inc., 2002, 115 pages, ISBN 0-15-202491-3, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*The Malted Falcon**

When the winning ticket in the Malted Falcon contest goes missing, Freddie Nostrils hires Chet and Natalie to find it. Just what is the Malted Falcon? Only the biggest, chocolatiest dessert imaginable. But to get his hands on it, Chet must contend with lying clients, double-dealing marmots, and his own serious sweet tooth.

• *“The sleuth with the smart mouth shows no signs of slowing down... and should continue to draw fans like fleas to a dog show.” Kirkus Reviews*  
• *Edgar Award finalist, the Mystery Writers of America*

Harcourt Inc., 2003, 115 pages, ISBN 0-15-216706-4, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **Trouble Is My Beeswax**

A cheating ring is discovered at Emerson Hicky Elementary, with Chet’s old friend Shirley Chameleon fingered as the ringleader. Chet and Natalie undertake to prove her innocence as a matter of honor. Or stupidity. It’s so hard to tell the difference sometimes.

Harcourt Inc., 2003, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-216718-8, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*Give My Regrets to Broadway**

It’s no mystery. Chet Gecko can’t sing, can’t dance, and can’t act. (Heck, he can’t even act normal.) So why has he taken the lead in the school play? A new case, of course. And Chet doesn’t know which is scarier: the ghost haunting the theater, or his third-act lip-lock with Shirley Chameleon.

• *“Plenty of satisfying silliness in the cast of buffoonish teachers, Chet’s tough-guy appeal, and the usual repertoire of painfully corny puns and similes.” Booklist*

Harcourt Inc., 2004, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-216700-5, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*Murder, My Tweet**

Natalie Attired is framed for blackmail and booted out of Emerson Hicky. Chet, of course, tackles the case for free. But just when it looks like he might clear her name, Natalie disappears, leaving behind a reddish smear. Is it murder, or something serious?

- *IRA-CBC Children’s Choice for Best Books of 2005*
- *Winner of the Little d Award from Children’s Literature Connection*

Harcourt Inc., 2004, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-205012-4, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*Chet Gecko’s Detective Handbook (& Cookbook)**

Revealed at last — stunning secrets and surprises from ace detective Chet Gecko’s criminal casebook! This nifty (and very handy) handbook features tips and techniques for detective work, including suspects, evidence, documents, searches, and snacks!

Harcourt Inc., 2005, 272 pages, ISBN 0-15-205288-7, \$9.95 hardback, ages 8-12

### **The Possum Always Rings Twice**

It’s muckraking time at Emerson Hicky. The race is on for student council president, but it’s quickly getting fishier than the bottom of a pelican’s lunchbox. Could someone be trying to rig the election? Chet and Natalie find politics is a scary (and dirty) business.

Harcourt Inc., 2006, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-205075-2, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*Key Lardo**

Has Chet Gecko at last met his sleuthing match? A new detective has arrived, and his name is Bland — James Bland. This upstart immediately cracks a case that has baffled Chet and Natalie. But when Bland goes missing, Chet’s got to find him or face a stint behind bars — and we’re not talking the jungle gym.

Harcourt Inc., 2006, 128 pages, ISBN 0-15-205074-4, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **Hiss Me Deadly**

This time, it’s personal. When a thief steals from Chet’s little sister, the green gumshoe gets hopping mad. Only *he* is allowed to pick on his sister. But when valuables start vanishing from school, Chet finds he’s caught up in a conspiracy that’s bigger and scarier than a blue whale in a bikini.

Harcourt Inc., 2007, 144 pages, ISBN 0-15-205482-0, \$14 hardback, \$4.95 paper, ages 8-12

### **\*From Russia With Lunch**

A mysterious Russian scientist, Dr. Tanya Lightov, comes to Emerson Hicky, and suddenly everything is topsy-turvy. Machines are replacing staff, teachers’ pets are talking back, a coven of witches has convened, and — weirdest of all — Chet’s partner

Natalie has turned her back on him. Can Chet bring things back to normal — or what passes for normal at *his* school?

Harcourt, 2009, 128 pages, ISBN 978-0-15-205488-5, \$14 hardback, ages 8-12

### **\*Dial M for Mongoose**

What's going on at Emerson Hicky? A deadly stink bomb is unleashed, a building collapses to rubble, money goes missing — and that's just a start. Someone pins the blame on Chet's janitor pal Maureen DeBree, and it's up to Chet and Natalie to put things right. After all, Chet doesn't take that kind of monkey business lying down. (Standing up, maybe.)

Harcourt, 2009, 144 pages, ISBN 978-0-15-205494-6, \$15 hardback, ages 8-12

### **\*Prince of Underwhere**

It's half comic book, half novel, and totally hilarious. Zeke has his hands full: there's his prissy, know-it-all twin sister; his mean cousin Caitlyn who's house-sitting; and a bully making life tough at school. As if that wasn't enough, now Zeke has to deal with zombies, midget freedom fighters, and a weird world beneath our own where people wear their underwear on the outside of their clothes.

