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Literary Arts

Residencies offered: POETRY IN YOUR CLASSROOM

I use writing exercises to help students create poems using the tools of metaphor and simile, of surprising adjectives and uncommon verbs, of new voices and perspective. I encourage students to read poems by authors from around the world and from all walks of life. It has been my experience that students who read and write poems become more careful listeners and more adventurous writers with an expanded vocabulary.

Preferred Age/Grade level: 3rd through 12th grades

Supplies, Equipment, Space, and Time Considerations:

I am available to work with students in a one-time only workshop as well as over a number of days.

Teaching Experience:

6 years volunteering in my children's classes: 3rd - 8th grade (includes teaching creative writing)
2 years volunteering once/week at the Community School: Creative Writing with Middle School students

40 hours as the Poet in Residence - Methow Valley Schools 2001-2002

Creative Writing with Methow Valley Home School Students 2001-2004

Teaching Poetry – The Community School (grades 1 – 6), 2003-2004 (Methow Arts Funding)

Completed 34 hours at **2004 Conference on Poetry and Teaching**, at the Frost Place, NH

Poet in Residence: Methow Valley Schools – 2004-2006; Projects include “River of Words” public art with 5th & 6th graders, and “A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words” book project with 7th graders.

Artist's Statement: I love poetry, and I believe that there is a place in our everyday life for poems. Whenever I enter a classroom, I hope to bring into it my experience as a poet, as well as the joy and the journey of writing. I use exercises that I have developed from participating in writing workshops in Oregon, California, Washington and New Hampshire. I have found that students who initially are reluctant to read and write poems, when given the opportunity, far exceed their own expectations with great enthusiasm!

Through writing and reading poetry, students learn to express themselves and look at their world with careful attention. Their work often connects them to their inner selves, to their peers, and to the world outside the classroom. I am always inspired and surprised by the quality of writing the students share. I consider it a privilege to work with young writers and look forward to working in your classroom.

Samples of student work:

Black is the quietest color

Quiet as the night sky.
Quiet as the owl sleeping outside my window.
Quiet as my shadow in the day.

Clayton, 3rd grade

Wind

The wind sounds like
dogs barking at intruders
passing by its house.

Willy, 3rd grade

What Color Is Summer?

Summer is green:
broccoli, grass, grasshoppers,
a tree;
my bathing suit that I wear to the pool.

Summer is red:
an apple, Indian paintbrush,
a butterfly flitting about,
my cheeks after a walk.

Summer is yellow:
bananas, the bright sun,
a little goldfinch,
a balsamroot flower, and
my little tomato plant.

Summer is brown:
chocolate cake, a hill,
a grizzly bear, at tree trunk,
my feet after playing in the dirt.

Summer is blue:
a frozen blueberry, the sky,
a little blue butterfly after a storm,
a bluebell;
the clear blue water in my pool.

Summer is purple:
eggplants, sunsets, lupine,
a quiet butterfly,
my tongue after eating a grape popsicle.

Ella, 3rd grade

