



David would be happy to visit your school for a reading of THE MAGIC TICKET followed by a fun and meaningful writing exercise for students of all ages.

Before all presentations, students, teachers, and parents/caregivers are invited to watch the one-minute book trailer for THE MAGIC TICKET, created by the author's children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlQ-cqKD5Xo&t=2s>

David wrote *The Magic Ticket* because his baby sister's death when he was five profoundly changed him and his family; and his subsequent immersion into books in elementary school may have saved him. *The Magic Ticket* is his story, and its heroes are the teacher who provided him with all the books he could possibly read, along with the librarian who gave him his "magic ticket" to healing: his first library card.

For his visit to your school, David will give a reading of his book, followed by a writing exercise designed to help your students to write about any losses or difficulties they have been through. By providing your students with the fairy-tale structure of storytelling ("Once upon a time . . . Then, one day . . ."), he helps them to craft the beginning of their own story, and therefore to give them an artistic vehicle for their difficult experience, a way of making sense of it. Turning their friends or themselves into characters in their own story helps to provide context and structure to their experience, and allows them to empathize with themselves. It's a powerful, fun, and meaningful experience.



A school visit could take the form of individual class or grade visits, a school assembly, or an after-school visit with students and their parents/guardians, with a maximum of three events.

Because of its subject matter and its depiction of a boy learning how to process his grief, the [Eluna Network](#) has endorsed *The Magic Ticket* and is partnering with its publisher, Fulcrum Books, to provide grief counseling resources in the back of the book, and to provide grief counselors when/where available at David's appearances to assist children and adults in processing the story. If you agree that this would be a good idea, David would work with you to make such an arrangement.

A reading of *The Magic Ticket* takes only 10-15 minutes. A reading followed by the writing exercise would require a 40-50 minute school period.

As a longtime teacher, David has facilitated this kind of workshop many times, to children and adults, always with positive outcomes. Learning how to structure and comprehend their seemingly incomprehensible experiences and emotions by way of this tried-and-true formula is often a very moving experience, a major step in their lifelong healing and maturation process.

Workshop Proposal
David Hicks, PhD

“Once upon a time . . . then, one day”: Processing Loss or Difficulty Through Story

Hook: Learn how to tell a story about a difficult event of your life.

Description: Following a tried-and-true formula (“Once upon a time . . . Then, one day . . .”), children and/or parents will learn how to identify, begin, and structure their own story of loss or difficulty.

Format: This workshop may be offered at libraries, schools, or bookstores for 30, 40, or 50 minutes. For children, parents/guardians or a grief counselor may be present, depending on the children’s age.

Participants will learn . . .

- how to narrate an important event in their life
- how a simple story is structured
- how to describe themselves (as character)
- how to use their senses to describe setting
- the importance of small details

Required Materials: writing materials/device.

Audience: Children (age six and up) and/or adults

Instructor Bio: David Hicks, PhD is an award-winning professor and Creative Writing Director at the nationally ranked Wilkes University MFA graduate program. He is the author of two novels--WHITE PLAINS (Bower House Books) and THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO DANNY (forthcoming, Vine Leaves Press)—and an autobiographical children’s book, THE MAGIC TICKET (Fulcrum Books, 2024), all of which were drafted using the format taught in this workshop.

SCHOOL VISIT
David Hicks, Author of THE MAGIC TICKET
Agreement

Date/s of event:

Name of School:

School Contact Person (include cell #):

School address:

Arrival time (or start time for virtual visit):

Sessions (40 – 50 mins each): start & end time, grade/s, number of students

1)

2)

3)

Requested preparation:

1) The library should have a copy of THE MAGIC TICKET on its shelves:

(<https://www.fulcrumbooks.com/preorder>). (David will donate if there is no book budget.)

2) Before David's visit, grades K-6 should watch the book trailer so that they know the book is about a sad event. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlQ-cqKD5Xo&t=2s>

3) AV needs: white/black board /easel with paper + markers; computer projection for big rooms

4) Students should take home a book order form so that they have the opportunity to order a book before or after David's visit. (David can provide such a form if needed.) David would be glad to sign books for students and teachers while at school.

Cancellation policy: visits cancelled for any reason will be rescheduled; if flights need to be re-booked, the school will pay the fee.

Honorarium (to be paid at end of visit): \$250 per grade presentation (limited two grades per presentation) or \$750 for school assembly presentation. (Small groups recommended since there is a writing exercise.) Also (if applicable) mileage, overnight accommodations, meals, airfare, and local transportation, redeemable post-visit.

Other details:

Signed:  (electronic signature)

Signed: (on behalf of the school)