

The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill

Author Dustin C. Kinard

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Award-Winning Author Helps Students Discover the Power of Imagination and Reading

Middle-grade fantasy author Dustin C. Kinard is bringing imaginative storytelling and literacy-focused author visits to schools, helping students connect reading, creativity, and emotional growth.

Kinard, author of *The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill*, works with students through assemblies and classroom workshops that explore how stories are built and why imagination matters. His programs support literacy goals while encouraging empathy, resilience, and creative thinking.

“Stories give kids a safe way to explore big emotions and brave choices,” said Kinard. “When students realize reading can feel like an adventure, everything changes.”

The *Hobart Mill* series is suitable for school and library settings and is comparable to classic portal fantasies such as *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, as well as mythology-based reading such as *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. Programs are aligned with English Language Arts and Social-Emotional Learning objectives.

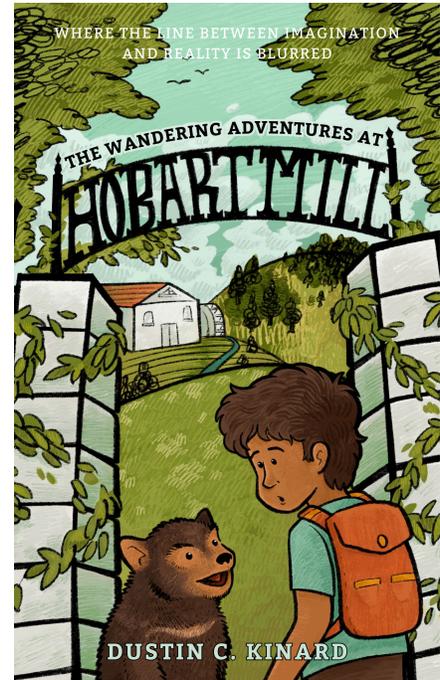
Kinard is available for school visits, literacy events, interviews, and community programs.

Target Grade Levels

Grades 3–6

Program Formats

- School-wide assembly (30–45 minutes)
- Half-day classroom rotations (2–3 sessions)
- Full literacy day (assembly + workshops)



Educational Objectives

Students will:

- Understand key elements of narrative structure (character, setting, conflict)
- Practice creative and reflective writing skills
- Develop empathy and emotional awareness through storytelling
- Strengthen imagination and problem-solving abilities

Standards Alignment (Summary)

- **English Language Arts:** Reading comprehension, narrative writing, theme analysis
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** Self-awareness, resilience, decision-making
- **Creative Thinking:** Visualization, idea generation, worldbuilding

Instructional Value

- Age-appropriate, curriculum-aligned content
- Supports literacy initiatives and SEL goals
- Adaptable for diverse learning needs
- Suitable for assemblies, classrooms, and enrichment days

Materials & Requirements

- No special equipment required beyond standard classroom or auditorium setup
- Optional student activity materials provided by the author

This program supports district goals for literacy engagement, creative expression, and social-emotional learning through age-appropriate literary enrichment.

For more information or to schedule an interview, visit dustinckinard.com.

**Award-Winning Middle-Grade Adventure/Fantasy Author
Dustin C. Kinard**



*Author of **The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill** and
The Unfortunate Return of Crimson Hobart*

Series Summary:

An 11-year-old boy named Malachi Halladay is relocated from New York City to Tasmania to live with his adventurous great-grandmother. In a solo effort to explore the Tasmanian forest near her beachfront home, Malachi finds an old abandoned mill located behind towering iron gates — the titular “Hobart Mill.” Once inside, he encounters otherworldly beings who, through a magical event, are transported — along with him — to a strange, foreign land where reality blurs with imagination. In that magical realm, legends, folklore, and mythology come to life. Malachi (along with his newfound friends) faces mythical creatures and surreal adventures, finds the courage to navigate dangers and mysteries, and becomes the leader needed to find a way back home.

Comparable Titles:

The *Hobart Mill* series is a middle-grade fantasy series that blends mystery, imagination, and emotional growth. It is comparable to classic portal fantasies such as *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, as well as mythology-based reading such as *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*.

In addition to writing, Dustin C. Kinard is a world traveler whose work is deeply inspired by his own adventures. Kinard is the **2025 Bronze Medal Winner of the Moonbeam Children’s Book Award in Pre-Teen** and the **International Impact Book Award in Pre-Teen - Fantasy and Adventure**.

For Information, visit www.dustinckinard.com

Dustin C. Kinard – Author Visit Agenda (Overview)

The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill

Grade Levels: 3–6 (adjustable)

Total Time: 60–75 minutes

Format: Interactive Assembly or Classroom Visit

1. Welcome & Introduction (5 minutes)

- Brief introduction by school staff.
Overview of the day’s experience.
Introduction to Dustin C. Kinard as an author and storyteller.

2. Meet the Author: The Story Behind the Story (10 minutes)

- How *The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill* was created.
Inspiration behind the characters, world, and themes.
Discussion of imagination, curiosity, and adventure.
Key Message: Stories begin with imagination—and anyone can be a storyteller.

3. Interactive Reading & Performance (15 minutes)

- Live reading of a selected passage from the book.
Dramatic storytelling and voice work.
Audience participation. (call-and-response, sound effects, or guided visualization)

4. World-Building & Creative Thinking Workshop (15 minutes)

- How authors create magical worlds.
Discussion of setting, characters, and conflict.
Short guided activity:
 - “Create Your Own Wandering Place.”
 - Students imagine or sketch a location from their own story world.

