Pre & Early Readers: After reading picture books with no words, pre- and early-readers create their own stories - complete with a beginning, middle and end - using images they capture on a digital camera or create through collage or drawing (or words for early writers).

Storytelling: Students will journey from the initial creation of a character through to revision and final draft with illustrations in this expanded residency. Oral storytelling as a way to model story elements is “the magic sauce” Steve brings to classrooms, always with great success.

Personal Stories: Students explore creative writing that draws from personal stories. Starting with diverse writing samples, students build connections between literature and real world topics like identity, home, and finding one’s voice. Responding to the writings kids create their own poem or story.

Spoken Word: Students enhance their writing skills, their confidence in self-expression, and their vocal skills, as well as knowledge about Hip-Hop and Rap music. Students will create and perform spoken word poems using poetry, history, oral presentation, improvisation and memorization.

Poetry: By reading poems by a diverse group of poets, students will develop strategies for close reading of portrait poems, discovering craft elements that enhance the poems. Students will then create their own portrait poems while practicing fundamentals of the writing process.

Dance As Inspiration: Dance and poetry inform each other as students move through this “Story Poem” residency. Poem scenes will be interpreted through discussion and movement and dance will be interpreted into story poems.