

PROGRAM

Journeys and Journals on the Erie Canal

ARTIST NAME

Melissa Kate



AVAILABLE FORMATS

- Performance
- Single Workshop
- Multi-Session Residency Workshop

GRADE LEVELS

- Pre-K
- K – 2nd
- 3rd – 5th
- 6th – 8th
- 9th – 12th

MAX NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

In-Person: 32
Virtual: N/A

PROGRAM LENGTH

45 minutes

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Presented in tandem with the Erie Canal Traveling Museum, this exciting residency brings the Erie Canal to life through creative writing prompts that every young writer--from the most resistant to the most prolific--will enjoy. The workshops challenge young writers to create characters that could have existed in towns that could have been built along the Erie Canal. They'll develop skills in writing from multiple perspectives, developing character back-story, writing dialogue, and plotting a story from beginning to end. By the end, young writers will have a deepened sense of curiosity and knowledge about life on the canal in a truly personal way. This program is aligned with NY ELA standards.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

This program supports these NYS or Next Generation Learning Standards:

- ELA:3-5W3
- ELA:3-5SL1
- SS:2.3 Elementary

**Contact Arts for Learning WNY for more information.
(716) 881-0917 | info@artsforlearningwny.org**

Arts for Learning WNY's mission is to inspire, expand learning, and strengthen our community through engagement with the arts.

artsforlearningwny.org



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students will explore life on the Erie Canal through the perspectives of townspeople who lived there. They will gain insight into the tools and trades that people created and used and found as their livelihoods. They will understand why the Erie Canal was built, what impact it had on New York State, and how people lived.

LOGISTICS/EQUIPMENT

Classroom with desks to write, paper & pens/pencils

VOCABULARY

Artifact: A man-made object of historical importance

Perspective: How one views something

Dialogue: Spoken or implied conversation between two or more individuals

Hoggee: Young child responsible for caring for mules/horses along the tow paths of the canal

POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

There are any number of materials online available to reinforce learning. Specifically, there is a tour available of the locks in Lockport that many schools choose to attend. Teachers can also opt to have students continue their writing so that it becomes an edited piece that can be shared or collected into an "Erie Canal Book" Additional activities might include reading news articles from the time of the Canal and writing "letters to the editor" about concerns or enthusiasm the townspeople have for the project

PBS <https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/midlit10.soc.splerie/building-the-erie-canal/>

Resource References: <https://www.eriecanal.org/books.html>

Launch Into Learning - Mr. Mault's Marketplace: Erie Canal Reading Comprehension (available on amazon for \$4.99)

ARTIST BIO



Melissa Kate is an experienced teaching artist. She has taught for nearly two decades with programs in creative writing, poetry, theater, improvisation, and music. A studied and working theatre artist, a professional singer, and published songwriter, Melissa offers high quality programs tailored to a broad range of young learners. At the center of her work as a performing artist, Melissa's goal has been to engage young people and adults in the arts and humanities, to foster new experiences for her audiences, and to inspire growth as empathic human beings for personal, social, and civil empowerment.

Arts for Learning WNY's mission is to inspire, expand learning,
and strengthen our community through engagement with the arts.

artsforlearningwny.org



Affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network