

Myth, Metaphor & Music: Heroic Adventures in Writing and Performance

An Arts-in-Education program with Sheri Kling

Target Age: high school & college

Length: 50 min classroom or assembly presentation
(can be combined with a school-based residency)

Description:

Offered as a creative writing or performing arts class, this program delves into the hero archetype. In it, Sheri takes participants on an exploration of the role of the artist as interpreter of events, the power of metaphor to transform, and the artistic and psychological pattern of the hero's journey to discover one's unique gifts. This program can be offered as a 50-minute classroom or assembly presentation alone. Or, it can be combined with hands-on work during a school-based residency.

Supported by the use of her own compositions "Train to Metaphor" and "I Burn for You (Chicago, 1903)" (a song in which a fictional character is set within an historical event), Sheri explores such ideas as:

- The Hero Archetype as a pattern in literature and in life
- Metaphor and the use of symbolic thinking and language
- How the creative interpretation of events can spark compassion and empathy; the humanization and personalization of events through story
- How to approach creative writing decisions about setting, point of view and "voice" and developing rapport with a character that is unlike the writer
- Opening up space in one's life for imagination, inspiration and creative expression
- Life as a performing artist – can I follow this call?

References:

I really cannot say enough about Sheri Kling. She is a charismatic performer and presenter and her presentation on the archetypal hero and the creative writing process was well received. My students still sing "Train to Metaphor" anytime we speak of symbolism in class. They loved her visit and the assignment that followed. Sheri even inspired me to write and share my creative piece with my students. I highly recommend Sheri Kling as a guest speaker to any English or Humanities classroom. Her presentation is one students will remember for years.

~ Rebecca Perkins, English Teacher, Alpharetta High School, GA

Sheri's message is inspiring for those who are seeking their true journey and even those solidly on it. Her uplifting spirit and earnest music are scrumptious food for the soul.

~ Dale Harrison, Dept. of Communication & Journalism, Auburn University

Fees: One 50 min classroom/assembly presentation: \$260, Two back-to-back 50 min. presentations: \$425
4-day school-based residency (M-Th): \$1500 (plus travel expenses if outside metro Atlanta)

SHERI
KLING

"...a natural Southern gal storyteller in the Lucinda Williams/Flannery O'Connor vein."
~ Bradenton (FL) Herald

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For many years, Sheri Kling juggled her "day job" as a marketing professional with the work she loved – being a performing singer/songwriter. Around the time she released her CD "Let It Unfold" in late 2002, Sheri also started dreaming of a new life. And you know what they say – "Be careful what you wish for!" – because in May of 2003, Sheri found herself another statistic in the world of technology downsizing. Deciding to view this development as a much-needed Divine kick in the pants, Sheri followed the call into the heroic journey of building the life she'd always dreamed of – one that is centered in music, speaking and performance. In concerts and workshops, Sheri weaves together positive music and vivid stories to create uplifting experiences. Sheri has independently released three CDs, is president of her own record label and production company, and is also a producer and organizer of the Mythic Journeys conferences (that celebrate the work of people like Joseph Campbell. Her website is www.sherikling.com.



ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL

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October 12, 2005

To whom it may concern,

Sheri Kling is a charismatic performer and presenter. On September 15, 2005, Sheri spent her day with the World Literature students at Alpharetta High School. Her presentation on the archetypal hero and the creative writing process was well received and very informative. Ms. Kling fuses her musical talent and knowledge, and the result is an hour of fun and learning.

Sheri begins her program with music which gains interest and sets the mood of the presentation. Her music is upbeat and positive, and the students and teachers enjoyed hearing her soulful voice and inspiring lyrics. She then discusses the literary devices and symbols she uses in her lyrics and the journey of the archetypal hero to introduce her next piece of music, "Train to Metaphor". The use of archetypes is a central part of the curriculum in World Literature, so Sheri's discussion was the perfect reinforcement of the important concept. However, if the students are not familiar with archetypes, she would serve as an interesting introduction to the concept.

The latter part of Sheri's program deals with creative writing. She walked the students through a piece she wrote based on a nonfiction event. Sheri detailed how she created fiction, characterization, point of view and voice in her piece. Ms. Kling illustrated how to take a news event and add fiction to create something new. After Sheri's visit, my students used her song, "Burn for You" as a model to create their own piece of creative writing and the result was wonderful.

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I highly recommend Sheri Kling as a guest speaker to any English or Humanities classroom. Her presentation is one students will remember for years.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Perkins

English Teacher, Alpharetta High School