

Program Name: What's Your Story? All Writing is Creative!

Artist: Susansylvia Scott

Special Requirements:

Classroom desks moved to create a presentation space.

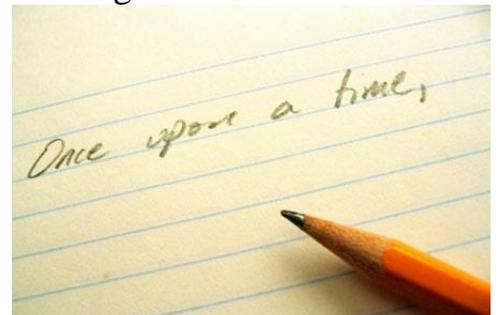
Special Points of Interest:

We request that each age group have their own workshop to ensure developmentally-appropriate practices.

Workshop Description

This workshop with Master Teacher and Storyteller Susansylvia Scott is customized, with an innovative approach, to eliminate writer's block in Creative Writing classes through utilization of visualization as opposed to "thinking". Susansylvia uses the participation and interaction of students to heighten involvement. The workshop will stimulate writing and language skills through imaginative participation. Stories will be created in the moment.

Active learning and freeing up the creative mind are the trademarks of this workshop. Creative exercises nurture the skills of imagining, listening, and active participation. Students enhance their ability to prepare and tell a story. This workshop is an exciting adventure!



Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Learn to overcome writer's block by using visualization and imagination.
- Approach writing as a creative activity.
- Create their own stories.

Standards Addressed:

- CCSS.ELA/ LITERACY.
- W.6.3A.3B.3C.3.D.3.E.4
  - W.7.7.3A.B.C.D.E
  - W.8.8.3A.B.C.D.E
  - W.9-10.3.A.B.C.D.E
  - W.11-12.3.A.B.C.D.E

## Artist Bio: Susansylvia Scott

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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.

### List of Resources:

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#### Books:

[Four Square Writing Method Grades 7-9](#) by Judy Gould

#### Online Resources:

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922>

<http://naturalfamilytoday.com/uncategorized/5-techniques-that-build-creative-thinking-skills>

### Vocabulary

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**Creative Writing:** To be the author or composer of stories, poes or articles.

**Visualization:** Picturing something in the mind. Often done while reading.

**Writer's block:** When the act of writing is blocked in the mind. The person cannot think of anything to write.

**Linear Thinking:** Left brain, straight line, organized style of thinking that

is not creative.

**Picturing:** Using the imagination to visualize or "see" something in the mind.

**Imagination:** The ability to make pictures in the mind, including new images or ideas you have not experienced.

**Writing Method:** A chosen or systematic way of writing, such as picturing or creative thinking.

### Post-Workshop Activities

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1. Write, using purely the visualizing method for any form of writing, fact or fiction or anything in between. Remember: all writing is creative!
2. If the students go back into writer's block, circle them up and begin asking, "What is your setting?", "What do you see there?". Go back to visualization to open the creative mind.
3. Have the students write a short play and then act the play out.



Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

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