

Applicable New York State Learning Standards

English Language Arts

STANDARD 1: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding.

STANDARD 2: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression.

STANDARD 3: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

STANDARD 4: Students will read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.



Enrichment Department
80 Munson Street
LeRoy, New York 14482
410-5841

Genesee Valley BOCES

Genesee Valley
BOCES

CoSer 406.015

Write It!



Melisa Swain
Program Assistant
(585) 658 or 344-7568

mswain2@gvboces.org

www.gvboces.org/enrichment

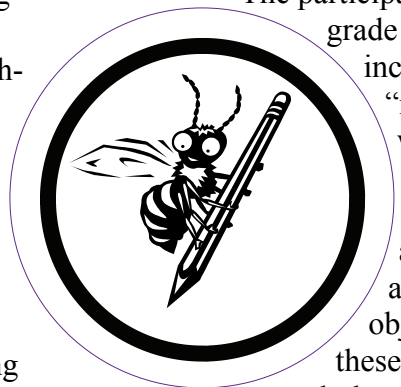
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Write It! is an exciting writing opportunity for elementary students. Writers from throughout the region have developed workshops that will challenge and stimulate students in shared writing experiences. Selected local authors are available for a 10-week “residency” in which students can develop a variety of writing skills and techniques.



The participating school districts select the grade levels and students who will be included in the program. During the “residency,” the selected author will meet weekly with two groups of 12 students for one hour each. Usually the first meeting includes a discussion between the writer and the teacher to discuss goals, objectives and expectations. Once these things are in order, it’s off to work they go!

Participating school districts are asked to:

- Identify a contact person.
- Select the writer, workshop, and age group.
- Select participating students with the understanding that they will be making a commitment to attend once a week for 10 weeks. (Maximum 12 per group)
- Identify a room for the group.

Joe Sottile is a children's poet, performing poet, author, tutor, and essayist. Joe taught grades 2-6 for thirty-three years in the Rochester area. His favorite subjects to teach were Reading and Writing. He published a collection of poems in 1998, *Bathroom Vacation and Other Poems*. In 2000, he retired and became a performing poet, visiting grades K-9. In 2004, he published *Picture Poetry on Parade!* Since then, Joe has created a popular website featuring a monthly poetry contest and inspirational ideas for students. Joe writes articles for magazines and newspapers. He has been published in Teachers of Vision, Once Upon a Time Magazine, the English Journal, Learning, Woman's World, Upstate Magazine, The Gannett newspaper, and the Messenger Post. He tutors suspended students in grades 6-12 after the school day. He is also working on a new collection of poetry, *Waiting for the Principal and Other Poems*. Joe loves poetry, kids, writing, biking, and golfing.

Leah Ruekberg has been performing as a storyteller since 1993, and has taught Language Arts since 1976, coaching drama, public speaking, storytelling and writing. She is the author of a dozen original stories based on her personal experience. Leah has taught story creation at the Writers and Books Literary

Center for many years, and is a Storyteller/Teaching Artist for the Aesthetic Education Institute. She is the recipient of a Genesee Valley “Artists in the Schools” grant, 2000-2001.

M. J. Iuppa is a local poet and writer who successfully teaches poetry and creative writing workshops to students ages 8-89. She is the recipient of various writing awards including the Writing-in-Rochester award and was nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Award in 1998, 2001, and 2002. GeVa Theatre and Writers and Books selected her play, *The Heat*, as one of the seven plays read in the American Voices Regional Playwrights' Festival in 1998. Over 200 of her poems have appeared in small press, university, and national publications including *Poetry*, *Yankee Press*, and *New Letters*. She authored several chapter books including her latest, *Night Traveler* (Foothills Publishing, November 2003) and her creative nonfiction is included in the collection, *In Brief*, and in *Chelsea 67*. Presently she is the Writer-in-Residence at St. John Fisher College, and also teaches creative writing and poetry workshops at Genesee Valley BOCES, Young Audiences, Project U.N.I.Q.U.E., Rochester City School District, Writers and Books, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and BOCES 2. Since 1990, she has been the curator of the Genesee Reading Series at Writers and Books.

Tom Fox is currently performing his one-man show, *A visit with Winslow Homer* in art and cultural venues such as the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester. Other plays include *The Green Room*, winner of the W. Keith Hedrick Play Writing Award; *Moment of Grace*, winner of the Genesee Community College Play Competition; *AESOP*, a musical staged by Genesee Community Players & School of Performing Arts, SUNY Genesee; and *COACH*, a one-man show on Vince Lombardi. In 2003 Tom received the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts Award for Artistic Achievement. As a fine artist, Fox is a cartoonist and watercolorist. He is a three-time winner for his editorial cartoons in *New York Press Association Better Newspaper Contests*. Tom holds a Journalism degree from Penn State.

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Phone: (585) 344 or 658-7560
Fax: (585) 344 or 658 7606
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