

# Rhythmic, Multilingual, Award-Winning Author / Storyteller Coming to a Nearby School!

Matthew Gollub is an internationally known children's author who inspires students and families to read for fun.

Book info, videos and more at [www.matthewgollub.com](http://www.matthewgollub.com)  
[mg@matthewgollub.com](mailto:mg@matthewgollub.com) or call (707) 544-4720.



## Five tips for helping kids read for life

- 1) Prioritize reading together for at least 20 minutes a day.
- 2) Keep electronic devices and videogames OUT of your child's bedroom.
- 3) Display subtitles with your TV's remote so that kids get the benefit of reading words on the screen.
- 4) Listen to children's audio books when taking long car rides.
- 5) Try reading what your older child is reading for school and talk about it over a meal!

Resources: For more reading tips from Matthew Gollub, see his latest book, *Give the Gift! 10 Fulfilling Ways to Raise a Lifetime Reader*. Slide shows and audio clips of books at [www.matthewgollub.com](http://www.matthewgollub.com).

## Author Matthew Gollub Introduces Kids to a Wide World of Culture

*“Bonjour. Bon-bonjour! WA-ba, ZEE-ba VOO!  
Mucho gusto. Enchanté! Merci beaucoup!”*

So scats the jazz drumming fly in Matthew Gollub’s latest book with audio *Jazz Fly 3: The Caribbean Sea*. Combine jazz scat with words in Spanish and French?

“*No problema,*” says Gollub, a multiple award-winning children’s author who is also a bilingual storyteller and musician. But Gollub doesn’t stop with jazzy insects. Watermelons turn to frogs. A fearless snake boy brings lightning to the world. These and other scenarios play out in his popular books and dynamic, interactive performances. To date, this author / speaker from Santa Rosa, CA has performed at over 1,000 schools—around the U.S. and as far away as Singapore and Hong Kong—bringing language arts enrichment to countless students and parents.

With his mix of languages, drumming and visual props, Gollub delivers a unique approach to stimulating children’s—and grown-ups’—imagination. He performs his stories while fluidly shifting between English, Spanish, and Japanese, which he also speaks. He projects the beautiful illustrations of his books on screen; narrates his stories while playing drums, incorporates the emotion of the moment, all while engaging his audience with hand movements, chants, and rhythmic clapping.

“Different kids have different types of intelligence,” Gollub explains. “I try to throw lots of sparks at my audience in the hope that some will catch.”

What excites young people about Gollub’s performances is the sense of fun and energy. His approach makes Gollub a popular presenter for pre-school students all the way through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

In addition to his in-person and virtual school assemblies, Gollub conducts lively, bilingual talks for parents. He’s even written a picture book for grown-ups titled *Give the Gift! 10 Fulfilling Ways to Raise a Lifetime Reader*. The illustrated book brims with practical advice for parents who want to encourage children to read more at home. “Reading is the key,” Gollub says, “to helping young people thrive.”

Parents can find free reading tips at [www.matthewgollub.com](http://www.matthewgollub.com).  
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## Author's Journey: "Language, rhythm, color, life!"

These four words guide Gollub's creativity as an author, drummer and professional speaker. And he credits his family and the students he meets at schools for channeling that creativity into award-winning picture books.

But as a young person, he had no idea this would become his career. In college, he majored in International Studies and Japanese. Then he lived in Japan for three years, working as a translator, newscaster, and taiko drummer before finally trying his hand at children's fiction. While studying in Spain, then working in Oaxaca, Mexico, Gollub also became fluent in Spanish. "I try to show kids," he says, "that learning to speak other languages can be a big plus in one's life."

His fondness for Mexico yielded three picture book collaborations with the celebrated Mexican painter Leovigildo Martínez. His years in Japan lead to collaborations with the noted Japanese artist Kazuko Stone, including their award-winning introduction to haiku poetry, *Cool Melons--Turn to Frogs!*

Perhaps Gollub's most popular books include his narrations set to jazz. Captivating to children of all language backgrounds, the *Jazz Fly* series has won numerous national awards and has been performed on stage coast to coast and abroad.

The first in the series, simply titled *The Jazz Fly*, nabbed a prestigious Benjamin Franklin Award and was named the Book Sense #1 Recommended Children's Book nationwide. It was also the project on which Gollub ran the biggest risk. When his New York publishers balked at packaging the book with his musical narration, Gollub elected to publish *The Jazz Fly* himself.

"I conceived of the story as a performance piece," he explains. "It celebrates jazz as creative thinking and follows a rhythm I couldn't leave to chance. The book had to come with audio, and that's why I decided to publish it independently."

He rounded up jazz musicians, recorded his narration and even played drums himself. And he began working with the illustrator Karen Hanke. What resulted was a picture book set to a jazz quartet, teeming with insect musicians dressed in evening gowns and tuxedos.

In the award-winning sequels, *Jazz Fly 2: The Jungle Pachanga* and *Jazz Fly 3: The Caribbean Sea*, the "Jazz Bugs" introduce new jazz styles, exotic fauna and even Spanish and French words along the way.

Aside from their popularity among kids, the *Jazz Fly* books have fervent followings among teachers and jazz loving adults. Recalling his author's journey, Gollub reflects, "Sometimes, you just have to pursue your own vision."

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