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EXAMPLES OF WORKSHOPS, CLASSES, AND RELEVANT TALKS

STORYCRAFTING I: DISTILLING PLOT AND GROWING A NARRATIVE

SUITED FOR ALL AGES; APPROPRIATE FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

So often we want to tell a story or have an idea in mind for a narrative but just cannot find the right place to start. Welcome to the dilemma of the creative type! In this highly-interactive workshop, participants will complete exercises making it easy to create a clear plot that is separate from synopsis and narrative. Then, optional elementary and/or advanced elements of storytelling are explored in order to build a more solid narrative on the plot foundation. Both solo and partnered exercises are used. Appropriate for those who use story and narrative in advertising, communication, multimedia, and non-profit organizations.

STORYCRAFTING II: CRITICAL THINKING IS AS SIMPLE AS “2 + 2 = ”

SUITED FOR ALL AGES; APPROPRIATE FOR BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

This workshop is for those who are looking to gain a competitive edge in their own field via the use of storytelling. With increasingly challenging critical thinking exercises, participants learn to create comparisons that push the receptive capacity of the presenter and receiver. Come prepared to THINK and widen your capacity for how you describe, classify, and parallel. Appropriate for those who use story and narrative in advertising, communication, multimedia, and non-profit organizations. Not for the faint of mind!

STORY BOXING

SUITED FOR SCHOOL-AGED PERSONS

This activity-based workshop teaches young tellers how to associate items and imagery with memories and then transform those associations into vivid storytelling descriptions. Built upon an artistic practice advocated by dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp, this workshop encourages development of the artistic process of storytelling. Importance is given to telling instead of memorizing or reading. Group work is encouraged and examples are demonstrated.

CRANKIE STORYTELLING CRAFT PROJECT

SUITED FOR ALL AGES

A Crankie is a paper- or textile-based scroll that depicts a story as it slowly rolls from one post to another. In this workshop, the concept of the Crankie is introduced and demonstrated. Then participants work together to construct a story and related Crankie. Very fun, very interactive, great for team-building, and the resulting product is great for a classroom, library, Sunday school room, or other communal location.

MINING THE FOOL'S GOLD: TURNING FAMILY STORIES INTO TALL TALES

SUITED FOR ALL AGES

Are there stories in the family that are too good to be made up? Ever wish there were? This crash course will guide participants through the process of taking family stories - no matter how plain - and turning them into tall tales. Focus is placed on conventions of tall tale, story development, and skills of exaggeration. Participants should come to the workshop familiar with a short personal or family story they wish to use.

INTRODUCTION TO APPALACHIAN STORIES AND STORYTELLING

SUITED FOR ALL AGES

This course can be taught with varying degrees of involvement. As an introduction to Appalachian storytelling, the course visits traditional folklore from indigenous and imported sources. The oral tradition is explored. Course can be expanded to look at other styles of story, including humor, tall tale, inexplicable phenomena, ghostlore and witchlore, and the present state of story production and collection.

OH, THE DEPTHS OF THE RICHES: TELLING MEANINGFUL FAMILY STORIES

SUITED FOR MORE SEASONED PERSONS

This intensive class leads tellers of differing degrees of storytelling experience through the process of understanding how story works as an art form. Beginning with general functional categories of storytelling, students explore the reasons to telling their own stories. Next comes lessons in character development, narration, temporality, and building levels of description through senses, metaphor, and symbolism. Analysis of examples from great storytellers is an important part of this process and group discussion is encouraged.

**Course can be taught in a week-long session or individual lessons can be extracted to create shorter workshops.

THE STORYTELLING ADVANTAGE

SUITED FOR MORE SEASONED PERSONS

This interactive lecture-discussion is based around using story in the workplace. Arguments are presented for the historical and cultural importance of storytelling in building community. Examples are provided and interaction is encouraged. This presentation can be tailored to address the perspective and needs of a particular organization.

ABOUT ADAM THE TEACHER

EDUCATION

M.M. Case Western Reserve University, Music History, 2006
magna cum laude

B.M. University of South Carolina, Music Composition, 2004
magna cum laude

— Shepherd College, 2000 - 2002,
Transferred to University of South Carolina

With years of teaching experience in colleges, gifted high school programs, continuing educational settings, and one-on-one private lessons in music and storytelling, Adam is consistently described as a gifted and compassionate teacher. He brings goals and expectations to his learning environments while still taking the time to listen to the individual needs of students.

Additionally, since the Fall of 2012, Adam has offered a popular semester-long collegiate course in Appalachian Folklore and Storytelling. Additional workshops and classes are available on related subject matter.

With a continuing desire for knowledge, Adam makes an effort to improve and refine his own skills and knowledge base. He has participated in music and storytelling masterclasses with artists including Kate Long, Tracy Schwartz and Ginny Hawker, Elizabeth Ellis, Bill Harley, and Donald Davis. He is in a mentorship with Lakota and Kiowa storyteller Dovie Thomason. In 2013 he received a grant from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History to pursue Appalachian mentorship work with Elizabeth Ellis.

For a complete educational résumé or to ask questions about storytelling workshops and classes, please phone or send an email.