

# SCHOOL VISIT OPTIONS FOR MARGARET DILLOWAY'S

## MOMOTARO

Disney·HYPERION

"Xander is mixed-race, Japanese and white, an identity that is explored sensitively and forthrightly. A breathless retelling of the Japanese legend of Momotaro, this is an Asian version of Percy Jackson; adventure fans will be waiting for more."  
(Fantasy. 8-12)-- *Kirkus Reviews*



## About the Book:

*Momotaro* is a new series from Disney-Hyperion, inspired by the classic Japanese legend of the warrior boy who must defeat the monsters causing havoc in the human world. Xander Miyamoto, a half-Japanese middle schooler living in San Diego, prefers video games and hanging out with his best friend Peyton to any school work. But when his father mysteriously vanishes in a storm, Xander's grandmother lets him in on the biggest family secret ever—he's the Momotaro, and it's up to him to save the world. With Peyton and his dog in tow, Xander embarks on the adventure of a lifetime.

A universally appealing story that centers on strong friendships, the power of imagination, and valuing your own strengths, *Momotaro: Xander and the Lost Island of Monsters* is full of heart, fast-paced and fun, perfect for reluctant and experienced readers alike.

**Winner of the American Library Association's Honor Award for Asian/Pacific American Literature!**

## About the Author:



Margaret Dilloway is the internationally published author of three critically acclaimed women's fiction novels and a middle grade fantasy series. *The Care and Handling of Roses with Thorns* won the American Library Association's Literary Tastes Award for Best Women's Fiction. *How to Be an American Housewife* and *Sisters of Heart and Snow* deal with family secrets and biracial identity. She lives in San Diego with her husband, three kids, and a fluffy Goldendoodle named Gatsby, who co-stars in the *Momotaro* series.

Margaret has extensive teaching experience, including a stint teaching a creative writing elective to grades 6-8 at a public middle school. She can help tie her talks in with other lessons you're planning.

# School Visit Option Plans

## **MONSTERS AND LEGENDS**

45 minutes

Group size: Any

Grade Level: Any

Equipment: Projector for PowerPoint presentation.

- Discuss how I became a writer and how I came up with the idea for MOMOTARO.
- Slideshow about Japanese monsters in MOMOTARO vs. Japanese monsters in Western culture. For example, I use the kappa. The kappa is also the basis for Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.
- Discuss how we can use different elements from various backgrounds to inspire and create our own stories.
  - Encourage them to look into their own heritage. What monsters or legends from other cultures would they like to incorporate into their stories?
- Brief, exciting reading from the book.
- Questions, if time.

## **CHARACTER, CONFLICT, AND CHANGE: WRITING WORKSHOP**

60 minutes

Grades: Any, including high school.

Group size: Any

Equipment: White board or Promethean-type of projection board—anything I can write on so all can see.

- Discuss how I became a writer and how I came up with MOMOTARO.
- Explain how writing Momotaro was figuring out how to rewrite a legend, and how I did that through creating a character to relate to.
- Brief reading from the book demonstrating conflict.
- Workshop: Three Cs—Character, Conflict, and Change
  - Demonstrate this using the set-up from Momotaro
  - Brainstorm story ideas with kids using familiar characters they suggest (I ask for any characters, from novels, TV shows, comics, movies)
    - Add goals and setting

- Write a short, live story
- Invite the kids to write their own stories back in class

## **FALL SEVEN TIMES, GET UP EIGHT: BECOMING A WRITER**

45 minutes

Grade Level: Grades 3 and up

Group Size: Any

Equipment: Projector for PowerPoint.

Using exciting visual aids, take the students on a journey from being an extremely introverted, bullied young girl to a published writer in this motivational speech.

- Discuss the importance of rejection and rewriting.
- Using your background to discover your voice—the importance of specificity.
  - How every single person is unique, special, and worthwhile.
  - How I incorporate my relationships, experiences, and worldview into my work.
  - Using writing to entertain others and make sense of your own world.
- Questions and discussion.

## **DETAILS:**

### **PRICING:**

\$300/2 talks

\$600/full day (3 or more talks)

Out of area: \$1000 plus travel expenses

### **BOOKS:**

- I can set you up with a local bookseller
- Fliers will be provided (electronic and/or paper) so the students may pre-purchase books.
- There is no requirement for book purchase, however, students will enjoy getting their very own signed copy!

To book, email [dillowayschoolvisits@gmail.com](mailto:dillowayschoolvisits@gmail.com)