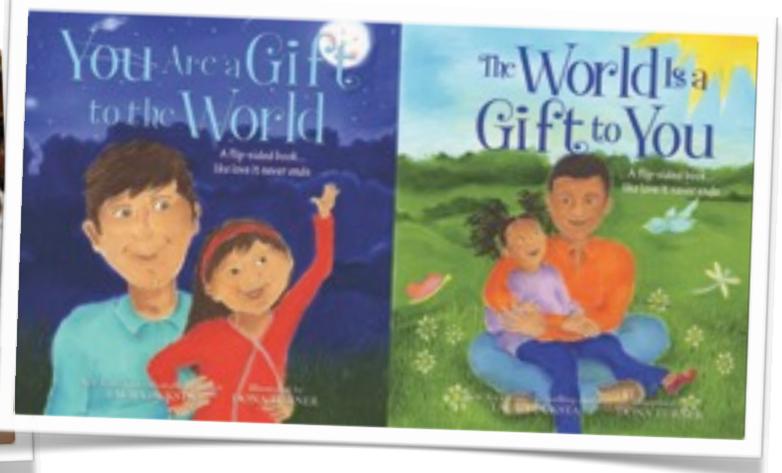
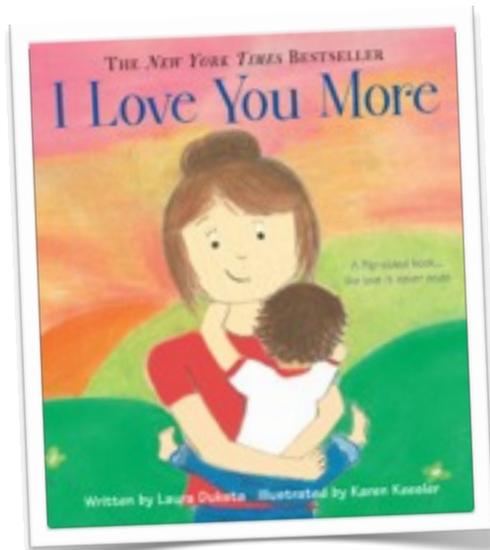


# Laura Duksta

*New York Times* Bestselling Author  
Ambassador of Love



*“When we shine our light, it makes our lives, our families, our schools, our cities, our states, our countries, and eventually the whole world a brighter place to live!”*

*I Shine, You Shine, We Shine...Star Shine!”*

Laura Duksta \* School and Community Visits \* 2013-2014

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# A Letter from Laura

Dear Educators, Administrators and Parents,

From a young age I knew I was meant to travel the world, meet my brothers and sisters and share the message of love. What I didn't know was that life would present me with a series of challenges through which I'd acquire an even greater sense of compassion, love and understanding for myself and others. At the age of 11 I lost all of my hair to a condition called Alopecia Areata. I went from being a happy-go-lucky kid to being miserable and introverted; afraid of what others would think or do if they knew I wore a wig. After 19 long years of trying to "be like everyone else" I finally set myself and my wigs free and harnessed the power that comes from "Being Yourself!" I believe this is one of the greatest lessons I share with the students in my program, and more than a lesson it's an actual experience they have from being with me. I tell the students, "by the end of our hour together you would think it was strange if I had hair."



I've come to believe that human beings, especially our children, have a vast amount of untapped potential. That our own unique talents and genius are brought forth through the power of love and appreciation, as well as dedication and determination. I don't believe it's up to us to figure out what each child's own innate genius is, though I believe creating a foundation of love and appreciation will help to awaken and nurture their own talents. The message of my books, *I Love You More* and *You Are a Gift to the World* help children to develop a sense of love and appreciation for themselves, one another and the planet.

In my program I highlight the editorial process, and share how our teachers, parents and coaches are working with us to help us get our best work possible. Our hour together is educational, entertaining and empowering! It's topped off with a spark of enthusiasm as I teach them some of my signature *Cheers!* My presentation serves an author visit and also supports your character enrichment programs.

It would be my pleasure to spend a day with your students this year! I look forward to hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions.

Keep Shining!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laura' followed by a star symbol.

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# *I Love You More*

Over 500,000 Copies Sold!

