

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

Storytelling: The Reading & Writing Connection

Artist: Susansylvia Scott

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Contact KCYA for more information on this and other programs.

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Workshop Description

Active learning is the trademark of this workshop. Master Teaching Artist Susansylvia Scott demonstrates the elements of a good story through a series of highly creative participatory exercises. The students learn to write by using visualization, imagination, listening skills, and kinesthetic body movements.

Pencil and paper are temporarily left behind as all the students “learn by doing”.

This workshop is an exciting adventure into creative imaging. It is fast-moving and enhances learn-

ing and retention through interspersed and lively reviews.

When the workshop ends, all of the students will have partici-



pated and contributed. A traditional writing exercise with pencil and paper is a wonderful follow-up to this workshop.

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Learn how to recall the elements of a good story
- Understand the importance of characters in a story
- Realize how to create an environment for the story

Language Arts:

- Can analyze and evaluate problem-solving strategies of characters in fiction, non-fiction, drama, and film

Life Skills:

- Engages in active listening

Special REQUIREMENTS:

Classroom desks moved to create a presentation space

Artist Bio: Susansylvia Scott

Master Teaching Artist Susansylvia Scott is a creative and innovative storyteller. She holds a Master of Arts in Theater from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Two of her mentors are Vincent Dowling, of the Abbey Theater in Dublin, Ireland and John Houseman, a teacher at the Julliard School of Drama and featured in the *Paper Chase*.

Based on her experiences on the stage and screen,

Susansylvia specializes in unique and creative audience participation. She is also a successful private tutor for children with dyslexia and learning challenges.

Susansylvia's workshops, residencies, and master classes for teachers and students emphasize reading comprehension and creative writing. She is the Lighton Prize winner for Teaching Excellence in 2006.



Susansylvia Scott

Vocabulary

Character: any person, animal, or thing that has action or dialogue in the story

Dialogue: words that characters speak in a written story or play. This includes not only conversation between characters, but also a character talking directly to the reader or audience.

Motivation: the reason the character is in the story. The reason for their spoken words and actions

Narrator: the storyteller role

Narration: the filling in of additional story details not covered by the characters or the action

Satisfying Ending: an ending that ties up all the details of the story into a satisfying conclusion

Setting: the time, place, and surroundings of the story

Storyline: the story must have a sequence of events that flow logically from the beginning to the middle and on to the ending

Post-Workshop Activities

1. Have the students write creative or personal experience stories and have them read their stories out loud to the class.
2. Have the students write a short play and then act the play out.
3. Have the students write a speech and deliver it to the class.



List of Resources

BOOKS

There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom by Louis Sachar; Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2001
ISBN 0 747552576

One Small Dog by Johanna Hurwitz; Harper Trophy, 2002
ISBN: 0380732939

Pleasant Journeys Vol. 1 & 2 by Pleasant DeSpain; Writing Works, 1979; ISBN: 0916076377

Thirty-Three Multicultural Tales to Tell by Pleasant DeSpain; August House; 1993
ISBN: 0874832667