

Subj: **Your presentation here at our school...**

Hi, Mr. Soentpiet

Thank you for the outstanding presentation you gave at our school this week. (Tuesday 3/28.) We have had many "Artist-in-Residence" here at our school. Some of them have been world renown, such as Alike and Stephen Kellogg. Your presentation, though, was by far the BEST that I have ever seen.

All of what you showed the children was so professionally done. As an adult I was very impressed by the care and amount of time and preparation it takes you to do the illustrations. Not all illustrators use models or photographs, etc., to get the "right" look.

To me, it is so amazing that someone as young as you are could not only be so talented, but also so professionally astute as to the caliber of the "show" you give the children. It is obvious that your art is your calling, but you also have another gift in that you relate so well to the children. You showed them that it takes much hard work along with your talent to do such a great job on your illustrations. I liked how you told them that after all that preparation work you used your "imagination." That is something that I know I will use myself in trying to guide the little ones through the difficult process of writing. (It is difficult for some of them ...)

I liked how your presentation also was geared for the adults in the audience. Showing us the idea of thumbnail sketches and the concept of the story board were very helpful in thinking through my own ideas for presentations I as an adult might make some time in the future.

As a teacher my main concern in all we/I do is the image that the individual child has of him/her self. It was such a generous and touching thing that you shared with the students your life and about how/when you were afraid, and how different the Korean and American cultures are (when you explained about your "new" American family at the airport.)

Beside this outstanding talent that you have for your illustrations, and the completeness of your presentation, the best thing that you offered our children (& others you are reaching in your many presentations,) is the caring and sensitivity that you have for kids. It was so clear listening to you and then having a chance to speak with you for a short time afterward that you have a unique and special talent far beyond your artwork and skill as a professional presenter.

I think & hope that perhaps your talent may someday find itself onto an even broader audience, perhaps through some tv work on PBS, for example. A number of the most recognizable children's authors now have running shows on Channel 13 (Marc Brown, "Arthur" series; Joanna Cole's "Magic School Bus, etc.")

Thank you again for coming here and sharing your work. I belong to the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and have seen presentations by many of them and met a good number of my "idols," in this field. You definitely belong to this elite group and in ways exceed their talents. ~-Nancy Wesemann~-

Reading Teacher, Port Jefferson Elem.