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Here I am with a bunch of glitzy guys: Kadir Nelson, John Green, Walter Dean Myers, and Chris Colfer (from "Glee") at the BEA convention...we all spoke at the Children's Book and Author Breakfast, such a nice occasion. One had the feeling that all 1100 people in the audience were soulmates.

And here I am a couple of weeks earlier, with Jan Coates, of the Mount Desert Island Readers and Writers Project. Tough to get to the island...a 9-passenger plane; I wouldn't want to go in fog or stormy weather. But worth the trip! A whole lot of seventh graders had been reading and studying THE GIVER; it was great to be with them, and with Jan and all the others who work so hard.



gag, and they are all smiling. They are standing in front of a wooden wall with a dark curtain above it.