



# Writing With Kids!

“Inside each of us is a natural-born storyteller, waiting to be released.”

-Robin Moore

# Jo Schaffer: This is me.





# Do kids care about writing?



# Teen Author Boot Camp (TABC)



# Why creative writing?

- A spoon full of sugar... Life and school are tough and stressful.
- Critical thinking
- Sense of empowerment
- Prepares them to be effective communicators
- Mental health



“Expressive writing has also been linked to improved mood, well-being, and reduced stress levels for those who do it regularly.”- Adam Grant



# How is writing different for kids?

- Kids don't have their voice yet.
- They are afraid of "doing it wrong" or looking stupid.
- Need to please you or mirror you to get the "A".
- Aversion to being bored.
- They are flooded with media in a way in a way we never were.

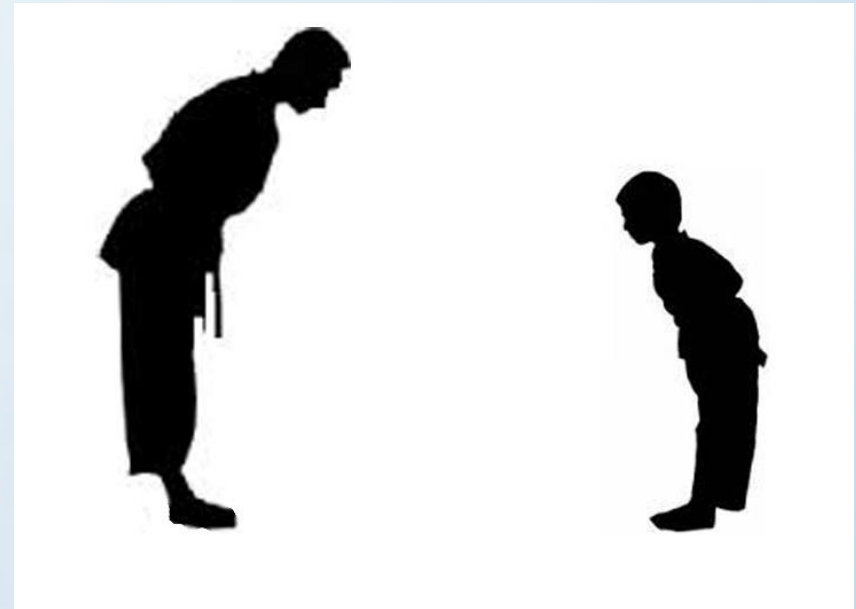


"Social media has colonized what was once a sacred space occupied by emptiness: the space reserved for thought and creativity."- Mahershala Ali

# Encourage creative expression

If they don't think you care you've already lost them.

- Validate/Respect
- Teach
- Empower
- Facilitate
- Encourage
- Advise
- Provide opportunities



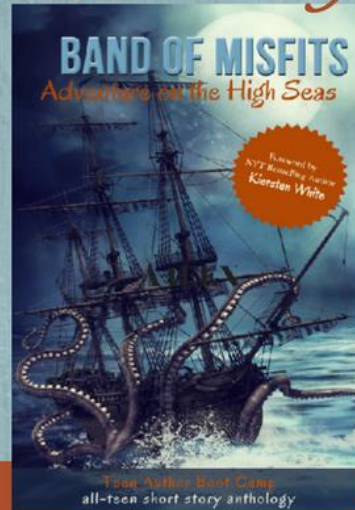
# Opportunities = Empowerment

Kick off Teen Author Boot Camp early with the  
**Band of Misfits Launch Party!**

- Celebrate the anthology's teen authors
- Fun activities for the whole family
- Prizes for best sea-themed costumes
- Specially priced anthologies
- Book signing with four NYT bestselling authors

**Friday, April 13th | 7pm**  
**Provo Library**

featuring a meet & greet book signing with:



Kiersten White



Roshani Chokshi



Maureen Johnson



Matthew Kirby

Event sponsored by  
The King's English and  
Provo Library  
more info at  
[owlhollowpress.com](http://owlhollowpress.com)



