Sing Me A Story!

Workshop Leader: Deborah Sunya Moore
For Classroom Teachers, and Reading, Special Education and Music Specialists of Grades Pre K-1
3 hours of instruction time • Maximum participants: 30

Teachers can help young children develop deeper understanding of stories through song. All it takes is learning to uncover the song within the story. Anyone can do it, even those without any musical experience! In this workshop, teachers are guided through the process of creating a “Sing Me a Story” lesson to help students delve deeper into character, setting and events. Teachers learn to find the elements of music (such as steady beat) and related musical forms (such as echo, call and response, and verse-chorus) embedded within the story’s text. This workshop is perfect for teams of teachers — including classroom teachers, reading specialists, and music specialists.

Deborah Sunya Moore, percussionist and arts educator, has a long history as an advocate of performing arts programs for youth and persons with disabilities. Deborah is currently the Vice President of Performing and Visual Arts at Chautauqua Institution and a National Workshop Leader for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Additionally, she was awarded the designation of Fulbright Specialist in Arts Integration from 2017 to 2019. Previously, Ms. Moore held the positions of Arts Education & Community Engagement Specialist and Associate Professor of Percussion at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (2010–2013). She served as the Director of Education and Community Engagement for the Louisville Orchestra 2004–2009 and performs regularly with the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. She also was the artistic director (1999–2005) and percussionist (1996–2003) of Tales & Scales, a nationally touring instrumental quartet for youth. With Tales & Scales, Deborah commissioned and performed “music tales” for thousands of children and families in schools and theaters, and with symphonies such as the Boston, Atlanta, St. Louis, Phoenix and Indianapolis symphony orchestras. Deborah was selected for the Hermitage Artist Retreat 2013–2014 and became a speaker for the United States Department of State in 2014, representing the USA in Trinidad as a performer and speaker for Trinidad's 2014 Arts & Disabilities Conference.
Deborah serves as an arts educator and consultant, having led educator and artist training workshops for organizations such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Florida State University, Oberlin Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Boise Symphony, United States Marine Band and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. She has developed and taught longer arts integrated courses for classroom teachers for organizations such as the Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Kravis Center (Florida), the Jefferson Country Public Schools (Kentucky) and the Peace Center (North Carolina). Deborah was named a National Workshop Leader for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2008. An arts advocate for her local community as well, Deborah was a recipient of Zonta Club of Jamestown's Women in Leadership Award in 2018. She holds a bachelor's degree in percussion performance and an individual major, Performance and Education in Related Arts, from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Education curriculum and instruction from the University of Cincinnati.

Suzanne Fassett Wright, arts educator, percussionist and conductor, has focused her professional work on empowering people of all ages to nurture a love of performing, creating and enjoying the arts. Currently, she serves as the Director of Arts Education at Chautauqua Institution (CI), developing and implementing the Institution's arts education programs in music, drama, dance and visual arts throughout Western New York and Western Pennsylvania. Suzanne is a lead teaching artist and curriculum developer in CI’s “I Can Drum” School Residency, yearly reaching over 300 students with disabilities. Prior to her position at CI, she enjoyed a 20-year career as a music educator in higher education and K-12 public schools teaching in general music classrooms and as instrumental ensemble conductor. While living in Illinois, Suzanne was in high demand as conductor, clinician and adjudicator of concert and jazz ensembles throughout the state. Suzanne’s music performing career includes 21 years as percussionist in the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra.

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