

Wild Writers and Collaborative Creators

Grades 2 - 12

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Cost: \$2,500



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: In this 6-week writing residency, we will share our experiences as writers and collaborators and invite students to practice different kinds of creative self-expression through poetry, prose, and collaborative storytelling. We will also work together with students on a final project, which will include making miniature books filled with their own writing.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT (Goals / Outcomes)

Participants will:

- discover new forms and avenues for self-expression
- practice creating and writing in community and being responsible, receptive witnesses of others' stories
- learn about a variety of poetic writing forms, the value of connecting through a trustworthy narrator, and collaborative skills.
- share their skills with each other and deepen their connection to their community.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

1: Introduction to Tandem Poetry. We will share our community arts projects (via slideshow) - *Type Rider II: The Tandem Poetry Tour* and *The Tiny Book Show*. We will discuss our process as writers and the hows and whys of creative collaboration. We will then demonstrate our Tandem Poetry activity - students give us one word and we write two poems on the spot on vintage typewriters. We will facilitate a prompted writing exercise with the students giving them one word to work with on a piece of writing. Students will optionally share their own work with the class.

2: Collaborative storytelling. We will use story starters from our Story Bowl to create collaborative narratives with the group. Students will add their thoughts and imaginative lines of poetry and prose to a growing collective of stories. After creating several pieces of work, we will all share them as a group.

3: What is a poem? We'll choose from a number of sources - including Naomi Shihab Nye's poem, "A Valentine for Ernest Mann" and *This is a Poem That Heals a Fish* by Jean-Pierre Simeon - to discuss how poems come to us and from where, and inspire students to find lines of poetry in everything. Together, we will create a "word bank" and practice different kinds of creative list-making to discover new subject matter. We will discuss the importance of figurative

language in poetry, and the value of putting words together in unexpected ways. We will practice writing poetry using the words students have collected in the “bank.”

4: Telling true stories. We will be tapping into the true stories from our lives as a platform for writing. We will discuss how sharing our stories and being truthful and vulnerable connects us to our readers and we will look at the importance of trustworthy narrators. We will share the work of several well-known young adult authors who have mastered this honest voice. Students will be prompted to write several short true stories using material from their everyday lives.

5: Tiny book making. We will talk about and share our collection of miniature books (each less than 3 inches in dimension) and show students examples of different styles of small books, as well as discuss a variety of structures and content options. We will then help students create their own tiny books, which they will construct and fill with their own writing.