

Erika Rench



Mission Statement:

I believe that education is a mirror of contemporary society reflecting the community that surrounds it. If education is reflective, then the arts, in particular the literary arts is refractive. Writing offers a new lens for students to explore and question their understanding of the world, to distort and alter it. Writing passes through the writer and changes them. It changes us all.

Grades Served:

K-5, 6-12 Optimal

Lives In:

Hood River, OR

Homestay:

Not Required

Curriculum Connections

CT LA MC PG
VA

Four Modes of Transportation

This residency takes the four modes of writing--expository, persuasive, fictional narrative and nonfiction--and examines each through four different worlds, real and imagined. We travel from our own backyards to far away fantastic places packing only our imagination, a guidebook and a story to tell. Each participating student will create and design his or her very own guidebook for their travels.

Nature's Plate

We will explore a full plate of nature/environmental themes through this creative writing residency. The artist will work closely with each school to build a residency that meets the needs of the school and its teachers. Maybe you want your students to work in fiction and memoir and we travel from our own backyards to far away fantastic worlds. If it is poetry you want we can go from the sparseness of Haiku to the extravagance of Odes and the hilarity of Parody, and if it is pure craft you want to challenge you students with we can delve into creative nonfiction and personal essay to get to the *heart* of what excites, disturbs and matters to students (and teachers) when it comes to the environment. The weeklong residency will culminate in a classroom performance reading. This residency would work well as a collaborative visual and literary arts project. I would also work great in conjunction with a school-wide project.

Staff & Community Offerings

The following are available to teachers: 1) A review of the lessons with tips on how to teach them successfully, 2) Any of the lessons as a hands-on activity.

Facilities & Supplies

Four Modes of Transportation: heavy card stock, magazines for clipping, markers, pencil, loose-leaf paper, copy machine, overhead projector.

Nature's Plate: paper, pencil, copy machine, CD Player, overhead

Materials costs: \$0 for all.

About the Artist...

Erika Rench is writer and an educator. For six years she has been a teaching artist with creative writing. She is also a freelance writer and is a frequent contributor to Columbia Gorge Magazine. Erika holds her BS in Secondary Education and is currently a substitute teacher in the schools.

