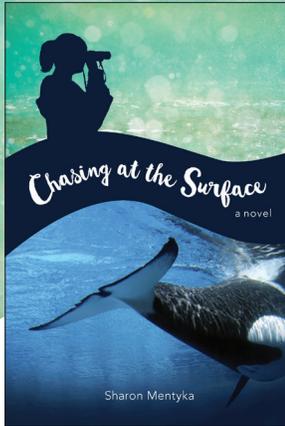


# School visits and workshops with author Sharon Mentyka



*"A wonderful book that weaves an exciting and mysterious story about families and whales."*

~Susan Berta, Cofounder, Orca Network

## Chasing at the Surface

Middle grade fiction, ages 8-12

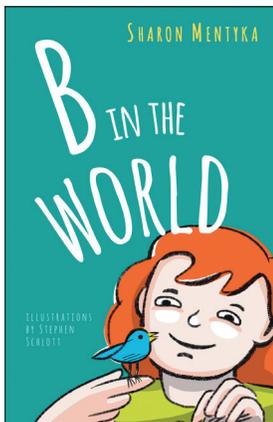
A twelve-year-old girl struggles to help free a pod of trapped orca whales, leading her to a new understanding of the assaults humans have had on nature and the complicated meaning of family and home.

**Story themes and related curricula:** courage, forgiveness, adoption, personal responsibility, environmental issues, NW history, natural science of killer whales, habitat conservation



## I LOVE VISITING SCHOOLS!

Sharing my books and talking to students about story-making and writing is one of my favorite things to do as a writer. I have a genuine rapport with students of all ages, and can change the complexity and style of my presentations to best suit the needs of each audience, at schools, libraries, conferences, workshops, and bookstores. A full school assembly can often be followed up with extra workshop time with individual grades.



*"A great book for the middle primary reader...that explores themes of inclusion and difference in a fun and readable way."*

~Tracy Flynn, Welcoming Schools, HRC Foundation

## B in the World

Chapter book, ages 5-8

A seven-year old boy faces challenges and bullying because he sometimes likes to wear flannel shirts and overalls and other days wakes up wishing he could play games and dress up just like his sister.

**Story themes and related curricula:** school friendships, empathy, non-traditional families, social justice, anti-bullying, gender diversity, gender fluidity

**Sharon** is a children's writer, designer and educator, with an MFA in from the Whidbey Writers Workshop. Her stories grow from small kernels of truth that explore common themes: fairness (or unfairness), transitions and helping the less powerful find their voice. An active member of SCBWI-Western Washington, Sharon also tutors and teaches writing workshops to middle and high school students.

For more information or to contact Sharon:

**e:** [sharon@sharonmentyka.com](mailto:sharon@sharonmentyka.com) **t:** (206) 251-2498

**w:** [www.SharonMentyka.com](http://www.SharonMentyka.com)

**f:** [/sharonmentykawriter](https://www.facebook.com/sharonmentykawriter) **t:** [@WriterSharon](https://twitter.com/WriterSharon)

## CURRENT PRESENTATIONS

### The Tail Behind the Tale: How the Story of a Pod of Trapped Orcas Became a Children's Book

Grade level: 1-6 (50 minutes)

Kids often wonder how writers get the ideas for their stories. Sharon will take your students on a journey, showing how writers—and kids—can use ordinary events they know and learn in real life and turn them into extraordinary stories. Students will also get a behind-the-scenes peek at how a story turns into a physical book.

### Write What You Know, Even When You Don't Know It Yet

Grades 4-6 (50 minutes)

People will sometimes tell you to only write about things you know. But sometimes admitting what you don't know is the first step to learning what you really care about. This presentation and writing workshop encourages students to not only write what they know, but gives them tools to research and explore ways to build the confidence to write about things they want to learn—and maybe even change!

### Is That Me — or You?

Grades 1-3 or Grades 4-6 (30-50 minutes)

What would it be like if one day you woke up, looked in the mirror and saw somebody else? In this fun writing workshop, students role-play what it would feel like, inside and out, being that "other" person. Using one of a writer's most important tools—show, don't tell—students learn how sensory details enliven writing, and gain a good dose of empathy along the way.