



To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend that you invite James Houston Turner to speak to your students about writing, history, and perseverance. Our students have not stopped speaking about our day with Mr. Turner. He is an excellent speaker who makes students think about their studies, their lives, and their goals. My students were riveted! Below please see a few of my students' comments.

Sincerely,

Donna Pilgrim, MEd
8th Grade English Teacher

"I admired Mr. Turner's inspirational story. I learned that people tend to cherish life more when they've fought through tough times. I also felt happy for him because he had earned the privilege to become a published author. I took a lot away from his visit."

"Mr. Turner is an inspirational person who has suffered through hardships but turned them into blessings. He teaches that the world of hard knocks is a great thing that should only push you to go further in life."

"What I learned from Mr. Turner was to write from the heart. He taught me to take what I know from my heart and what I know from my brain and make something beautiful. I think this is the best writing advice of all."

"Mr. Turner was an awesome speaker. He taught us about English and writing by telling us about himself and how you let things or hardships in your life speak through what you write. I liked that a few of the hardships he faced were about his writing, but he never let it get to him. I have a very deep respect for him."

"Mr. Turner is a very inspiring man. One thing I learned is that it is not all about the writing, but about the heart and the message you put into your writing. What I truly loved about his talk was that he didn't just talk about his book; he talked about his life's journey and what inspired him to write his books. I didn't walk out just knowing about his books. I learned that the hard parts of life are the most important."

"Mr. Turner is a living example that anything is possible. He was a big inspiration to me."

"Through Mr. Turner, I learned that I don't really have any problems. Even when he was talking about how the company rejected him because they thought he was too ugly, he didn't hate anyone. In fact, he was almost grateful because it made him stronger."



“Because of his visit, I long for a life full of tribulations, adversity and ‘hard knocks.’ Mr. Turner has inspired me to pursue my dreams, and to make the best of all the endeavors that befall me.”

“Mr. Turner’s visit was uplifting. He gave you the feeling of “gameday” — “pump-up” songs ringing in your head as you walk out the door. I would never think of going behind the Iron Curtain to pass out Bibles.”

“The thing I enjoyed about Mr. Turner was his determination. Not only did he never give up on what he loves, but he also survived cancer. He is so courageous, unique, and in love what he does. After he spoke to me, I felt very inspired and encouraged to always do what I love and never give up. I am really glad he came to speak to me.”

“Everything he had to say had me on the edge of my seat, waiting for the next bit of information that came out of his mouth. Mr. Turner is motivational, and I loved listening to him. He is a great influence for me. I would like to be like him when I grow up.”

“James Houston Turner is an amazing speaker and author. Before hearing him speak, I would never have guessed that being an author was so difficult. His stories about his life were amazing! You would never imagine that a book about a retired KGB agent would be so interesting. I would definitely hear him speak again.”