

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS FOR GRADES 3-8

- From Blank Page to Printed Page—
an Author's Journey
- Creating Cool Characters We Care About
- The Art of the Sandwich:
Developing Constructive Critiquing Skills
- Good Writers are Good REwriters

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- Book Group Visits
- Fun Family Events
- Author reading

OTHER EVENTS

- Book Fair Appearances
- After School Programs
- Author-In-Residence Programs

* Cost is negotiable depending on time, distance
and available funding.

For more information or to book a program

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FRONT STREET

An imprint of Boyd Mills Press, Inc.
frontstreetbooks.com
877-512-8366

214 pages • 5 1/2 x 8 1/4
Ages 9 to 12 • Fiction
Hardcover with jacket
978-1-59078-516-4 • \$16.95



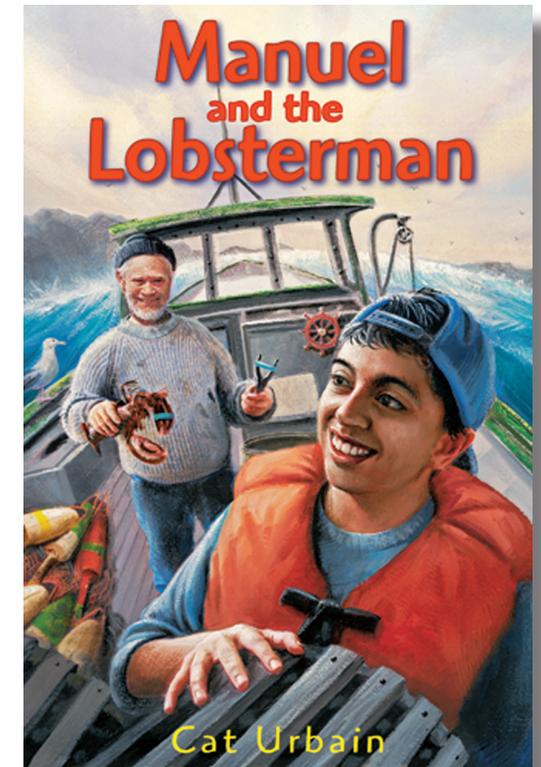
In addition to writing children's stories, Cat Urbain writes grants for non-profit organizations, including the Hole in the Wall Camps for children with serious illnesses. She also teaches creative writing to middle school students. In her past life she taught dance at an art school in southern France and at a boarding school in the Adirondacks; she worked as a researcher for Channel Thirteen/WNET and Scholastic, served as Director of the Connecticut Storytelling Center and she made several trips to Nicaragua to produce a videotape, *The Children Want Peace*. Cat fell in love with children's books while working at Weston Woods Studios, where her job was to watch "Where the Wild Things Are", over and over.

Cat spent a year in Rockport, Maine working at an international film school where she ate lobster once a week and came up with a question—what would a Hispanic kid from New Haven do in a place like Rockport?

Her middle grade novel, *Manuel and the Lobsterman* was released in November, 2008 by Front Street, a division of Boyd's Mills Press. Her short story, *Mississippi Chameleon* was a finalist in the 2002 Tassy Walden Awards. She also has had several articles published in *Milford Living Magazine*. Cat has a master's degree in art education from Wesleyan University.

Meet Cat Urbain

author of
Manuel and the Lobsterman



Presentations for
Classrooms, Libraries,
and Community Events

Milford novelist aims at young readers

By FRANK JULIANO, Staff writer
Article Launched: 10/31/2008 10:28:37 PM EDT



MILFORD — Catherine “Cat” Urbain’s first novel is a potboiler, and not because lobsters figure into the plot. Her 200-page book “Manuel and the Lobsterman” is aimed at middle school-aged boys —and girls—who may be reluctant to read something that long.

“The coolest thing about this book is that it engages [young readers] with lots of action and a fast-paced story,” said Meg Greene of Milford, a writer herself and the parent of middle-schoolers. “To hold their interest you have to keep the story moving and Cat does that. She’s also plugged in to the way that kids that age think; it’s very hip and up-to-date.”

There is a familiar, yet multicultural setting to the book, published by Front Street Books. Manuel lives in the Fair Haven section of New Haven, and the “Q” Bridge and other area points of interest show up and there are several lines of dialogue in Spanish.

The teenage hero is befriended by a lobsterman and during the course of the story falls off a boat, repairs a motorcycle and does other “boy-type things,” the author said. “I would read sections to my daughter and she enjoyed it, too. It’s an adventure story, a real page-turner.”



“Middle grade readers will be drawn into this lighthearted adventure story”
— KIRKUS REVIEWS