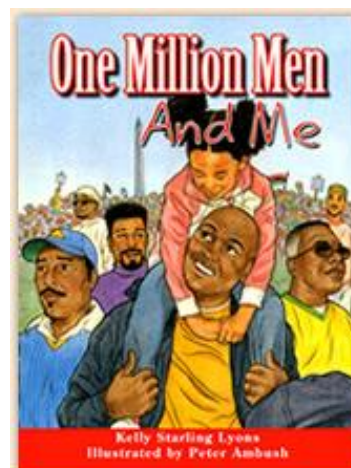
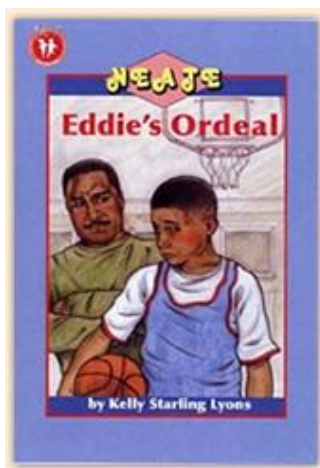


# Author Visits with Kelly Starling Lyons



Kelly Starling Lyons is a freelance writer and children's book author whose mission is to transform moments, memories and history into stories of discovery. Her books include **One Million Men and Me** (*Just Us Books*), a picture book that explores the Million Man March through the eyes of a girl who was with her daddy the day black men made history, and chapter book, **NEATE: Eddie's Ordeal** (*Just Us Books*). She has two forthcoming picture books with Penguin/G.P. Putnam's Sons. The first, **Ellen's Broom**, will debut in spring 2012.

## [One Million Men and Me](#)

*CCBC Choices 2008, Cooperative Children's Book Center's best-of-the-year list*

*2008 Bronze Moonbeam Book Award medal*

*Accelerated Reader and Scholastic Reading Counts! Title*

"Told from this young girl's viewpoint, beautifully illustrated with full-page, double-spread drawings, and accompanied by an Author's Note, this book will be an excellent choice when studying the Million Man March, black history, Washington, DC, or character education traits."

**InfoTech: The Advisory List, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Division**

"The tone is strongly inspirational, and Ambush's realistic double-page spreads, which make particularly good use of close-ups, portray the child and her daddy against the big scenes of the crowds "united and strong."

**Booklist**

"One Million Men and Me is a moving tribute to the Million Man March told through the shared experience of a father and daughter."

**Ebony Magazine**

## [NEATE: Eddie's Ordeal](#)

"The talk is casual and contemporary, and readers will like the family drama as well as the warmth among friends and realistic view of failure and success."

**Booklist**

"compelling and touching story of a father and son who are struggling to understand each other."

**Ebony Magazine**

"A moving and dramatic story about facing the challenges of coming of age, and the importance of family bonds."

**Midwest Book Review**



## **PROGRAMS OFFERED:**

### **Bringing Black History to Life**

How many times have you heard kids groan about history lessons? In this multimedia workshop, students get plugged in. Kelly shows a slideshow of images from the Million Man March and shares how that historic event inspired her picture book, ***One Million Men and Me***.

Then, she takes kids on an inspiring tour of her writing process from story idea to publication. She gives them a peek at her first draft, rejection letters, revisions and engages them in discussing why particular editorial decisions were made. The session ends with a freedom song, interactive reading and Q&A.

### **Finding Your Voice**

Kelly has dreamed of being an author since she was a child. In this workshop, she takes young people on her journey from writing poems in school to becoming a freelance writer and children's book author. Kelly talks about finding ideas, overcoming writer's block, writing a draft (includes a fun story prompt activity), revising stories and understanding publishing. She shares early drafts, rejection letters and more to give kids a peek into a published writer's world. Kelly leads students in a free writing exercise.

Then, she leaves them with a list of kid-friendly markets they can try.

### **Mine Your Life For Story Gold – A Writing Residency**

In this five-day residency, Kelly uses the analogy of panning for gold to teach students that moments and memories offer inspiration for personal narratives. Through writing and discussion, students learn how to infuse their stories with heart, meaning, cohesion, voice and sensory detail. Through lessons on revision, they gain skills in strengthening and polishing their stories and giving constructive feedback to peers. The last day features readings and a celebration of the story each has written.

## **TESTIMONIALS:**

*"Kelly Starling Lyons adapted her "Bringing Black History to Life" program for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Her presentation for each group was appropriate for the students and they were excited to meet a "real author!" Her style was relaxed enough that the students felt free to ask questions not only about the history presented, but also about the writing process and about authors. She was great with her interactions and openly honest in her answers to their questions. We were pleased to see how she wove the writing process into her program. Students could relate to her writing experiences. We would love to have her visit again!"*

**Beth Obenschain, Teacher Librarian, Leesville Road Elementary School**

*"We had a wonderful experience with Kelly Lyons at our Center. She was well-prepared and could read the audience and adjust her presentation according to the needs and interests of our students. She was very responsive when we were setting up her visit and willing to work with our schedule. We highly recommend her as a speaker to groups of any age."*

**Amy Cummings, Education Program Leader, Emily K Center**

*Rates are available upon request. Travel costs may apply to visits outside of the Raleigh-Durham area.*

**For more information or to book a visit, please visit [www.kellystarlinglyons.com](http://www.kellystarlinglyons.com)  
or send a note to [email@kellystarlinglyons.com](mailto:email@kellystarlinglyons.com).**