



Natasha Tripplett, MSW

Speaker and Children's

Book Author

Speaker Deck



An author who writes from a tree house...



SHORT BIO:

Natasha lives in Northern California where she writes from a tree house perched in a sycamore tree. Natasha is a Jamaican-Jewish American author who is passionate about cultural representation in children's literature. She bubbles with excitement over antiques, chocolate, coffee on the front porch, and cozy movie nights in front of the fireplace with her husband and four children.

LONG BIO:

Natasha, a Jewish-Jamaican American author, lives in Northern California where she writes from a tree house perched in a sycamore tree. As a baby, Natasha was adopted into a Dutch, Christian family. Growing up on Vancouver Island in Canada, Natasha was acutely aware that she was different from her family; this did not keep her from integrating all the pieces of her identity. Natasha's multicultural background has allowed her to flow seamlessly through different cultures while bridging gaps that typically divide people. Natasha has her masters degree in social work and practiced in the field of adoptions. She has counseled families, adoptees, and children in foster care. Natasha desires to help adoptees and those in foster care integrate their identity into one cohesive narrative. She has been published in various online magazines. Natasha is represented by Caryn Wiseman of Andrea Brown Literary Agency and has picture books with HarperCollins, Chronicle and WaterBrook. Natasha bubbles with excitement over antiques, chocolate, coffee on the front porch, and cozy movie nights in front of the fireplace with her husband and four children.



Product Details:

Publisher:

HarperCollins

Publication Date:

February 6, 2024

Length: 40 pages

ISBN: 978-

0063159877

Grades: PK-3rd

Ages: 4-8

A charming story about a young girl who loves fixing automobiles with her grandfather on the warm grounds of Jamaica, Natasha Tripplett's debut picture book is a perfect pick for fans of My Papi Has a Motorcycle and The Old Truck.

Ju-Girl's favorite days are the ones spent with Granddad in his garage, fixing cars and hearing stories about his old blue pickup. Granddad used to drive the blue pickup all over the island, bringing happiness to many. And now it just sits in the driveway. One day, Ju-Girl asks Granddad if he'd ever fix it, and he's unsure at first. But the pair soon finds out just what it takes to restore the memory of the blue pickup and to create new stories along the way. This heartwarming layered tale, brought to life with lush illustrations by Monica Mikai (Thank a Farmer), reminds us about the joy of repairing things with our hands and preserving stories with our hearts.

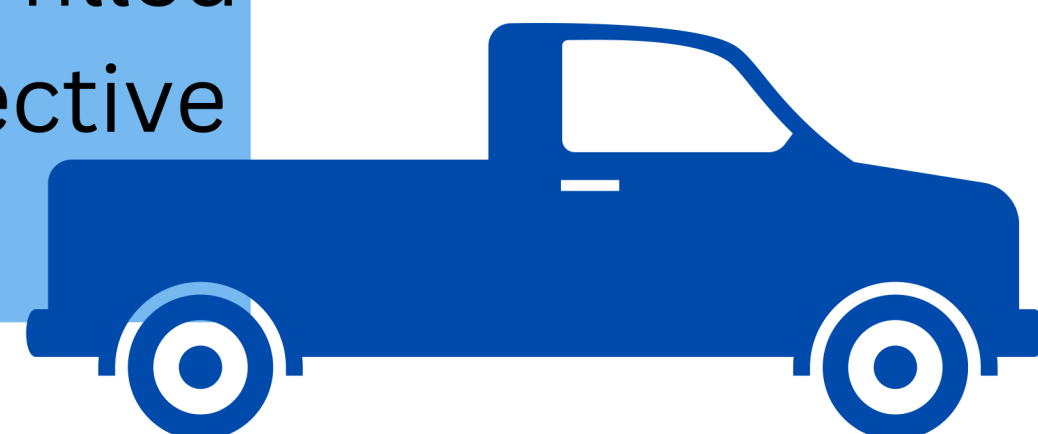
REVIEWS OF ‘THE BLUE PICKUP

A little girl teaches her mechanic grandfather “the importance of taking care of old and forgotten things.”

