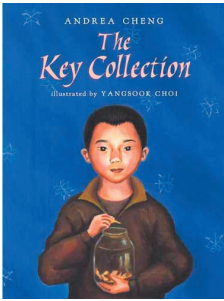
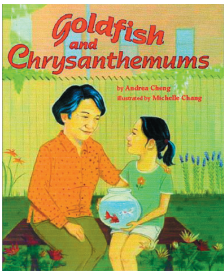


An interactive discussion which invites students to get an inside view of the writing process.



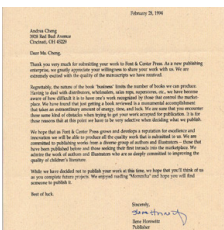
## IDEAS

Using a Power Point presentation, I show students scenes from my life and how they correspond to scenes in the books. I also bring objects which serve as prompts for my stories. For example, I bring the real key collection which inspired me to write THE KEY COLLECTION. I ask students to share ways in which they generate ideas. This shows students that writing is not a “magical” process; the best results happen when you write about what you know.



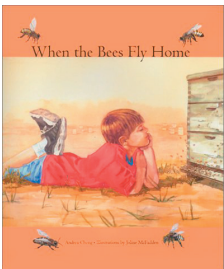
## PROCESS

I show students what is involved in editing a manuscript. I taped together eleven drafts of GOLDFISH AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS to give children an idea of how many times I revise a manuscript before sending it to a publisher. For older readers, (6th and up) I bring four complete revisions of MARIKA. This shows students that even professional writers use the steps in the writing process.



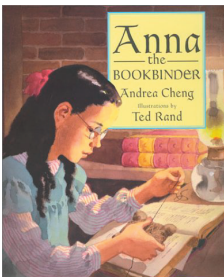
## PERSISTENCE

I have a large stack of rejection letters which I share with the students. Some are form rejections and others are “good” rejection letters. Students can see that getting a manuscript published requires persistence. This lesson can be applied to most any pursuit.



## PUBLICATION

I discuss the relationship between illustrator, writer, and editor. I also show students a single printed sheet from WHEN THE BEES FLY HOME and explain how it is folded, cut and stitched into a book.



## CONTACT

**Website:** <http://www.andreacheng.com>

**Student preparation:** For detailed ideas about preparing students for an author visit, please see “Preparing Students for an Author Visit” available under the visits section of my website.

**Equipment needed:** LCD projector and screen.

**Book signings:** I am happy to sign books if they have been purchased by the students, but I do not bring books to sell. Books can be purchased through local bookstores or directly from the publishers. For a sample book order form to send home with students, please see the one available on the visits section of my website.

**Fee:** The fee will vary depending on the number of presentations and travel costs.

**Contact/Questions:** If you have questions or would like to discuss the presentation, please feel free to contact me via the contact page on my website.