



Library Event Checklist & Media

David Cundy, author of *Animals Spell Love*

10 January 2020

1. Event name

***Animals Spell Love* family story-time and craft with author David Cundy**

See "About the Event" on page 3 below.

2. Number of participants

Up to 30 kids and family members is ideal. I can accommodate larger groups.

3. Age groups

- a. Kids, ages 5-12 (K-5). Kids must be letter-literate. The sweet spot is 2nd through 4th grades.
- b. Parents and grandparents. The entire family is welcome at my events. I've learned that grandparents are especially avid participants, since they frequently have grown up speaking languages other than English. I love events at libraries because libraries are extended family-oriented.

4. The event itself

- a. Ideally, library staff member introduces me, or I introduce myself.
- b. Introduction: I engage audience to learn what languages are represented in the audiences. I correlate that to the book.
- c. Interactive story-time ("**Meet the Animals!**"): I introduce the kids to the animals in the book, interactively walking them through the book. Younger kids like to touch the leopard's nose; everybody loves to make the "I love you" handsign in American Sign Language.
- d. Activity: I create an exemplary word-picture. I then hand out paper with pre-printed outline letters to the kids, and they create their own word-pictures with crayons provided by the library.
- e. Book signing: I sign books when provided.

5. Materials

Library provides crayons; I provide paper.

6. AV requirements

A wireless mike would be nice but isn't mandatory. No projector needed.

7. Physical room set-up

Ideally, open in front (I prefer to stand or sit; no podium preferred), chairs for parents and grandparents in the middle, and tables with chairs in back for the word-picture creation activity (floor is also fine). Table with chairs at side or back for bookseller (if present) and book signing.

8. Length of the event

30-45 minutes for younger groups or 45 minutes to 1 hour for older kids; flexible to meet your library's scheduling requirements.

9. Timing

I will be on premises 30 minutes before the event.

10. Photography and release form (entirely optional)

I shall be photographed at most events. Although do not include children in any photos, in the rare instance when a child creates a word-picture that I might wish to use for website or Facebook event documentation, I use a release form predicated upon prior parental and library approval. I am also happy to use the library's release form if it enables online use of photos.

11. Promotion

- a. Ideally, your library promotes the event through its newsletter, emails to patrons, and Facebook.
- b. Using my *Suggested Event Poster* is ideal (8 1/2 x 11" or 11 x 17" blank provided at http://davidcundyauthor.com/DCA_media.htm); a poster created by your library is fine.
- c. I promote the event through my website and *Animals Spell Love's* Facebook page.

12. Library links

- a. Non-English language books: I like to alert library patrons to non-English language books in the collection to encourage language learning. If your library has Dr. Seuss's *El gato ensombrerado* (*The Cat in the Hat* in Spanish), I shall be most grateful if you can set that aside for me to show.
- b. Inspirations: I like to tell kids and families about the children's books that inspired *Animals Spell Love*. If you have in your collection and can set aside *If I Were a Cricket*, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, *Pat the Bunny*, and/or *The Story of Ping* I shall be most grateful!

13. Fees and collection acquisition

There are two financial components to my events: 1) fee, or waiver, and 2) collection acquisition.

1. My event fee is \$100. I waive my fee if the Friends of the library buy 9 books (plus one for your collection [see 2 next], for a total of 10 books) for use at the event and post-event fund-raising.
2. In advance of the event, your library acquires *Animals Spell Love* for its children's book collection.

IMPORTANT! What librarians need to know about *Animals Spell Love* ;-)

Animals Spell Love is ostensibly a picture book about language. In fact, *Animals Spell Love* is a book with a socially affirmative agenda: to foster tolerance, to celebrate diversity, to show kids that there's more than one creative way of doing and looking at things, and to teach them to be kind to each other. *Animals Spell Love* thus hopes to contribute to kids' social development through mutual respect, cooperation, love of learning and healthy social attitudes. *Animals Spell Peace* is coming soon!

Additional background information may be found on the next page.

A. About the Event (recommended title and text)

***Animals Spell Love* family story-time and craft with author David Cundy**

In *Animals Spell Love*, gorgeously written and designed by David Cundy, sixteen critters from the farthest reaches of the animal kingdom help readers of all ages learn how to express the word in sixteen languages from around the globe, from Czech to Amharic to Korean, and even including American Sign Language. Come join David to meet his word-picture animals, learn how to say “I love you” in sixteen languages, and create your own word-pictures using the letters of the alphabet! David will sign books following this event.

B. About *Animals Spell Love*

Expressions of love have occurred throughout the ages in innumerable varieties. Sonnets, soliloquies, songs; ‘countless ways’ is the true answer to Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s question How do I love thee? Often, the simplest method is best, use the word itself: Love. In *Animals Spell Love*, gorgeously written and designed by David Cundy, sixteen critters from the farthest reaches of the animal kingdom help readers of all ages learn how to express the word in sixteen languages from around the globe, from Czech to Amharic to Korean, and even including American Sign Language. Children and adults will delight in the way Cundy shapes the letters into animals, and his brief primers, complete with pronunciation guide for every incarnation, will help readers appreciate, indulge in, and understand the languages of love.

All Ages; Hardcover; 40 Pages; 8 x 10.5"; 978-1-56792-586-9; \$15.95; Rights: World; Color Illustrations

Animals Spell Love’s page on publisher’s website: <http://www.godine.com/book/animals-spell-love/>

Official website: <http://www.davidcundyauthor.com>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Animals-Spell-Love-221479491623135/>

Official YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6Cl1BywRHg>

C. About David Cundy

Animals Spell Love is David Cundy’s debut children’s book, following his long career in the graphic arts and academia. David has designed type at Linotype in New York and with the renowned type designer Matthew Carter. His graphic design firm, Design Trust, has created identities and websites for many organizations, including the Brooklyn Museum, Columbia University, and the Parsons School of Design. David is a listed author of the Connecticut Center for the Book, and is a member of the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. He is a member of the board of directors of the Connecticut Poetry Society, has served on the board of directors of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, and has taught in Yale’s graduate graphic design program and in Fairfield University’s Communications program.

D. Media resources and contacts

http://davidcundyauthor.com/DCA_media.htm

This page contains photographs of David Cundy, images of the book’s cover and three spreads, and *Animals Spell Love*’s official YouTube trailer.

for David R. Godine, Publishers:

David Allender, Managing Director

David R. Godine, Publisher

15 Court Square, Suite 320

Boston, MA 02108

da@godine.com; 617-451-9600 ext. 25

for David Cundy, Author:

Diane Kebede, Publicist

djkebede@gmail.com; 515-943-3883