In the garage, Ju-Girl works hard to help Granddad fix cars for their Jamaican community. The two take a break to sip Ting on the bed of Granddad’s pickup truck. As Granddad tells stories of his younger self, Ju-Girl learns how Blue Pickup connects her to the history of her community—Granddad drove Blue Pickup to deliver everything from newspapers to Jamaican calico cloth. But Ting time and daydreams must come to an end, because there’s work to be done and cars to be fixed. Still, Ju-Girl believes Blue Pickup can be restored to its former glory, perhaps with just an oil swap, new brakes, and a new battery—all of which she’s learned to recognize from dutifully assisting her granddad. Convinced, Granddad does all the fixes short of checking the oil, saving that for the excited little girl, who has the savvy of a veteran mechanic. As the two cruise around town, taking in the history and present of their vibrant neighborhood and picking up a socket set specifically for Ju-Girl, readers are left with the sense that all can be fixed with the right tools...and taking time out for Ting. Lively, richly saturated illustrations bring to life Ju-Girl’s beloved community, while the simple yet vivid text, filled with sensory descriptions, captures a child’s perspective perfectly.



A love letter to hard work and shared legacy.



More BLUE PICKUP Reviews

A love letter to hard work and shared legacy. —
Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

A vibrant celebration of intergenerational connection, community, and the joy of a spin around the neighborhood, this cheerful picture book also has a sweet message about holding tight to old items and traditions, recognizing that everyday wear and tear (of both things and people) means a life well lived. — **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

[A]n affectionate intergenerational story about “the importance of taking care of old and forgotten things” as well as learning “just the right tools” to move forward. — **Publishers Weekly**

In Tripplett's charming debut picture book, [this] warm intergenerational friendship shows that a purposeful partnership can revitalize treasured memories as well as machines. — **Booklist**



Product Details:

Publisher:

Chronicle Books

Publication Date:

April 9, 2024

Length: 40 pages

ISBN: 978-

1797216805

Grades: K-3rd

Ages: 5-8

**CELEBRATES BLACK JOY! REMEMBERING A LEGACY!
BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY!**

An intimate look at Juneteenth, this story is a warm exploration of a family and a community.

Juneteenth is the smell of brisket filling the air. Juneteenth is the sounds of music, dancing, and cheering ringing from the parade outside. It is love. It is prayer. It is friends and relatives coming together to commemorate freedom, hope for tomorrow, and one another. This book is an ode to the history of the Black community in the United States, a tribute to Black joy, and a portrait of familial love. With poignant text and vivid illustrations, Juneteenth Is offers a window and a mirror for readers, resonating with kids who will see themselves reflected in its pages and those who hope to understand experiences beyond their own.

JUNETEENTH IS Reviews

“This story offers a poignant and deeply meaningful look at the holiday through the eyes of one extended family. Tripplett’s text is a heartfelt ode to the holiday... O’Brien’s smooth, emotion-packed illustrations are the perfect counterpart, uplifting the text and sharing a story of their own.”

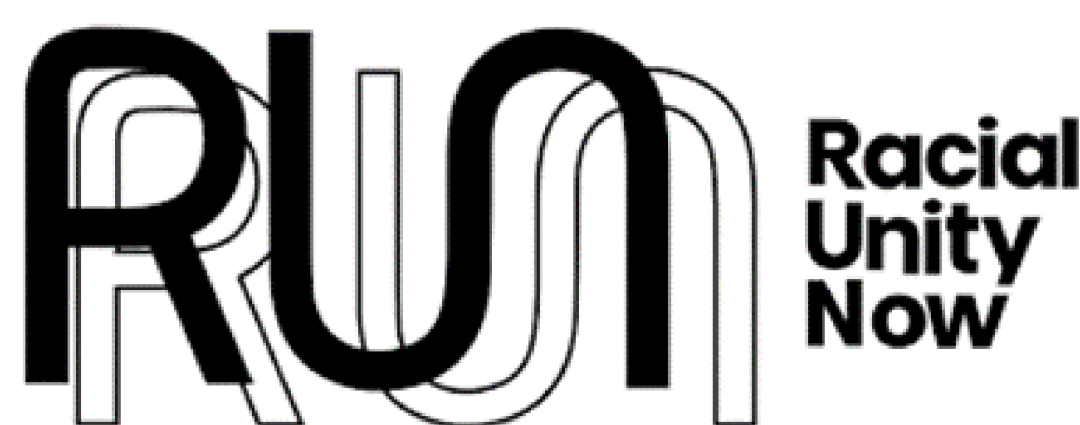
— **School Library Journal**

“[A]n inclusive portrait of a close-knit contemporary community in conversation with history’s resonances.” —**Publishers Weekly**

“This story strikes a balance between the celebratory aspects of the holiday and its historical origins. The strength of family and the power of community come through clearly.” —

Kirkus Reviews

Organizations I have worked with:



*San Francisco
Public Library*



SPRING LAKE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Author School Visits



Read Aloud, Q&A, and Book Signing

This interactive presentation gets students excited about reading, writing, and illustrating. Students have the opportunity to ask questions about writing and the publication process.

