Appearances by Author, Phillip Hoose

National Book Award-winning author Phillip Hoose speaks to children and adults at schools, libraries and community organizations. Sample presentations are listed below.

Presentations & Books

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and The Churchill Club
(School Library Journal Best Book of the Year)
Audience: Grade 5 - Adult

A PowerPoint presentation, drawing from the images in The Boys Who Challenged Hitler, presents the true account of the Danish teens who dared to fight the Nazi War machine, and their energizing effect on the Danish Resistance during World War II. A 30-minute presentation of images from the book is narrated by Phillip Hoose. The presentation is followed by a question and answer discussion centering upon the importance and impact of individual actions. Were the Churchill Club members reckless or heroic or both? What would you do?

An Educator’s Guide is available for this title.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95
(The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor)
Audience: Grade 5 - Adult

B95 can feel it: a stirring in his bones and feathers. It’s time. Today is the day he will once again cast himself into the air, spiral upward into the clouds, and bank into the wind.

He wears a black band on his lower right leg and an orange flag on his upper left, bearing the laser inscription B95. Scientists call him the Moonbird because, in the course of his astoundingly long lifetime, this gritty, four-ounce marathoner has flown the distance to the moon—and halfway back.

B95 is a robin-sized shorebird, a red knot of the subspecies rufa. Each February he joins a flock that lifts off from Tierra del Fuego, headed for breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic, nine thousand miles away. Late in the summer, he begins the return journey.

B95 can fly for days without eating or sleeping, but eventually he must descend to refuel and rest. However, recent changes at ancient refueling stations along his migratory circuit—changes caused mostly by human activity—have reduced the food available and made it harder for the birds to reach. And so, since 1995, when B95 was first captured and banded, the worldwide rufa population has collapsed by nearly 80 percent. Most perish somewhere along the great hemispheric circuit, but the Moonbird wings on. He has been seen as recently as May 2012, which makes him nearly twenty years old.
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Shaking their heads, scientists ask themselves: How can this one bird make it year after year when so many others fall?

Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice
(National Book Award Winner)
Audience: Grade 5 - Adult

On March 2, 1955, an impassioned teenager, fed up with the daily injustices of Jim Crow segregation, refused to give her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Instead of being celebrated as Rosa Parks would be just nine months later, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned by her classmates and dismissed by community leaders.

Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in Browder v. Gayle, the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of Montgomery and swept away the legal underpinnings of the Jim Crow South.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice is based on extensive interviews with Claudette Colvin and many others, Phillip Hoose presents the first in-depth account of an important yet largely unknown civil rights figure, skillfully weaving her dramatic story into the fabric of the historic Montgomery bus boycott and court case that would change the course of American history.

A PowerPoint presentation, drawing from the images in the book, presents Claudette Colvin’s acts of courage and their impact on history. This leads to a discussion about individual responsibility and the impact of a single action.

An Educator’s Guide is available for this title.

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird
(Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Winner, Non Fiction)
Audience: Grade 4 - Adult

The Race To Save the Lord God Bird is about the tragedy of extinction, told through the decline of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. The book and the PowerPoint presentation focuses on the people who studied it, documented it's ecology, shot it, stuffed it, tried to preserve its habitat, cut its habitat down, grieved it, and who won't let the hope die that it continues to exist somewhere. Highlights of this presentation include film of the bird taken at close range in 1934 and controversial 2004 images of an Ivory-bill-like bird flying away from the camera in an Arkansas swamp. The presentation leads to discussion about extinction and the value of a given species.
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*Hey, Little Ant*
(Jane Adams Honor Book)
**Audience: Preschool - Grade 3**
The picture book, *Hey, Little Ant* began as a song. For presentations for Preschoolers to Third Graders, Phil Hoose sings the story with students, discusses it, and often acts out the two roles in the book/song. As the book is published in ten languages, Phil will often invite the audience to read the book together in another language.

The story of how the song became a book is always told at presentations. That story always includes the empowering fact that the book’s co-author was Phil’s then 8-year-old daughter.

Because the book ends with a question, "What do you think that kid should do?" it leaves the reader to decide the fate of the characters. Phil uses the question to generate a discussion about what living creatures have in common. In these discussions, Phil does not offer an opinion, rather encourages a vigorous and thoughtful exchange of ideas.

