



LAWNTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend author Stephen Kozan as a guest speaker for upper elementary-high school aged students. I am an elementary librarian for Central Dauphin School District, and Stephen reached out to me at the beginning of the school year to come and present at my schools. I had to regretfully turn him down due to lack of funding for community speakers. Stephen graciously responded that he could visit my Title 1 schools free of charge, due to grant through his Student Author Movement. This wonderful program is funded by PPL Electric Utilities. This electric company is equipped with a wonderful outreach department. As a classroom teacher, I had them come (free of charge) to my school to teach the students about energy conservation. PPL provided each student with an energy kit, along with a small grant for classroom supplies. The financial support of Stephen's Student Author Movement is just another example of PPL Utilities commitment providing students with amazing opportunities outside the classroom.

Stephen visited Lawnton Elementary on September 26. Just having an author visit, the students weren't overly excited to sit through another presentation. I promised grades 3-5 that this would be more engaging than the other visitors, and it certainly didn't disappoint. Stephen had 90 percent of the students enthralled in the first five minutes of his presentation. The Insta-Art had all the students at the edge of their seats, and by the time Stephen reached the Flash Fiction, even the most reluctant writers were jotting something down.

The fact that Stephen is providing an opportunity for one aspiring author from each school visit to publish a book is unbelievable. The afternoon of the presentation, I heard students talking about their story ideas, and hoping they would be selected as a finalist. Again, these were not the students who are considered wordsmiths and walking around with journals-these were the "I hate everything about writing" crowd. Stephen Kozan brings an animated, engaging and entertaining presentation to your school, and leaves behind an energy and enthusiasm which encourages students to let their creative juices flow.

Erika Strout
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