Writer's Workshop

In the Writer's Workshop, students are guided through fun exercises that help them formulate story ideas, build characters, and develop juicy plots. Expect a lot of laughter and enthusiasm for writing.



Read Aloud, Thematic Presentation, and Book Signing

Using the distinct themes in the books, this presentation challenges students to view the world and their environment in new ways. It empowers students to see opportunities where they can make a difference.

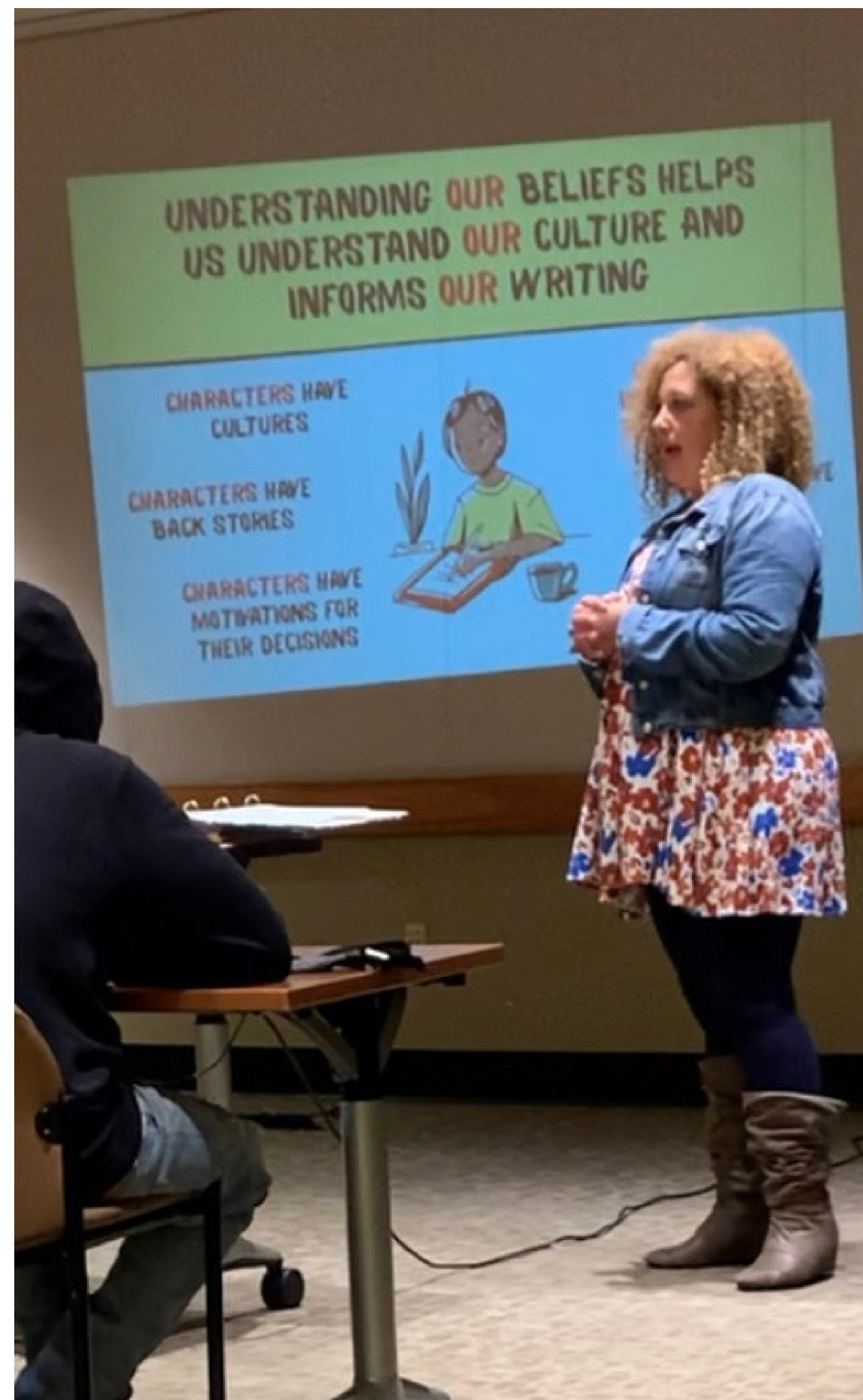
Speaker Topics and Workshops

Cross-racially Adopted

Speaker details her experiences from being cross-racially adopted, to becoming an adoption social worker, to connecting with her biological families. She details her reunion experiences, including the difficulties in seeing herself through the lens of race. **Ideal participants include: Upper Elementary Students, Middle School Students, High School Students, College Students, Marketing Professionals, Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Conference Participants, Adoption Professionals, Adoption Parent Groups.**

How to use Picture Books to Connect with your Adopted Child.

