

NEW JERSEY

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Children's book author captivates young audiences.

By Joanne Boc

Belvidere, NJ / Daryl Cobb is a children's book author with 8 books currently in print. Popular selections include the "Bill the Bat" series, 3 fun books featuring a goofy bat fully equipped with a sonar headset and aerial goggles. Bill is the featured character in Mr. Cobb's

educational show "Teaching Through Creative Arts."

Having had the opportunity to see Mr. Cobb's performance at Belvidere's Third Street School recently, I would describe his show as exciting, interesting, entertaining, captivating, inspiring and fun. These are words that came to mind while watching Mr. Cobb's 60 minute performance for the school's kindergarten through third graders.

With children of my own whose attention span lasts no more than six seconds, I found it hard to believe that 200 children ages 5-9 were sitting still and paying attention to a program on writing. But this is more than a program on writing. It includes a visually stimulating Power Point presentation that Mr. Cobb uses to weave his way through information, live music, story telling, readers theater and interactive writing segments.

Mr. Cobb's interactive writing segment was so much fun to watch and listen to that even I got caught up in the moment as he challenged the students to use descriptive words to build clear characters and events in a story. Their story went something like this: "The big yellow cat jumped onto the kitchen counter, knocking dad's Christmas dinner onto the floor. The very hairy dog, who was sleeping in the corner of the kitchen in a brown pillow bed, was now awake and eating dad's very rare Christmas steak as dad watched soccer on the big screen TV in the family room while eating chips and salsa." Of course, there is a lot more to this story, and I just wouldn't feel right giving away the surprise ending. But, suffice to say that "Teaching Through Creative Arts" is a wonderful educational show that teaches, entertains and inspires children to be creative.

'RITHMETIC, READING AND ESPECIALLY WRITING

EXPRESS-TIMES PHOTO / BILL ADAMS

Author Daryl K. Cobb, a Bethlehem Township, NJ resident, speaks with students Friday at the Third Street Elementary School in Belvidere about writing their own books. Cobb writes books in the "Bill the Bat" Series.



EXPRESS-TIMES PHOTO / BILL ADAMS

Students listen Friday as Daryl Cobb speaks about writing during an assembly. The Belvidere Public Schools Parent-Teacher Organization arranged the author's visit.