

The Audience

“The kids were listening and I didn’t put anyone to sleep.”

Rick Watson, Chief Operating Officer, Corrugated Specialties

“The teacher was a great supporter of what we were doing and was just as enthusiastic as the children.”

Linda Williams, Assistant Vice President, First National Bank

“Sharp, intelligent, good-natured . . . Kinda like Bass! Did I mention how courteous they were? Gotta make you proud!”

Jeannie Cole, Fort Smith School Board Member, National PTA Leadership Coach

“All 24 sixth-graders seemed interested and engaged the whole hour. One kid was so excited about Bass Reeves he kept standing up when he had comments. Everyone was respectful, and they seemed to be very impressed with Bass’ character above all.”

Jennifer Boulden, Communications & Event Services Manager, Fort Smith Convention and Visitors Bureau

“They were great. Well-mannered, inquisitive, and engaged. I have talked to many classes, of all ages, and I can attest that that is not always the case.”

Doug Kelley, Chief Pilot for Arkansas Best Corporation and Author of “The Captain’s Wife”

“The class was so well-behaved and absolutely delightful.”

Anita Paddock, Branch Manager, Fort Smith Public Library, and freelance writer

“They were well-oriented and attentive – very interested in history. Zachary Taylor's great, great, great (don't know how many ‘greats’) nephew was in the class and was proud to be a ‘Taylor.’”

Ivy Owen, Executive Director, Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority

“They are bright and alert. Well-disciplined and willing to learn. They were not afraid to respond to my comments or questions.”

Yvonne Keaton-Martin, Fort Smith School Board member and retired Principal of Howard Elementary

“They were very interested after we got started, and the laughter was spread throughout the story. I stopped several times to ask questions, and a good time was had by all of us.”

Linda Clanton, Sales Representative at ABF Freight System, Inc.

“The kids were very attentive and asked many questions. They laughed at some of the words in the book, such as tumbleweed and vittles, and after explaining the definitions to them, they understood.”

Fran Hall, Deputy Sheriff and the Administrator of the Sebastian County Juvenile Detention Center

“They ‘get it.’ Many of these kids are hungry for role models. And every single one paid attention and yelled, ‘THANK YOU!!!!!’ as I left.”

Tracy Winchell, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Fort Smith

“Trusty is our Partner-in-Ed, so they see me often, but not like this! I even wore a full-length western duster and gloves to go along with hat, jeans, scarf, boots and spurs. I entered the class with a ‘Howdy!’ to break the ice. I was impressed with their attentiveness and eagerness to hear about Bass Reeves.”

Sandra Armistead, Marketing Assistant at BancorpSouth