

Ruth Spiro

Children's Book Author & Freelance Writer

Writing

Ruth never imagined she'd be a writer - until she tried it. Now she writes books for children, including the award-winning **Lester Fizz, Bubble-Gum Artist**. Her articles and essays have been published in *CHILD*, *Disney's FamilyFun*, *The Writer*, and *Chicago Parent*. Ruth's stories have also been included in popular anthologies, notably **The Right Words at the Right Time**, edited by Marlo Thomas, and several **Chicken Soup for the Soul** titles.

Speaking

Students are surprised to hear that as a writer, Ruth trolls the beach for seashells and story ideas, and also plays with toys so she can write reviews about them! Because of her wide range of publishing experience, Ruth is uniquely qualified to discuss the many "jobs" a writer can have. Her presentations combine a real-life example of the writing process with a discussion of creativity, individuality, and artistic expression.



Ruth's previous appearances include the Chicago Tribune Printer's Row Book Fair, Millennium Park Family Fun Festival, Illinois Young Authors Conference, Illinois Art Education Association, Illinois School Library Media Association and the VA Festival of the Book.

She has presented programs and writing workshops for students of all ages, and also developed the Writing for Moms™ program.

Background

Ruth graduated with a B.S. in Communications from the University of Illinois and worked for advertising agencies in both account management and broadcast production. She earned an MBA from Loyola University of Chicago, and coordinated several large-scale research studies, including a grant from the National Institutes of Health. Ruth has attended the Highlights Writer's Workshop at Chautauqua and the Iowa Summer Writer's Workshop. Her writing has earned awards from Writer's Digest magazine, Willamette Writers, Half-Price Books, and Byline Magazine.

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