*Generating the conversation of love around the world...*



***I Love You More* is a story of love shared between a mother and child.** It's a flip-sided book, in that it starts from either side and reads to the middle—like love it never ends. *I Love You More* captures the magic and power of love in a rhyming, rhythmic text that children of all ages enjoy. It's sold over 500,000 copies, including a board book and versions in Korean, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish and Chinese (2014). *I Love You More* has been endorsed by two of the biggest hearts in publishing, Mark Victor Hansen and Jack Canfield, creators of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. ***I Love***

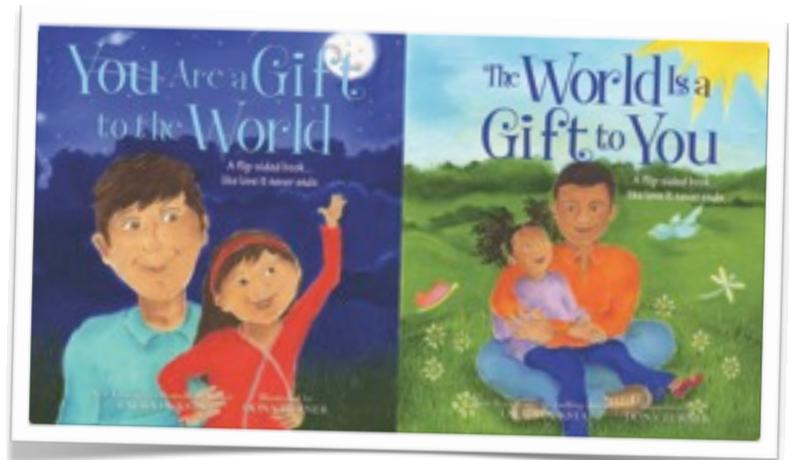
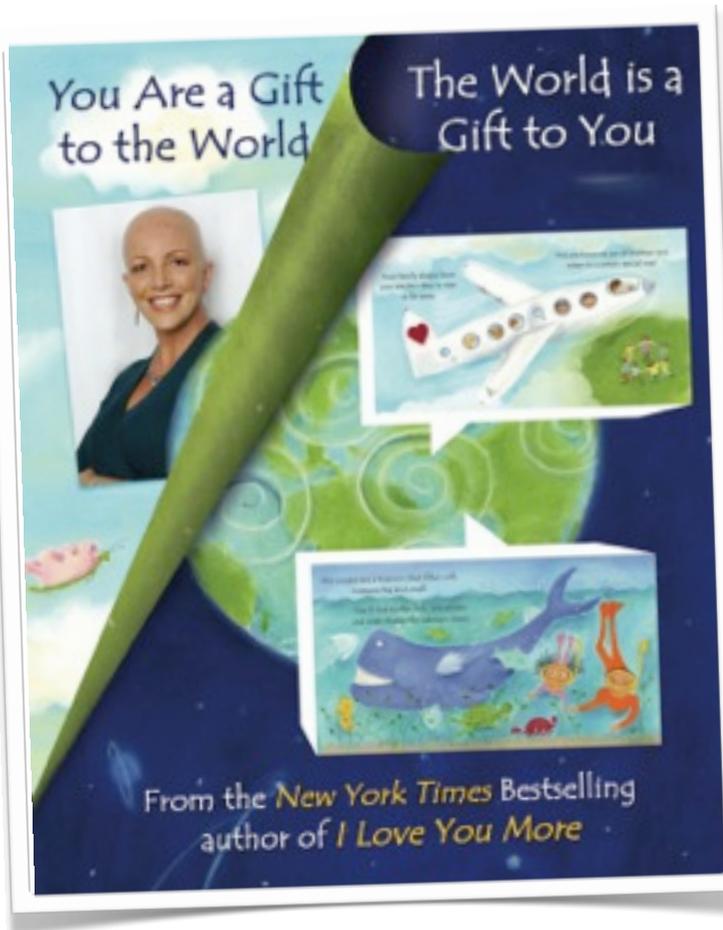
***You More* was written so that children, young and old, may know that no matter what's going on in their life or in the world around them, how truly loved they are.**

"The book was great! Me and my mom were reading *I Love You More* when my mom started crying! She was crying because it was **such a good book** and we always play that game to see who can come up with the very best reply!"—Lauren M, age 9

"I have been reading *I Love You More* and I wrote my book report about it. **I like it so much that I keep reading it.**"  
—Alec Endara, age 10

"Your book is the **best book on my book shelf**. I really liked it. Love is the most powerful thing in the world."  
— Max Zerbone, age 8

# You Are a Gift to the World



The conversation of love continues with another never-ending story from Laura Duksta.

The best and biggest gifts in life are neither bought nor sold. *You Are a Gift to the World* reminds us of the many ways that life itself is a continuous unwrapping of magical moments. Flip the book over and *The World is a Gift to You* shows how many of the biggest gifts are provided to us by the very planet we call home.

Parents, grandparents, children and teachers will enjoy finding even more ways that \*YOU\* and the WORLD are the most magnificent gifts of all.