Adoption can be a really confusing experience for a child. Many of them have big feelings that date back to before they had words to express their feelings. Learn how picture books can open up dialogue and create lasting bonds of trust. Participants will leave with a list of preferred picture books. **Ideal participants include: Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Conference Participants, Adoption Professionals, Adoption Parent Groups.**



Speaker Topics and Workshops

Cont.



Why Diverse Representation in Books Matters

Speaker shares her life experiences growing up in spaces where no one looked like her. She speaks about feeling isolated and living with self-doubt. Using a discussion-format, speaker guides participants and helps them understand how to show up authentically despite fear and isolation. Participants will leave with a list of diverse children's books.

Ideal participants include: High School Students, College Students, Marketing Professionals, Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Conference Participants, Team Building, Fundraising Professionals.

Writing Your Culture

This inclusive workshop helps participants to define culture, identify their own, and use a combination of lived experiences, memories, and exercises to enrich their writing with cultural details. Participants will be coached on how to identify overlooked cultural aspects in stories that they read. This important skill will give participants an advantage when connecting with others and sharing/understanding core beliefs.

Ideal participants include: High School Students, College Students, Marketing Professionals, Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Conference Participants, Team Building, Fundraising Professional.

Speaker Topics and Workshops

Cont.

Making the Most with Metaphors and Similes

Tired of writing cliches? Learn how to utilize literary devices to make your writing sing. Workshop will provide examples and lead participants in writing exercises that add emotion to the page. Learn how to give your writing the lyricism it craves. **Ideal participants include: Upper Elementary Students, Middle School Students, High School Students, College Students, Marketing Professionals, Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Writing Conferences, Team Building, Fundraising Professionals.**

Grammar Refresher

This fun and interactive workshop guides participants through basic grammar lessons. No question is too elementary. Many adults have forgotten the things they learned in school. That is okay. This workshop is perfect for those who want to empower themselves or their employees to feel confident when drafting emails or creating presentations. **Ideal participants include: College Students, Marketing Professionals, Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Corporate Conferences, Team Building, Fundraising Professionals.**

Adding Emotion to Writing

It is essential for readers to feel connected to characters and stories. Learn how to infuse your writing with emotions that incite empathy. By getting the reader to feel something about what is written, they will feel invested in your story, characters, and/or cause. This keeps them reading or may even encourage them to partner with your organization. **Ideal participants include: Upper Elementary Students, Middle School Students, High School Students, College Students, Marketing Professionals, Non-profit Organizations, For-profit Organizations, Churches, Conference Participants, Team Building, Fundraising Professionals.**

“Client Testimonials”

Natasha Tripplett's debut picture book, *The Blue Pickup*, is a heartwarming and smile-inducing love letter to grandparents and grandkids. The protagonist - a girl! So great to see! - loves working on the truck with her grandpa. Readers will learn about the author's early life in Jamaica and will enjoy watching the intergenerational activities. As a presenter at storytime, Natasha was a PRO! Engaging and perfectly paced, she brought the audience (of all ages) along for the ride in the pickup. What a delight! We look forward to Natasha's future books! - **Susan Reckers, Children's Book Specialist, Rakestraw Books**

“ Client Testimonials ”

Working with Natasha Tripplett for our library visit was an absolute delight. She had a fantastic rapport with the classes visiting our library and the kids were captivated by her engaging presentation. When a wonderful book is shared by someone who is so generous with their time and talents, well, it really doesn't get any better than that. -

Natasha North, Children's Librarian, Solano County Library

Thank you so much for a fantastic author visit and engaging presentation! The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed your presentation. Your visit truly enriched the learning experience for our students at

Sylvia Mendez. - **Gaddy Reyes, Library Media Specialist, Sylvia Mendez Elementary School**

Let's Connect!

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****Please contact me for speaker fees****