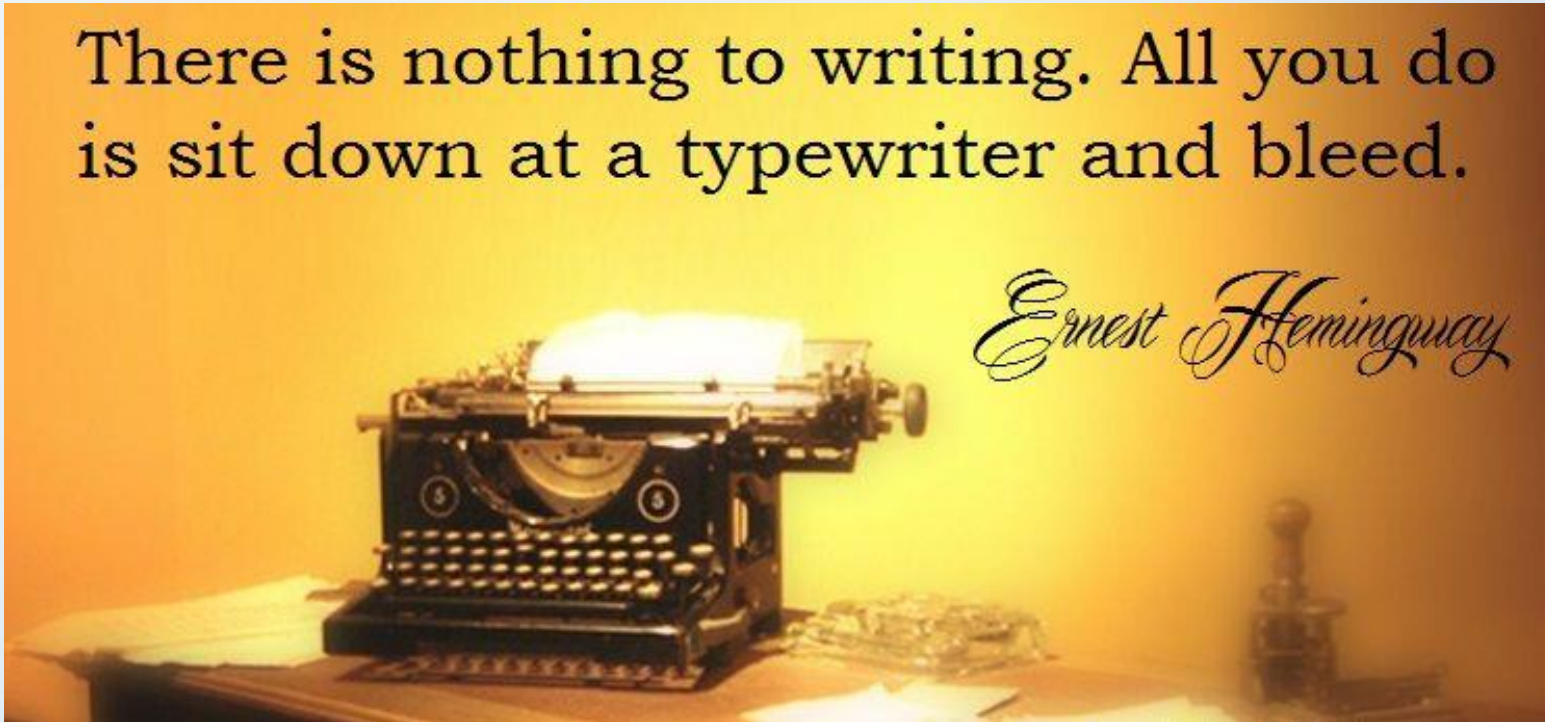


# Any creative endeavor is personal

Remember... you are asking them to be vulnerable.

There is nothing to writing. All you do  
is sit down at a typewriter and bleed.

*Ernest Hemingway*



# To get creative juice to flow...



- “Flow write” first! No edits until later. Give feedback that encourages and then teach them how to find their own weaknesses before you point them out.
- Resist imposing your voice on them. Appreciate the differences... this isn't math.
- Limitations encourage creativity and freedom to improvise allows it to grow. Find that balance!
- Set the proper environment for creativity.

“Great things are not accomplished by those who yield to trends and fads and popular opinion.”- Jack Kerouac



# How important is environment?

- Kids have to know that what they think matters.
- They must be free to express themselves.
- Engage- Ask questions and allow them time to think.
- Provide for different learning styles auditory, kinetic, verbal etc.

“Be regular and orderly in your life, so that you may be violent and original in your work.”- Gustave Flaubert