Often presentations end with additional interactive singing.

An Educator’s Guide is available for this title.

*We Were There, Too!: Young People in U.S. History*
(National Book Award Finalist)
**Audience: Grade 3 – Grade 12**

*We Were There, Too!: Young People in U.S. History* is a collection of the stories of young people living, working, causing change, or just being children at different points in our nation's history. The PowerPoint presentation demonstrates how children have contributed enormously to our national story and how each child’s actions can affect outcomes and history. The presentation leads to discussion about historical and social changes and individual responsibility.

An Educator’s Guide is available for this title.
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Presentation Details

School Visit Fee: Phil Hoose’s fee is $2000 per day. A school’s needs can always be negotiated.

Travel & Accommodations: Phil Hoose requires all airfare, hotel, rental car, and meals to be covered by the school or organization. While Phil appreciates the offer to stay in homes or at a local B&B, he requires a hotel with a gym instead. If Phil drives to an event, he requires reimbursement at $.50 per mile for the round trip.

School Visit Preferences: Phil Hoose prefers to keep school presentations to no more than three a day. Phil prefers not to do assemblies. He believes the smaller the school group, the better the experience for the students. He also prefers that grades and book discussions be grouped so he is not switching from one book to another each period.

AV Requirements: Phil should have a hands-free microphone. (When he is singing in a large room, a microphone for his guitar is also useful.) For PowerPoint presentations, Phil requires a computer with DVD capacity, a digital projector, and a remote to forward PowerPoint slides.

Booking Agent: Contact Phillip Hoose at hoose@gwi.net.

Book Sales: Phillip Hoose can provide book order sheets for events. Books should be ordered by the school or institution through Random House (for Hey, Little Ant) (800) 733-3000 or through Macmillan (for all other titles) 888-330-8477. Phil will, of course, sign books.

Book List

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and The Churchill Club
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Distributed by Macmillan)

Awards & Accolades:
“Hoose employs a format similar to that of his award-winning Claudette Colvin (BCCB 2/09), serving here as Knud Pedersen’s interviewer and editor, and supplying segues and insets while allowing Pedersen’s voice to carry the narrative. What an edge-of-your-seat narrative it is—and even more compelling for teen readers, who are the same age as the real-life protagonists.”
—The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, starred review

“This account of a little-known resistance movement in which Danish adolescents stood up to their Nazi occupiers is an outstanding addition to
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the WWII canon…Hoose brilliantly weaves Pedersen’s own words into the larger narrative of Denmark’s stormy social and political wartime climate, showing how the astonishing bravery of otherwise ordinary Danish teens started something extraordinary.”
—Horn Book, starred review

“The book is well organized, effectively integrating Pedersen’s vivid descriptions of his group’s motives, determination, and sometimes foolhardy bravery within the larger narrative, which includes information about Denmark, the war, and the boys’ families and lives. Sidebars, detailed maps, and period photos supplement the text. Often reading like a thriller, this title puts a human face on the often-overlooked Danish Resistance….VERDICT A captivating work that will appeal to many readers.”
—School Library Journal, starred review

“…Their story is one of bravery in the face of constant danger and of increasingly meaningful acts of sabotage, including stealing weapons and destroying important German assets. How long, the reader wonders, will they be able to elude capture? That question and others are answered in this tale of remarkable bravery and determination. Told in both the author’s voice and that of Knud Pedersen himself (the latter culled from 25 hours of interviews and nearly 1,000 e-mail exchanges), this has a compelling immediacy that is enhanced by a generous collection of black-and-white period photographs. An important and unforgettable book that adds a significant chapter to the history of WWII.”
—Booklist, starred review

“…As he did in Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice (2009), Hoose tells this largely unknown story with passion and clarity, providing exactly the right background information to contextualize events for readers. He makes excellent use of his extensive interviews with Pedersen, quoting him at length and expertly interweaving his words into the narrative to bring it alive. A superbly told, remarkable true story and an excellent addition to stories of civilian resistance in World War II.”
—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

“Hoose vividly recounts the true story of the courageous and brazen teens who inspired the Danish resistance movement in WWII…this gripping story quickly gathers momentum, and the shifts between narrators flow smoothly…bibliography and source notes conclude this inspiring account.”
—Publisher’s Weekly, starred review

