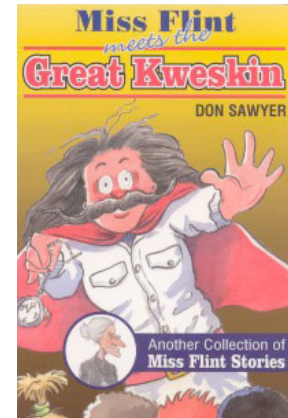
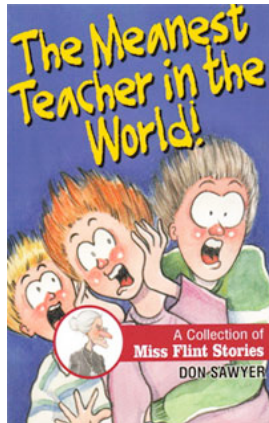


## A Virtual Author Reading in Your Classroom via Skype? You Bet!



You wouldn't think that kids would have a ball with *The Meanest Teacher in the World*, but it happens when the book's author, Don Sawyer, Skypes with the class. Don's books are fun on their own, but even more so when students can fire questions at him.

Michael Walkington, principal of Bessborough Drive Elementary School in Toronto wrote this last year about Don's presentation—and the first use of the Skyping technique in his school:

"What a great way to use technology to excite the students about learning. It encouraged and engaged the reluctant readers; it gave the learning a live event to look forward to and provided a forum to understand the author's intent and motivation. [...] It was a tremendous success with our learners of the 21st Century. I strongly recommend such an activity for a comprehensive reading program. [...]"

Virtual author readings are cost-effective, easily arranged, and fun. Don, a seasoned teacher, is able to engage learners in writing activities, enthuse young writers, and discuss the writing process clearly and entertainingly.

Mindy Gatt, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Toronto's Northlea Elementary & Middle School, had this to say:

"It was a fantastic experience—especially for those who have never used the technology. The kids love your stories. They really are truly laugh-out-loud funny!"

Don's virtual author tours usually last between 45 minutes and an hour, except when everyone has so much fun that he forgets to check the clock!

Library readings or classroom activities are perfect settings for Skype sessions. To book Don Sawyer for a Skype session, or for more information, contact Playfort Publishing:

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