This story is told using the characters of a father and daughter. No matter the family situation, every child deserves a nurturing and loving fatherly voice, if it exists this book expands it and if not this book gifts it!

*“Your family always loves you whether they’re near or far away. Did you know we are all brothers and sisters in a certain special way?”*

*So as you travel through life you see all the ways it’s true: You are a gift to the world and the world is a gift to you.”*



*We are honored to partner with Plant Trees 4 Life so we can  
Keep Breathing! Keep Reading! Keep Shining!*

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# Laura's Presentations...

## ***“Empowering \*YOU\* to Shine!”* Helps Students and Educators:**

- Raise Self-Esteem/Self-Worth
- Teach Compassion and Understanding for Ourselves and Others
- Understand Personal Experience of a Bestselling Author and Embrace the “Editing Process”
- Develop a Love for Reading and Writing
- Ignite Your Genius & Creativity and Inspire You to Take Action
- Build Confidence--Improve Test Taking Ability



**Call today to book Laura.  
Bring her in to brighten up your school,  
community or organization!**

- Author Visits/Character Enrichment
- Alopecia Areata Awareness
- Writers Groups/ Self-Publishing
- Women's and Church Groups
- Charitable Organizations & Events
- Teacher Work Days and Educator Seminars



## **Laura also speaks on:**

- Listening to Your Inner Wisdom
- Transforming Big Challenges into Bigger Blessings

Email now for pricing, details and availability:

[Laura@LauraDuksta.com](mailto:Laura@LauraDuksta.com)

or in the U.S. call 954.608.9119



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# Laura Duksta

**From a young age Laura knew she was meant to travel the world, meet her brothers and sisters and spread the message of love.** Who knew access to fulfilling on that vision would begin with the experience of losing all her hair at age 11 to a condition called Alopecia Areata. It took many years struggling to “be like everyone else” until she remembered to embrace the lesson we’ve all heard before; “Be Yourself!” On her 30th birthday, after 19 years of wearing wigs, she set her wigs and herself free and became “The Bald Chick”. Not long



before that she had found herself praying for her sister and nephew. As she did the idea for *I Love You More (ILYM)* flooded her heart and mind. It was an idea she knew she had to make happen—even though she had never aspired to be an author. With \$10,000 borrowed from her mother, she and illustrator Karen Keesler set out and self-published *ILYM* selling 179,000 copies. She later teamed up with Sourcebooks’ Jabberwocky imprint who helped land *I Love You More* on the *New York Times* Bestsellers List for 3 weeks!

Laura’s been featured on local TV and in dozens of magazine and newspapers including USA Today, as 1 of 10 people under 40 making a difference in South Florida by Boca Magazine, the Sun-Sentinel, Miami Herald, Epregnancy, Parent’s Magazine (buyer’s guide), as well as on 100’s of blogs and radio programs! Her second book, *You Are a Gift to the World (flip) The World is a Gift to You*, arrived April 2011. She continues to fulfill on her mission of spreading the message of love by presenting her lauded programs at schools, festivals, women’s groups, churches and organizations across the US and world, sharing her book and valuable life lessons she’s learned along the way.

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## Empowering \*YOU\* to Shine! Outline

- 1) The Power of Being Yourself:** The simple though not easy lesson I learned through experience, after wearing wigs for 19 years trying to be like everyone else. Alopecia Areata, the non-contagious condition, that makes me “The Bald Chick”. How others treated me and what it was like, when at age 11 all my hair fell out, addressing the issue of bullying. What we consider our biggest challenges, often turn out to be our biggest blessings. The power of not being stopped by our differences but celebrating and being empowered by them.
- 2) I Love You More and You Are a Gift to the World:** The way we are all intrinsically the same, we love to be loved and to give love. I read my books, and share their message of love and appreciation. When our children know they are loved, anything is possible! *I Love You More* lets children know just how truly loved they are. My new book *You Are a Gift to the World* encourages and empowers young people to love and take good care of themselves, one another and the planet.
- 3) Author/Illustrator/Publisher:** I share my experience as an author and what it took to take an idea and bring it to fruition. Including learning to embrace the editorial process; that our editors, teachers and parents are helping us to create our best work possible. How we self-published *I Love You More* and after selling 179,000 copies, sold it to a publisher who helped land it on the *New York Times* bestsellers list several times.
- 4) My Signature Cheers!:** The way we talk to ourselves and others is important. I show young people that negative self talk sets them up for failure and how to change what they’re saying to themselves so that they become confident and unstoppable. Teaching them *Cheers!* to empower them to *enthusiastically* live their best lives possible!
- 5) Genius:** Each and every one of us has our own unique gifts and talents. Our genius, are like seeds planted in our hearts that we are here to discover, nurture, develop, share and shine with the world. The *\*Genius Cheer!\** helps students to discover their genius and share it in the world.

