

Speaker Introduction for Amanda LaPera

1. Our guest speaker today is a **National Award-Winning Author** with **six published books** acclaimed by critics as, “engaging,” “evocative,” and “powerful.”
2. Having grown up in **Lake Los Angeles**, she was one of the first forty-eight students to attend a one-room school house off the dry lakebed and to attend **Littlerock High School**, both of which are settings in her **books**.
3. As an adult, she served **10 years** on the **Board of Directors** for the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Orange County and has **taught high school English** for **23 years** where she then established a creative writing program.
4. She’s currently writing the **final book** in her ***Desert of Dreams Series***, about young people coming of age in the **Antelope Valley** who, through hope and resilience, are able to overcome trauma.
5. Please join me in welcoming our guest speaker, **Amanda LaPera** (La-Pear-Ah).