

Kansas City Young Audiences

Teacher Program Guide

How Many Stories in a Cupcake?

Artist: Joel Jenkins

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Contact KCYA for more information on this and other programs.

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Workshop Description

There's nothing quite like a cupcake: it's sweet, moist, and full of stories.

In this engaging and delicious workshop, writer and producer, Joel Jenkins, invites students to use their imaginations to discover and explore the characters involved in creating a cupcake.

Joel begins with an examination of *awareness* which lets us see an object as more than what it appears to be: a cupcake is more than cake and frosting. Many ingredients are baked into it. There are also many people, including farmers, bakers, and others, from all around



the world that are needed to make this simple treat possible.

As the children enjoy their cupcake, Joel shows them how powerful their imaginations are as they create word-images for unknown cupcake makers. Joel emphasizes that along with imagination, the most useful tool every storyteller has is the ability to ask *why*. By carefully asking why, students can discover a character's motivations.

Joel concludes with how a story, like a cupcake, has many ingredients: conflict, resolution, characters, and plot.

Educational Objectives and Standards

Students will:

- Students will see how many people and cultures are represented by the ingredients in a cupcake
- Use their imagination to create stories about the people who made their cupcake

Behavioral Studies:

- Knows how people define and use resources

Language Arts:

- Can talk about characters and their actions in stories

Special Points of Interest:

Vanilla, a common ingredient in cupcakes, is the only edible fruit of the orchid family, the largest family of flowering plants in the world.

Special REQUIREMENTS:

A chalkboard or dry erase board; chalk or markers

Artist Bio: Joel Jenkins

Joel Jenkins, is a storyteller. He enjoys using his imagination to help people laugh, inspire learning, and look beyond their everyday lives.

As a producer and writer, Joel created *What's Your Story, Kid?*, an in-school residency that nurtures children's storytelling skills through filmmaking. This successful program has entertained and educated many students.

Parents have noted the improvement they've seen in their children's self-esteem as the students learn to focus their creativity into producing a video presentation.

Joel has worked with numerous clients including Lucasfilm and The White House. He studied *Producing Children's Television* at the Maine Workshops and has taught at UMKC and the Kansas City Art Institute.



Joel Jenkins

Vocabulary

Antagonist: The principal character in opposition to the protagonist or hero of a narrative or drama.

Character: A person portrayed in an artistic piece, such as a drama or novel.

Conflict: Opposition between characters or forces in a work of drama or fiction, especially opposition that motivates or shapes the action of the plot.

Culture: Patterns, traits, and products considered as the expression of a particular period, class, community, or population.

Ingredient: An element in a mixture or compound.

Investigate: To observe or inquire into in detail; examine systematically.

Motivation: The psychological feature that arouses an organism to action toward a desired goal; the reason for the action; that which gives purpose and direction to behavior.

Protagonist: The main character in a drama or other literary work.

Resolution: The solution to the conflict.

List of Resources

BOOKS

Tell Me a Tale: A Book about Storytelling
by Joseph Bruchac
Harcourt Children's Books; 1st ed edition
(March 1, 1997) ISBN: 0152012214

The Magic Pencil: Teaching Children Creative Writing : Exercises and Activities for Children, Their Parents, and Their Teachers by Eve Shelnett
Peachtree Publishers; (May 1, 1994)
ISBN: 1561450456

Kids Around the World Create!: The Best Crafts and Activities from Many Lands (Kids Around the World)
by Arlette N. Braman
Wiley; (July 9, 1999) ISBN: 047129005X

Post-Workshop Activities

1. Find your favorite toy and examine how it's built. Look at the design, the color, and the other features that make it special to you. Think about the artist, engineers, and workmen who put it together. What do you think was motivating them as they contributed to the creation of the toy? Do you think their children influenced the direction of their work? Their own childhoods?
2. Ask your parents about your ancestors. How far back can you trace your roots? Write down their names and the places they lived. When they lived, what was their society like? Imagine building a time machine and traveling back to visit them. What were the conflicts they faced? How did they resolve them?