**Call Today For Availability:**

**Call (in the U.S. only please) 954.608.9119**

**Or email [Laura@LauraDuksta.com](mailto:Laura@LauraDuksta.com)**



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# What People are Saying...

"Thank you Laura so much for your presentation at St. Mark's. I can truly say that we were all overwhelmed by your positive message! I was so impressed with your ability to communicate effectively with all age groups. Each of the groups you spoke to from the 1 year old class to the 8th grade enjoyed your book and talk. I have seen kids doing the I Shine cheer all week and our 7/8th grade Math teacher tells me she uses the genius cheer every day at the start of class! I hope you will come back and talk to us about your next book--we are looking forward to it!"

**Heidi Burnett, Director, School Media Center  
St. Mark's Episcopal School**



Laura Duksta and Karen Keesler are great! They have a presentation that truly supports the work of educators, parents and children. Their message of love includes both affective and academic elements. Social and emotional issues discussed include dealing with personal challenges, differences in yourself and others, appreciating yourself and others, using the imagination and self-affirmation, setting goals, accepting constructive criticism, and using your talents to help others. Academic issues include keeping a positive attitude in school, exploring the creative process, drafting and revising work of any kind (including written and artistic work) and persevering to complete a project. Laura and Karen know how to tailor their program to audiences of various ages. They helped my school find the genius inside each one of us!

**James McGhee II, Headmaster, Alexander School, Miami, FL**

"In a room filled with young children and adults, Laura Duksta instantly captures your attention and before you know it, she captures your heart. She's like a wizard. A lot of magical twinkling fills the room and inside each little soul stars are born."

**Mary Dewald, daughter, mother, grandmother and 5th grade teacher**

"I find Laura to be an amazing person and feel that her positive outlook on building relationships is in keeping with our Character Education Program."

**Susan Messing, Proud Principal, Chancellor Charter School**

"I thought Laura's presentation was great. The students and I talked about it after the show. The students focused on what it must be like and feel like to look different and how important it is to treat everyone with kindness. We discussed how we all have two eyes, two ears, etc. yet how we all have special qualities that make us different."

**Debbie Geller, Teacher Imagine Schools**



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What grade or grades is your presentation appropriate for?**

Though my books are more age appropriate for PK-2 the life lessons I share, as well as my experience as an author, highlighting the editorial process are great for grades 3-12. I present most frequently to elementary schools and like to speak to the entire school broken down into grades, for instance Pk-1, 2-3 & 4-5. I enjoy speaking to middle and high school students. The older students benefit from hearing my struggles with self-esteem and how I overcame them. I can have a different level of conversation with a five year old, fifth grade student and fifteen year old. I've also done several "Family Literacy Nights" where the parents and teachers enjoy my program as much as the young ones.

## **What does your day look like at the school?**

Typically I start early, and do 2-4 forty minute to one hour presentations. I'm available to eat lunch at school, this is nice when there's a child with Alopecia or a group of teachers, who often have as many questions as the students. Then I'll spend the afternoon in the library or office signing books. Students can come down by class or grade to receive their signed books. It works well if a volunteer helps me while I'm signing and distributing the books.

## **Can the students purchase signed books?**

Yes. I have a flyer that can be sent home and collected a week prior to my visit, giving me a sense of how many books I'll need. Of course we allow for orders to come in up till the event, and in most cases after the event, orders can come in and books will be mailed or dropped off.

## **Do you travel and are your expenses covered?**

I'm based in Nashville, and love to travel. The best way for me to visit your town, city or district is to find 3-4 schools interested in my program who can share the cost of my expenses-air, car and lodging (if necessary), I'll cover meals. If I have friends or family in the area I'm happy to stay with them, this includes South Florida, Boulder/Denver/Aspen, LA/San Diego, Baltimore, Eastern MA, Cincinnati, Asheville, Atlanta, etc!

## **What are your fees?**

One to two presentations, which might be a visit with one grade, or even a small school is \$800. When I spend a day at an elementary school, for 3-5 presentations my fee is \$1100. My fee for a middle or high school is \$1500. I like to keep the groups to 300-400 students, though I've presented effectively to auditoriums of 600-1000. The price for a preschool visit is \$300-\$500. All visits include signed copies of both my books that can be gifted to the library or used as part of a school fundraiser/raffle. If I'm staying in the area we can add on an evening program for \$200. I allow for one Title One visit at \$300 a month--send an email for more info.