# Writing interactively in class

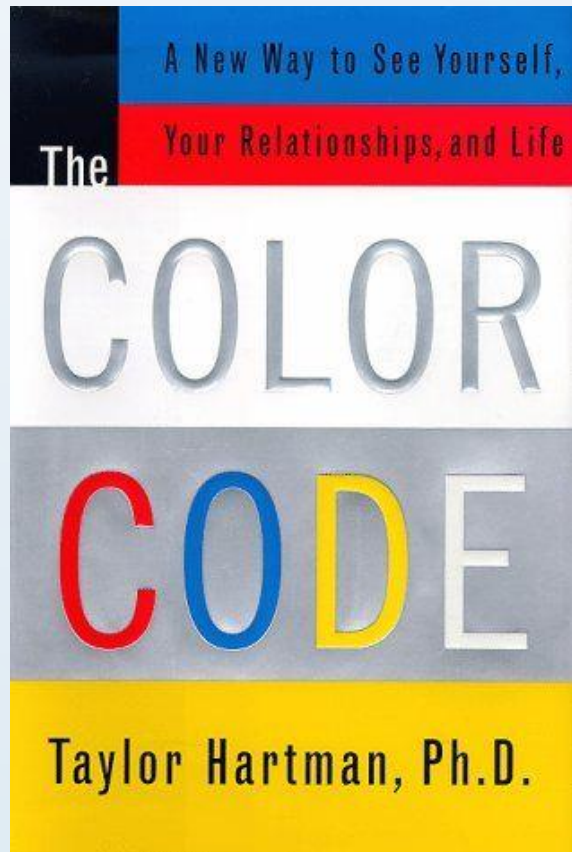
Writing is communication. Be collaborative. “Warm up” their creative minds with activities

- Writing prompts can be pictures, music, suggestions, scenes, dialog, questions, etc.
- Games like “And then...”
- Form teams. Come up with story ideas as groups and swap ideas with other groups. Read the results aloud and discuss the outcomes compared to the original idea.





# Kids need their own voice



Understanding what their motivations are empowers kids to speak their mind and interpret things their own way. Appreciating differences in others helps them to be relationship builders, open thinkers and problem solvers.

“Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit.”- E. E. Cummings

# Core Motives & Natural Talents

	Red	Blue	White	Yellow
Core Motive	Power	Intimacy	Peace	Fun
Natural Talents	Leadership Vision	Quality Service	Clarity Tolerance	Enthusiasm Optimism



Classroom idea:

## The Lego Experiment

Have kids take the color code test and don't tell them what the color results mean. Split them into groups according to their dominant personality color and give them the task to build something with legos.

See what happens...



# Personality types by color

What are their traits?

<b>Practical</b> <b>Serious</b> <b>Responsible</b> <b>Prepared</b> <b>Observant</b> <b>Eye for detail</b> <b>Analytical</b> <b>Good decision maker</b> <b>Follows the rules</b> <b>Confident</b> <b>Disciplined</b> <b>Leave emotions out of it</b>	<b>Compassionate</b> <b>helpful</b> <b>Courteous</b> <b>Imaginative</b> <b>Enthusiastic</b> <b>Detail-Oriented</b> <b>Dreamer</b> <b>Encourager</b> <b>Confident</b> <b>Relationship building</b> <b>Wanting to be there for people</b>
<b>Calm</b> <b>Cool</b> <b>Collected</b> <b>Conceptual</b> <b>Troubleshooter</b> <b>Introverted</b> <b>Detail-Oriented</b> <b>Task-Oriented</b> <b>Thinkers</b> <b>Intellectual</b> <b>Inventors</b>	<b>Professional</b> <b>Adventurer</b> <b>Competitive</b> <b>Free Spirited</b> <b>Spontaneous</b> <b>Clever</b> <b>Problem Solvers</b> <b>Witty</b> <b>Eager</b> <b>Outgoing</b> <b>Creative</b>

What does your student need?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•To look good (academically)</li><li>•To be right</li><li>•To be respected</li><li>•Approval</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•To be good (morally)</li><li>•To be understood</li><li>•To be appreciated</li><li>•Acceptance</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•To feel good (inside)</li><li>•To move at one's own pace</li><li>•To be respected</li><li>•Acceptance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•To look good (socially)</li><li>•To be liked</li><li>•To be noticed</li><li>•Approval</li></ul>

**Needs**



# Writing is two-way communication

- Opportunities to share.
- Allow competition.
- Read aloud to them from books that resonate with you.
- Give personal examples of things you have experienced/written.
- Feedback and rewrites- allow discussion and disagreements!
- Writing prompts (Walk the walk! Do it with them!)





## Writing Prompt!

Take a few minutes to write a sentence, story fragment, or bit of dialog for one of these pictures.





## Genre Swap!

Now do it again, but switch genres for the same picture!  
(Horror, Romance, Fantasy, Adventure)





## Black Belts don't happen in a semester

Allow them to practice, practice, practice! Good form comes in time but in the meantime make it fun and rewarding.



## Stanley and Hazel

No matter the subject, topic, time, or place, writing can be relevant to kids in the world they live in now!

For communication to cross the generation gap we have to know how and what kids think. We need to help them find their voice—not learn to echo ours. Creative writing is an excellent way to build communication bridges and foster individualization and lifelong learning.

“The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon.”

-Brandon Sanderson

