

Erika Rench



Mission Statement:

Education reflects our community. Creative writing takes that mirror image of who we are and finds words or names those experiences, thoughts and feelings. Writing offers students another path to explore and question their understanding of the world. It gives them permission to play with that mirror image. Writing and the sharing of those stories changes us all.

Story Building: Active Engagement Through Imagination

Using selected age-appropriate stories by a variety of children's authors, students will learn- through dramatization, discussion, interpretation and theme based story telling- the components of writing a story and will write their own creative story based on what they have learned. Students will be able to recognize the components of a story: Character development, plot, setting, tension, transitions, resolution in published works as well as in their own. Students will write their own story complete with illustrations. Creative Writing, Language Arts, Literacy and creative expression will be reinforced. The books we use for the Storybuilding and the stories students write will complement content being covered in the classroom e.g. history, multi-cultural, sociological issues, and perspectives. This residency best suits upper elementary and middle schoolers due to the group interactions, and the writing content covered.

Facility & Supplies

Pencils, loose notebook paper for; handmade book made in advance with blank front page and 20 story pages that can be removed or added to. Colored pencils or markers for illustrations. Dry erase board or easel flip-board to write down progression of story line that can stay up throughout residency.

About the Artist...

Erika Rench is a writer and licensed teacher. For eight years she has been involved in Arts in Education programs in both Bend and Hood River, including the Gorge Writing Project which has worked on Creative Writing with students in schools throughout the Columbia River Gorge. Erika has published stories in Columbia Gorge Magazine, Ruralite, Persimmon Hill and Bend Living magazine. Currently she is Program Coordinator for an After School Program at Parkdale Elementary.

Grades Served:

4 - 9

Lives In:

Hood River, OR

Homestay:

Not required. Have camper; will travel!

