

Praise for *Alan Cole Is Not a Coward*:

“There are books in this world that show us why it matters that we become our truest selves. This is one of them.” (Gary D. Schmidt, Newbery Honor and Printz Honor author of *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and *The Wednesday Wars*)

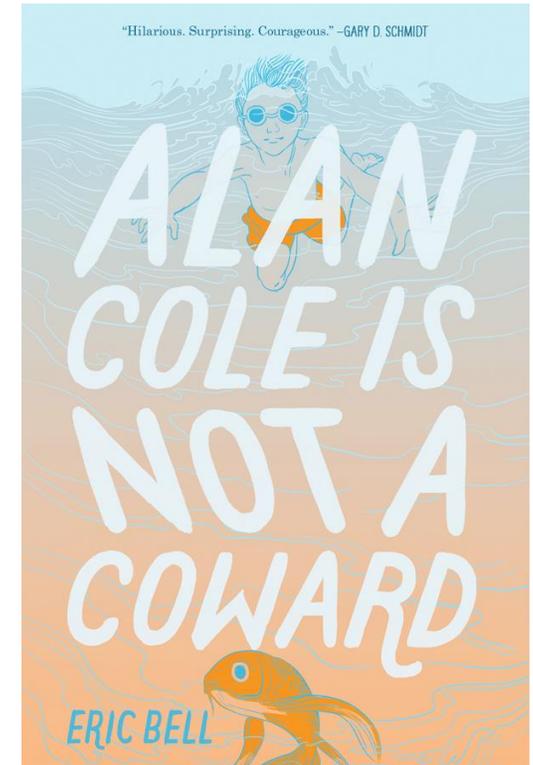
“No funny bone will go untickled, no heartstring untugged. Alan Cole and his band of misfits from the Unstable Table are coming for both, with a story that’s as important as it is entertaining, as thought-provoking as it is heartwarming, and as courageous as it is hilarious.” (Brooks Benjamin, author of *My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights*)

“An alluring setup and deft portrayal of middle school friendships are highlights of this impressive debut. Alan Cole is a complex character under pressure; we want to discover his fate!” (Leslie Connor, author of *Waiting for Normal*, *Crunch*, and *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*)

“With its well-developed characters, juxtaposition of supportive adult educators and aggressive parents, and message of hope, this novel feels like a contemporary version of Gary D. Schmidt’s *The Wednesday Wars* and *Okay for Now*. A strong debut.” (School Library Journal)

I Am Eric Bell!

Eric Bell graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Psychology and a minor in English. Once the other kids at recess began pretending to go on the adventures he came up with, he never stopped telling stories. His first novel, *Alan Cole Is Not a Coward*, was included on the 2018 ALA Rainbow List of GLBTQ Books for Children & Teens. A sequel, *Alan Cole Doesn't Dance*, came out in 2018.



Eric Bell,
Children's
Author

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Assemblies and Workshops:

Get to Know the Author: Eric will talk about his own history: growing up in suburban Philadelphia, dealing with anxiety and coming out, and eventually overcoming his struggles and publishing two novels. Can be used as an assembly or a smaller workshop.

From Pitch to Print: Eric will go over what it takes for a novel to go from a seed of an idea to a complete book. This process is often shrouded in mystery even to adults, and Eric will peel back the curtain. Can be used as an assembly or a smaller workshop.

Making Characters: Eric will take kids on a tour of his process for creating memorable characters, and will provide exercises for students to come up with characters of their own. Best used as a smaller workshop.

Revision: What It Is and How to Do It: Eric will discuss the process of editing what you create, including how to seek help and whom you should (and shouldn't!) listen to. Note: this advice also applies to things other than writing! Best used as a smaller workshop.

All assemblies and workshops are intended for grades 4-9.

Testimonials:

"I absolutely recommend scheduling an author visit with Eric Bell. He spoke to my seventh grade English class two years in a row, and my students were incredibly excited and engaged on both occasions: my students literally were lined up to the back of the room just to ask him their questions! They definitely appreciated how easygoing and down-to-earth Eric was with his responses, and especially how honest he was. They discussed everything from the plots in his books, his inspiration, the writing and editing process, as well as life as a middle schooler. I will most definitely be booking Eric for my future classes!" -Lorien Hallama, Writing teacher, Bedford Middle School, CT

"I'm a middle school language arts teacher. Last year, I was lucky enough to have Eric do a virtual classroom visit with my sixth graders, which was one of the highlights of our year! My principal still talks about what a success it was. Students prepared questions for Eric, and he took each one seriously, answering their inquiries with insight and encouragement. Both the pre-visit anticipation and the actual meeting with Eric led to students developing or strengthening their passions for reading and writing. If you have the opportunity to have Eric visit in-person, take advantage! It's such a treat." -Shanna Rogers, ELA teacher, Granite Oaks Middle School, CA

Additional testimonials available on iamericbell.com!



Visiting Castle Hill Middle School 127 in Bronx, New York. Look at those happy kids!

Eric Bell offers school visits that encourage creativity and being comfortable with who you are.

Pricing:

Half Day (2 workshops): \$300

Full Day (4 workshops): \$550

All days, regardless of length, include an opportunity to sign books and an optional lunch with faculty and students.

Eric is happy to do long-distance school visits! Travel is not included in the above pricing and may include things like gas, airfare, lodging, and meals. Expenses will be incurred for more than 60 minutes from the Philadelphia area.

Eric is also happy to do virtual classroom visits via Skype or Google Hangouts for no charge. These would be 30-40-minute Q&A sessions, and Eric asks that the class be familiar with at least one of his books.