- The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor
- The Boston Globe-Horn Book NonFiction Honor Winner
- School Library Journal Best Book of the Year
- Kirkus Reviews 10 Teen Books You Can’t Miss This Summer 2015
- Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year and Best Teen Book of the Year
- Booklist Editor’s Choice
- New York Public Library Notable Book
- New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice
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- YALSA 2016 Nonfiction Award Nominations
- Scholastic TAB Top 5 Buzz-worthy

*Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95*
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Distributed by Macmillan)

**Awards & Accolades:**
"Putting an actual beaked face to the problem of animal endangerment makes the story of the species’ peril all the more compelling, and only the truly hard of heart could resist cheering for B95 to make it through one more trip.”
—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, starred review

"Even for his species, B95 is extraordinary—“one of the world’s premier athletes”—but Hoose’s fascinating account concerns much more than this one bird. In lucid, graceful prose, Hoose details the red knots’ characteristics and strategies, sampling far-flung challenges to their survival…Glorious full-page color photographs alternate with excellent smaller photos…”
—*Horn Book*, starred review

“Meticulously researched and told with inspiring prose and stirring images, this is a gripping, triumphant story of science and survival.”
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“Readers will appreciate Hoose’s thorough approach in contextualizing this amazing, itinerant creature that was last spotted in 2011..”
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“…beautifully written and meticulously researched…Sure to be one of the most well-received information books of the year, and deservedly so…”
—*Booklist*, starred review

- The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor
- Green Earth Book Award
- Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students 2013
- YALSA Excellence in Non-Fiction Award Finalist
- Science Magazine’s Science Books & Films Children’s Prize Finalist
- Kirkus Review’s Best Teen Books of 2012
- Horn Book’s Best Children’s and YA books of the Year 2012
- School Library Journal Best Books 2012
- Library Journal Best Books 2012 for Young Adults
- Booklist Best Books of 2012
- Los Angeles Public Library Best of 2012: Children’s Books
- Parent’s Choice Gold Winner
- Junior Library Guild Selection
- Cybils Finalist for Non-Fiction for Tweens & Teens
- Blue Ribbon from The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books
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Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Distributed by Macmillan)

Awards & Accolades:
“This inspiring title shows the incredible difference that a single young person can make.” —Booklist, starred review

“Inspiring.” —Kirkus Reviews

“Outstanding.” —School Library Journal, starred review

“Hoose reasserts her [Claudette Colvin] place in history with this vivid and dramatic account, complemented with photographs, sidebars, and liberal excerpts from interviews conducted with Colvin.” —The Horn Book, starred review

“Smoothly weaves excerpts from Hoose’s extensive interviews with Colvin and his own supplementary commentary.” —Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, starred review

“Phil Hoose’s profile of the remarkable Claudette Colvin is MUST reading for anyone still imbued with hope. She is a lighthouse in a stormy sea.” —Studs Terkel, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of The Good War

“Hoose’s book, based in part on interviews with Colvin and people who knew her -finally gives her the credit she deserves.” —The New York Times Book Review

“This fresh look at a well-documented period in American history will appeal to readers from young teens to adults.” —VOYA

“Hoose encourages teens to empathize with an age peer, once dismissed as too ‘emotional’ to withstand public scrutiny, who later testified in the federal lawsuit that would finally end discrimination on public transportation.” —Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, starred review

“Hoose’s evenhanded account investigates Colvin’s motives and influences, and carefully establishes the historical context so that readers can appreciate both Colvin’s maturity and bravery and the boycott leadership’s pragmatism.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

- Winner of the National Book Award
- Winner Newbery Honor Book
- Robert F. Sibert Award Honor
- YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist
- Jane Addams Children’s Book Award, Honor
- ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- ALSC Notable Children’s Book
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The Race to Save the Lord God Bird
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Distributed by Macmillan)

Awards & Accolades:
"There is probably more passion, sadness, villainy, heroism and sheer suspense in this account of the decline of the ivory-billed woodpecker than in any other book, of any genre, destined for young readers’ shelves this year...a magnificent book, and not just for kids." --Washington Post Book World

"What a wonderful book! How we got into a biodiversity crisis and how we might begin to get out of it, all captured in the suspenseful, many-threaded tale of the race to save the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Everyone interested in conservation and ecology will be enthralled and informed." --Daniel Simberloff, Past President, American Society of Naturalists

