

Crystal Chan Presentation Topics

A presentation can also be designed for your needs.
Please contact Crystal for rates and availability.

Letting your real self *shine*

It wasn't easy growing up as a mixed-race kid in the middle of Wisconsin. Despite obstacles of race, culture, and family expectations, Crystal found the courage to write from her heart and follow her dreams. She talks about dealing with loss, finding inner strength, and infusing your art with life experiences. She also touches on the importance of research and ends with a jaw-dropping example that will inspire kids of all ages to use the power of their voice. (Audience: Grades 3-8)

When There's No Box To Check: Falling in the Racial Cracks, Multiracial Students, and Diversity

Crystal highlights the mixed-race experience in her novel *Bird*, which features a multi-racial girl and transracial adoptee. She discusses racial confusion in schools, society, and globally (the cover of *Bird* was whitewashed in the Netherlands) and explores ways to bolster confidence in multi-racial children. (Audience: Teachers/librarians/adults)

How To Break All the Rules and Still Get Published...in Ten Countries

Crystal shares the path to publication of her debut novel *Bird*, which includes getting fast-tracked to an agent, selling her debut on the first fifty pages of *Bird's* first draft, seeing the book sell in nine other countries, and somehow getting a movie star to read the audiobook. (Audience: Writers/adults)

Beyond being "unique": a mixed-race author in a monoracial world

Crystal talks about growing up mixed race and how she poured her experiences of racial "uniqueness" into her novel...and had 9 other countries around the world resonate with her very story. She shares the confusion and joy in the book industry that still swirls around those who don't fit into racial boxes. She explores the themes of hardship and loss, inner strength, and finding your voice. (Audience: Teens/adults)

Hey, they whitewashed my book! On race and diversity

What do you do when you create a mixed race character but an overseas publisher puts a white child on the cover? Crystal shares her experiences of race and diversity in the book industry in the U.S. as well as how different countries responded differently to the issue of race, as her novel, *Bird*, is published in nine other countries. She also explores how we can deepen the diversity conversation. (Audience: Teens/adults/writers)

The writer's journey: wandering the path of bedazzlement

Crystal explores the role of bedazzlement - the unique combination of wonder and confusion - in her writing journey, and infuses her presentation with personal stories and industry examples. She talks about the role of wonder in the writing process and gives tips on how to surrender to

the mystery of writing, where “letting go” is sometimes exactly the place you need to be.
(Audience: Teens/adults/writers)

***Bird* activity and writing workshop**

Got kids? Are you a kid at heart? Crystal Chan, author of the internationally-published, middle grade book *Bird*, will be conducting a special interactive workshop for kids and adults. We'll have the chance to talk about our life dreams, write poetry, and do some cool interactives based on events on the novel. Everyone will get the chance to design and take home a keepsake with personal meaning to them. (kids/teens/adults)