

Book Sales FAQ Sheet

1. Do we have to sell your books if we are hosting you at our school?

No, you certainly don't have to, but if you had booked me through the Disney/Hyperion or Viking Children's Books scheduler, you would see the language on their contracts asking your school to make a good faith effort to both sell and display the book for the students to see. If I'm going to take a day off from writing, my publisher very much hopes a school will sell some books.

2. Why would we want to sell books?

It can be magical for a student to own a book that is autographed by an author, particularly an author they've met or seen. If you want to engender excitement and love for reading in students who might not be booklovers, this is one GREAT way to go about it. My Neptune and Skyriders books so are so compulsively readable, they get non-readers reading. I can't tell you how many emails I get from grateful parents telling me that TNP is the first "big book" their child has ever read.

3. How do I or my PTA go about selling your books?

You can go to the school visit section of my website at <http://www.pollyholyoake.com/workshops-school-visits.php> where you will find a book order form you can download and modify to suit your school and pricing. You probably want to book talk THE NEPTUNE PPROJECT and SKYRIDERS to your students six weeks (my website has lots of great pics in Nere's Gallery and there are two Neptune book trailers now) before I visit and then send out the order form right after that to parents. Then, you want to collect those forms back with payment within two weeks of my visit so your bookseller has time to order the books and get them to you in time. Getting the forms back takes some nagging and nudging through all school communication channels. IF you have the budget to carry the cost of 10-15 extra books, I PROMISE you will be able to sell those books in the week after I visit, and I'm always happy to leave my hosting librarian with signed bookplates for those books. After the students see my assembly, many of them will want to read more about kids who live in the sea and can talk to dolphins, or about kids who ride skysteeds.

4. Where can we get your books?

You can preorder copies of my Neptune books from the Hachette Book Group. If you are a new customer with Hachette, you can call their customer service at 1-800-759-0190 or email: order.desk@hbgusa.com. If you are hosting me for a school visit and want to order copies of SKYRIDERS, you can contact Andrea Cruise at

penguinschoolvisits@gmail.com, and she can give you a 40% discount. Often your local Barnes and Noble will be delighted to help with book sales, or your local independent bookseller, or your own library distributor.

5. Why don't you sell your own books?

My publishers don't allow their authors to sell books.

In Conclusion

I do realize hosting an author is a big job in itself, and adding book sales means even more work for the hosting librarian and his/her volunteers. But I will tell you that often the most meaningful part of my visit comes when I get to watch students walking away from the library clutching their very own signed copies of my books. I'm amazed by how often even students with limited means end up finding a way to buy books that they will treasure and read again and again for years to come.