

MAYA Smart

Author • Speaker • Workshop Facilitator



Booking Details Inside

MAYA Smart



About Maya

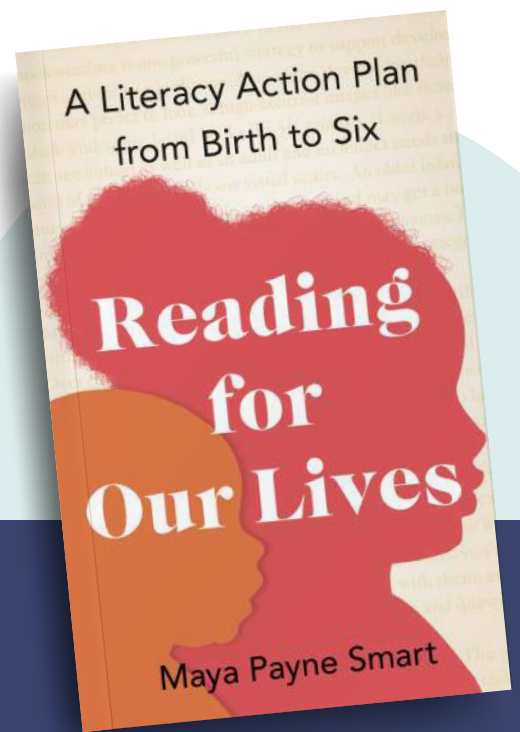
Author and community advocate **Maya Payne Smart** believes that increasing literacy and access to books builds a more just, connected society. That's why she's on a mission to demystify how kids learn to read, democratize access to fantastic early learning experiences, and empower all parents to raise thriving readers.

Maya inspires and equips audiences to drive transformative literacy for their children, students, or communities. Her presentations for parents, educators, librarians, and concerned citizens deliver valuable content and practical strategies listeners can implement right away. Maya's workshops and talks translate years of research encapsulated in her new book *Reading for Our Lives: A Literacy Action Plan from Birth to Six* (Avery/Penguin Random House) into clear, motivating messages. Maya also speaks on leadership, success, and giving back, always with a focus on leaving audiences informed and excited to take action.

Maya publishes tools for parents to nurture, teach, and advocate for kids on the road to reading at MayaSmart.com. She has served on the boards of numerous library and literacy organizations around the country and now resides in Milwaukee, where she is an affiliated faculty member in Educational Policy and Leadership in the College of Education at Marquette University. She holds a master's degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and a bachelor's in social studies from Harvard University.

We Should All Be Readers

In *Reading for Our Lives*, award-winning journalist and literacy advocate Maya Payne Smart gives parents, parent educators, and everyone who cares about the wellbeing of the coming generation the knowledge and tools to help kids thrive. Now she's taking the book's messages on the road, via live and virtual presentations at libraries, schools, workplaces, conferences, and more.



Signature Speaking Topics:

How to Give Your Child a Smart Start
FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

How to Engage Parents in Student Success from Day One
FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, AND PARENT EDUCATORS

Why America's Reading Crisis Is Your Problem and What to Do About It
FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Reading for Change: How Black-Centered Children's Books Can Spur Hindsight, Insight, and Progress
FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LIBRARIANS

Beyond Storytime: How Librarians Can Help Parents Nurture Reading from Birth
FOR LIBRARIANS

Custom Presentations:

Beyond literacy, Maya is also available to present on other subjects, including leadership, philanthropy, advocacy, and service.

To inquire about Maya's signature or custom presentations, complete the info form at www.mayasmart.com/speaking or email hello@mayasmart.com.

“ We invited Maya to speak at our first post-pandemic live event and she delivered an excellent, customized message that resonated with our audience and won a standing ovation. I love how she researched our mission, history, and impact and weaved familiar United Way quotes, themes, and ideas into her presentation. Plus, she's a pleasure to work with behind the scenes and inspires with her work and her words. ”

- Dan Herda, Director of Communications at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County



“ We featured Maya and her book, *Reading for Our Lives*, in a live webinar for parent educators, librarians, speech therapists, and home visitors. She shared wonderful insights that were really tailored to their interests and needs, and it was so amazing to watch the audience come along with real-time realizations in the chat. I loved, loved, loved watching them connect the dots between language and literacy and to be so engaged and excited by the information! She was prepared and present. I would highly recommend Maya for presentations to parents and the professionals who support them. ”

- Mindy Ricketts, Head of Marketing and Content, LENA Foundation



“ Maya presented a wonderful family literacy workshop for a diverse audience of caregivers, reading champions, and librarians in our community. Attendees loved the way she presented rigorous reading research in a warm, encouraging style that made insights immediately useful. Her ability to weave in personal stories from her own parenting journey made the presentation even more moving and memorable. I highly recommend her workshops for both parents or professionals looking for a better understanding of how we can nurture, teach, and encourage young readers. ”

- Jenny Bogoni, Executive Director, Read by 4th, The Free Library of Philadelphia



“ Maya gave a fantastic presentation for a coffee and conversation event celebrating the launch of our K3 program. She engaged the audience with pertinent remarks about the importance of early literacy and is an ideal speaker to inspire and equip parents to raise their young readers. ”

- Robb Rauh, CEO, Milwaukee College Prep School



“ Maya Smart hosted a family literacy event at our school. It was great to see the parents and the children together learning about early literacy. The families left with practical ways they can support the early literacy development of their children. Through her talk she empowered parents to be advocates and teachers for their children. She wove personal stories as a mom into her presentation making parents feel comfortable asking questions! We look forward to bringing Maya back for future events. ”

- Courtney Albright, Senior Director of Curriculum & Instructional Effectiveness, Seton Catholic Schools



“ Maya's book talk for the Parents League of New York was wonderful! Sharing an excerpt from *Reading for Our Lives*, Maya provided families with six practical tools for nurturing their children's reading success. Relatable, warm and generous of spirit, Maya imparted helpful frameworks for building kids' oral language skills and navigating developmental milestones. Our families were engaged, excited and appreciated her actionable advice, making Maya Smart a speaker not to be missed! ”

- Barbara Scott, Executive Director, Parents League of New York



Ready to book Maya?
Let us know by emailing hello@mayasmart.com
or visiting www.mayasmart.com/speaking.