



# OKANOGAN REGION ARTS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

## ARTIST PROFILE

**Kelleigh McMillan**

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**Poetry**

All Districts

**Preferred age/grade level:** Grades 2-8

**Possible Curricular Ties:** Literature, Natural History, Character Development

### **Residency Suggestions:**

Students will do several warm-up writing exercises, then move on to longer exercises that will result in poetry pieces. Prompts and frameworks will be provided for each piece. At the end of each session, we will have an opportunity to share with one another. Students will be encouraged to choose one of their writing exercises and work it into a finished piece.

### **Goals:**

A main goal is to demonstrate through multiple exercises that each student can write a poem. While fostering a safe and encouraging environment, and leading guided writing exercises, everyone will be able to create a piece in which they feel pride. A further goal is to get students writing outside of school, as a means of processing emotions, as well as expressing themselves creatively.

**Vocabulary:** poem, image, stanza, line, break

**Special Considerations:** Poetry workshops will be modified to fit appropriate age levels and their writing abilities.

**Supplies, equipment, space and time considerations:** Simply pencils and paper will be necessary for writing poetry. For further projects, such as making books of poems, additional materials such as book board, paper, and binding supplies will be required.

**Teaching Experience:** I have worked with children in a variety of ways over the past 25 years: from childcare centers and working as a nanny to outdoor education, volunteering regularly in my children's classrooms and running a non-profit program which works closely with a wide age range of youth.

**Artist's Statement:** I am inspired by how readily words and poems seem to flow out of the children I have worked with in writing poetry. I find their freedom of expression to be inspiring and I know that being introduced to writing poems at a young age helped me in my own self-expression.