HarperCollins 2008, 168 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-085124-8, \$15.99 hardback, \$5.99 paperback, ages 7-12

*Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.*

### **\*Pirates of Underwhere**

The Underwhere comic/novel series continues with a tale from Zeke's sister, Stephanie. She'd like nothing better than to study for her Mathletes competition and polish her reputation as all-around homework champ. But thanks to Zeke, she has to deal with magical toilet brushes, sinister talking cats, nearsighted sea serpents, feminist pirates, and all the cottony-white weirdness of Underwhere.

HarperCollins 2008, 168 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-085127-9, \$15.99 hardback, \$5.99 paperback, ages 7-12

*Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.*

### **Flyboy of Underwhere**

Zeke's busy being Prince of Underwhere. His prissy sister, Stephanie, is some sort of pirate queen. But Hector? Everyone treats him like a joker and a sidekick. Now only Hector can save the day — if he can survive the swarms of sharp-beaked midget flying dinos, smart-aleck flying horses, angry armies in their undies, a really, really bad hypnotist, and a duel with deadly toilet plungers... all the ordinary wedgie weirdness of the tighy-whitie world under our own.

HarperCollins 2008, 144 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-085130-9, \$15.99 hardback, \$5.99 paperback, ages 7-12

*Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.*

### **\*Fat Cat of Underwhere**

Cats aren't meant to save the world. Fitz is supposed to be napping, nibbling on

houseplants, and never doing what humans want him to. But instead, this cat finds himself helping Zeke, Stephanie, and Hector recover the stolen Scepter of Underwhere, battle wild triceradoodles, and outwit a band of savage mice. Anything can happen in Underwhere!

HarperCollins 2009, 144 pages, ISBN 978-0-06-085133-0, \$15.99 hardback, ages 7-12  
Call 800-242-7737 for author visit book orders.

## **PICTURE BOOKS**

### **\*Snoring Beauty**

A furious fairy, a cruel curse, a princess enchanted by a spell. Think you know the story of Sleeping Beauty? Think again. This fractured fairy tale reveals what *really* happened. (One hint: Sleeping Beauty *snores*.)

• “*This fantastic story is a delightful treat that begs to be read aloud.*”

*School Library Journal*

• Featured on Oprah’s Kids Reading List

Harcourt, 2008, 32 pages, ISBN 978-0-15-216314-3, \$16, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **How the Gecko Lost His Tail**

Moki the Gecko takes a fantastic journey into space to rescue his parents, who have been kidnapped by the Moon. Drawing on his own resources and the help of a friendly asteroid, he fulfills the Moon’s demands to win his parents’ freedom — and a boon for all geckos.

Words + Pictures, 1999, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-8-2, \$8.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **Moki the Gecko’s Best Christmas Ever**

When Santa Claus crash-lands in the ocean, it’s up to Moki the Gecko and his friends to outwit the fearsome Lone Shark and save the day. In doing so, they learn a few things about the true Christmas spirit.

• “*Pulls you in right away... Moki fans will enjoy the fast pace.*” *Honolulu Advertiser*

Words + Pictures, 1998, 32 pages, ISBN 0-96212-6-6, \$8.95 hardback, ages preschool – grade 4

### **\*Moki and the Magic Surfboard**

Moki the Hawaiian gecko wins a magic surfboard from an ancient *menehune* (Hawaii’s elves). The gecko finds the board can do much more than help him catch waves. On the magic surfboard, Moki flies, goes underwater and travels through time. But in the end, he must choose between magic and friendship.

• “*...Offers children’s imaginations a lot of wiggle room.*” *Honolulu Advertiser*

Words + Pictures, 1996, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-5-8, \$8.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **\*Surf Gecko to the Rescue!**

Moki the Gecko loves surfing better than anything. But when humans' littering endangers his friend Oldturtle, Moki challenges the top human surfers for a higher cause — motivating humans to care for the environment. After his triumph, Moki's mother has a higher cause for him: "clean up your room!"

Words + Pictures, 1991, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-1-5, \$10.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

### **Legend of the Laughing Gecko**

Moki is a little Hawaiian gecko who loves to joke and laugh, but his rambunctiousness annoys the other animals, who banish him from the village. After Moki befriends the king's daughter and faces down the dreaded Black Bufo toad, the others appreciate his uniqueness and the importance of laughter.

Words + Pictures, 1989, 32 pages, ISBN 0-9621280-0-7, \$8.95, ages preschool-gr. 4

**To order books directly from Harcourt Inc., call 1-800-543-1918**

**To order books from HarperCollins, call 1-800-242-7737**

**To order Moki the Gecko books from Words + Pictures, call 805-563-7337**

**For more information, visit [www.brucehale.com](http://www.brucehale.com)**