- Boston Globe-Horn Book Award (winner, non-fiction)
- American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults (Unanimous Choice, Top Ten Books of 2004)
- Lupine Award (winner)
- Orbis Pictus Award (honor book)
- Flora Stieglitz Straus Award (winner)
- Parent’s Choice Gold Award (Best Non-fiction book of 2004)
- Best Science Trade Book of 2004 for Students K-12

We Were There, Too!: Young People in US History
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Distributed by Macmillan)

Awards & Accolades:
“This may be the most exhilarating and revelatory history of our country. It is the heroism of the young, hitherto unwritten, often told in their own words, from a teenager sailing with Columbus to a kid with AIDS. Phil Hoose has done a remarkable piece of detective work. It is MUST reading for today’s youth—as well as their elders.” —Studs Terkel

“An extraordinary book--wonderfully readable, inspiring to young and old alike, and unique. I know of nothing like it. Readers will find both enjoyment and enlightenment, learning about episodes in American history they were never taught in school. It is time that the young were given their due in the national story, and Phillip Hoose does it with prodigious research and delightful style”
—Howard Zinn, author of A People’s History of the United States
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- Finalist--National Book Award, 2001
- Selected, a Publisher’s Weekly Best Book of the year 2001
- Named, Booklist, Editor’s Choice 2001

**Hey, Little Ant**
Co-authored by Hannah Hoose, Illustrated by Debbie Tilley
Publisher: Tricycle Press

**Awards & Accolades:**
"A masterpiece for classroom guidance...a terrific tool for fostering tolerance and respect for diversity in children of all ages." —Teaching Tolerance Magazine

"What a great book! Phil Hoose and his daughter Hannah are carrying on the tradition of Dr. Seuss" —Pete Seeger

"Hey, Little Ant is the perfect tool to help inspire compassion in our world's youth, and has a positive message for grown-ups, too! Please share this book and its lessons with your family today." —Dr. Jane Goodall

- Currently in ninth hardcover printing; over 100,000 copies sold
- Available worldwide in eight languages
- Scholastic Book Clubs, Trumpet Club featured book
- A PBS Reading Rainbow book.
- Reprinted in *Crayola Kids Magazine*, reaching more than 550,000 readers.
- Named, Honor book, 1999 Jane Addams Award, recognizing “books that most effectively promote the cause of peace, social change and world community.”
- Finalist, North Carolina Children’s Book of the Year (2000-2001)
- Nominated, Golden Sower Award (2001-2), Nebraska Library Association
- Nominated, Children’s Book Award (2002-2), Florida Reading Association

**Perfect, Once Removed: When Baseball Was All the World to Me**
Publisher: Walker & Company

**Awards & Accolades:**
"*Perfect, Once Removed* is not so much about the magic of that golden afternoon in Yankee Stadium as it is the magic of baseball when the game wraps itself around a boy's soul..” —John Carney, *The Boston Globe*

"Thank goodness Phillip Hoose didn't listen to Casey Stengel's advice to never become a writer.” —Tim Kurkjian, ESPN's "Baseball Tonight."
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"(Perfect Once Removed) is like a large slice of delicious lemon meringue pie delivered at a small town Indiana church supper. ...I loved it because, like baseball, it is about failure and ultimate redemption." —Fay Vincent, former Major League Baseball Commissioner

- Ten best sports books of 2007, Booklist
- Five sports books worth reading, 2007—Time Magazine

It's Our World, Too!: Young People Who Are Making A Difference
Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Distributed by Macmillan)

Awards & Accolades:
“A clearheaded, good-hearted guide to help young people empower themselves”
—Gloria Steinem

“This absorbing and energizing book deserves shelf space in every classroom and library.” —Publishers Weekly, Starred Review

- Winner, 1993 Christopher Award for “artistic excellence in films, books and television specials affirming the highest values of the human spirit.”
- New York City Public Library a "Book For the Teen Age."
- American Library Association Notable Book.
- 1994 Lupine Award Honor Book (Given to a new work for young readers by a Maine author that "makes the world more beautiful").
- Chapters appear in English and Spanish in more than thirty school textbooks and middle school readers. Examples include Prentice-Hall’s Timeless Voices, Timeless Trends, Scott Foresman’s Literature and Integrated Studies, and Oxford University Press’s On Common Ground.