

Marty Chan **Author Visit Information**

Young adult author and playwright Marty Chan has been winning over division II students with his hilarious mystery series about a detective trio who get in trouble with parents, teachers and teenagers as they try to solve crime in the fictional town of Bouvier, Alberta. In *The Mystery of the Frozen Brains* (winner of the City of Edmonton Book Prize), young Marty suspects his parents are aliens from outer space and he must prevent what he believes is an alien invasion. *The Mystery of the Graffiti Ghoul* (winner of the Diamond Willow Award) pits Marty and his best friend Remi against a group of teen graffiti artists who like to hang out in the cemetery. In *The Mystery of the Mad Science Teacher*, Marty and Remi team up with Trina to smoke out a school thief, but they end up revealing their secret crushes.

Through personal anecdotes, author Marty Chan reveals the story behind the novels, which are set in a small Alberta town. He talks about the real-life inspirations behind the novels, proving to kids that their own lives can be the springboards for stories. In his writing workshops, he'll share his infamous "cheat code" with budding writers to give them an easy way to create conflict for their characters.

Although his presentations are geared to division II students, Marty has a theatre background and can also present to junior high and senior high students. His play, *The Bone House*, is guaranteed to hold the attention of even the most cynical teenager. Using improv exercises, he demonstrates how young writers can turn a simple scenario into an interesting story.

His division I presentations will show students how his picture book, *True Story*, came together. He'll show early sketches by illustrator Lorna Bennett, and he'll talk about the story's evolution from idea to book. He'll also invite students to participate in a story writing exercise to show how easy stories can be created.

Presentation Requirements

Author Visit: Marty will need a table and a bottle of water. He prefers audiences of about 100 in a library or music classroom, but can present to groups of 250 if there is a microphone. Marty advises that presentations go over better if the students are separated by division.

Writing Workshop: Marty will need a whiteboard and markers. Students will need paper and pencils. He prefers no more than 30 students in his workshops. Please note that the writing workshops are geared for grades 4 and higher. If you'd like him to tailor his workshop to cover a particular area of writing, he can accommodate most requests.

Writer-in-Residence: One day not enough? Try Marty Chan's one-week residency. He'll work with division II students over 4 sessions and division I students over 3 sessions. Using personal anecdotes, fun interactive demonstrations and writing exercises, he'll inspire students to write and revise their own stories. For more information about the residency, please contact Marty directly.

Book Sales

If students would like to purchase their own copy of Marty's books, he will send an order form in advance and autograph the books for each student. Please let Marty know in advance if you'd like to make his books available for purchase.

Speaking Fees

Please contact Marty directly for his current fees. Please send an email to martychan@shaw.ca or contact him at (780) 975-9292.