5. Writing, Reading & Real-World Connections (10 minutes)

- Why reading and writing matter beyond school.
Encouraging students to see themselves as creators.
Connecting themes from the book to:
 - Friendship

- Courage
- Exploration

6. Student Q&A (10 minutes)

- Open floor for student questions.
Discussion about:
 - Becoming an author
 - Favorite books
 - Overcoming challenges in writing

7. Closing & Next Steps (5 minutes)

- Final message of encouragement.
How students can continue reading and writing at home.
Optional:
 - Book signing
 - Classroom follow-up activity suggestions

Author Dustin C. Kinard's Post-Visit Classroom Activities

The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill



1. Reflection Writing

Have students respond to one of the following prompts:

- “What part of the author visit inspired you the most?”
- “What kind of story do you want to create?”
- “What did you learn about being an author?”

2. Creative Writing Extension

Activity: Create Your Own Wandering Place

- Students invent a setting for their own adventure
- Include:
 - Name of the place
 - Description of sights, sounds, and feelings
 - One problem or mystery

3. Art Integration

- Draw a scene inspired by the book or visit
- Design a book cover for their own story

Standards Connections

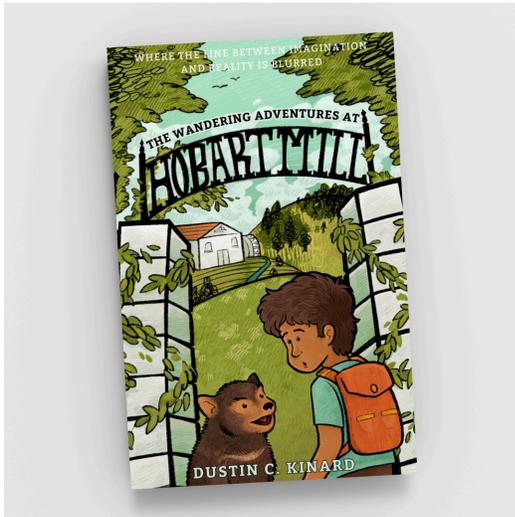
- English Language Arts (Reading & Writing)
- Speaking & Listening
- Creative Thinking
- Social-Emotional Learning

Materials Needed

- Paper and pencils
- Optional art supplies
- Copies of the book
- Projector or whiteboard for discussion

DUSTIN C. KINARD'S SCHOOL VISIT SPECIALS

ORDER FORM FOR BOOK SIGNINGS



The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill
Book One: Paperback _____
\$15.00 (Regularly \$15.95+tax)



The Unfortunate Return of Crimson Hobart
Book Two: Paperback _____
\$17.00 (Regularly \$17.95+tax)



Zeke Character Plush _____
\$10.00 (Regularly \$11.00+tax)



BEST DEAL
Paperback Book Bundle _____
 (Books One & Two)
\$30.00 (Regularly \$32.50+tax)

STUDENT NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME: _____

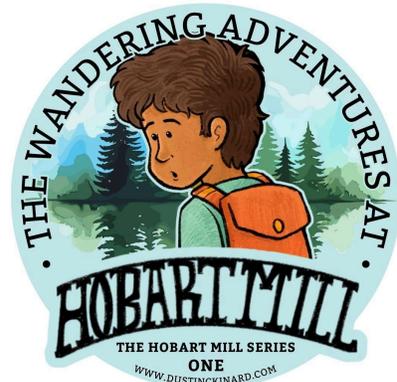
(OPTIONAL: AUTHOR NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP) PARENT NAME & EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT TOTAL: _____

PLEASE SEND BACK WITH **EXACT CASH**
OR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO "DUSTIN C. KINARD"

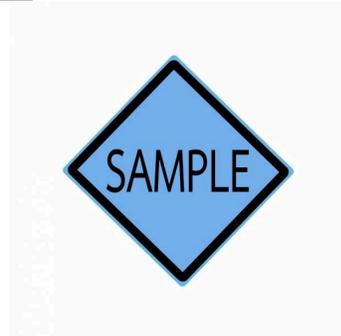
Dustin C. Kinard – School Visit Invoice
 Author of *The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill*

Email: info@dustinckinard.com
 Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX
 Website: www.dustinckinard.com



Invoice To:
School / Organization: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Invoice Details:
Invoice Number: 11111
Date of Issue: MM/DD/YYYY
Due Date: MM/DD/YYYY



(EXAMPLE) **School Visit Package**

Description	Date	Qty	Rate	Total
Author Visit <i>(The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill)</i>	MM/DD/YYYY	1	\$300	\$300
Book Signing / Meet & Greet	MM/DD/YYYY	1	\$X	\$X
<i>The Wandering Adventures at Hobart Mill</i> Paperback / Classroom Copies Discount	—	75	\$15	\$1,125
Travel / Mileage	—	—	\$X	\$X
Additional Materials / Handouts	—	—	\$X	\$X

Subtotal: \$1,425
Sales Tax: \$X
Total Due: \$1,425

Payment is due within **30 days** of the invoice date. Accepted Payment Methods: Check, PayPal, Venmo, Bank Transfer. Make checks payable to: Dustin C. Kinard. Please confirm visit details **2 weeks in advance**. Thank you for supporting literacy, imagination, and creativity in students!

