



## Karen L. Erickson

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### THE DRAMA OF SCIENCE

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of Grades 1-6**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

In this workshop, participants explore a step-by-step process of integrating science concepts and drama strategies in the classroom. Teachers learn how to transform science lessons into active, student-centered explorations of earth science, mechanical science, and biology through drama strategies such as expressive movement and enacted story. Teachers also learn about activities that develop teamwork and creative problem solving skills in students. Participants examine techniques for classroom management and building group dynamics while experiencing several types of integration design.

### DRAMA: THE MISSING LINK IN TEACHING LITERACY

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of Grades 1-8**

**3 hours of instruction time (can be altered upon request)**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

In this workshop, teachers discover how to build vocabulary skills, improve reading comprehension, and expand writing techniques through drama integration. Participants explore ways to transform language arts lessons into active, student-centered explorations of story elements, word choice, fluency, comprehension, writing, and characterization through drama strategies such as expressive movement, ensemble, story dramatization, and character development. Participants learn about activities that develop teamwork and creative problem solving skills in students through activities that help improve grammar, predicting, inferring skills, and adding details to writing assignments.

Note: Professional Development workshops for teachers listed with this symbol are available to accompany the Planning Seminar, "Artists as Educators: Planning Effective Workshops for Teachers."

**KAREN L. ERICKSON** has been a Professional Teaching Artist for more than 20 years. As Executive Director of Creative Directions, she trains artists and teachers in drama education, curriculum planning, arts integration, and assessment development nationally and internationally. Ms. Erickson continues her work as a playwright and stage director in addition to authoring seven drama education books used in schools throughout the country. Her most recent publication, *The Arts: keystones to Learning* was published in 2005 and documented 26 arts integrated programs in the Chicago Public Schools. She served as the Artistic Director of Trinity Square Ensemble Theater in Chicago for eight years in addition to several years working at the Goodman Theater where she was an assistant to Tennessee Williams during his two-year residency. Ms. Erickson has written more than 15 plays for youth and adults produced by theater companies across the United States. She works with the Kennedy Center's professional development programs including Changing Education Through the Arts (C.E.T.A.). Ms. Erickson is a certified teacher in English, speech communications, and theater education for grades K-12. She co-wrote the Illinois Arts Goals, Standards, Performance Descriptors and Chicago Drama Benchmarks in addition to a state book on Fine Arts Integration.

## **FOCUSING ON ARTS INTEGRATION**

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of All Grades**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

Arts integration takes various forms while exhibiting many defining characteristics. This workshop presents participants with the opportunity to work with colleagues to uncover those characteristics and discuss how the information might impact their own arts integrated lesson designs. Drama is used as the example art form along with one of the following options:

- Option I, Social Studies: a full-group exploration as Pioneers on a wagon train moving west in a Life Drama example.
- Option II, Social Studies: a small-group “story drama” where teams of participants improvise and enact a story based on the Intolerable Acts associated with the Revolutionary War.
- Option III, Language Arts: A full-class parallel play drama exploring grammar, vocabulary, and story elements where participants work first alone in personal space and then in teams to improvise and create a drama demonstrating word comprehension.

In each option, participants experience a lesson twice, first as a lesson that only has the appearance of integration and secondly as an actual integrated lesson. Participants compare and contrast the lessons to identify the characteristics that separate the integrated example from the non-integrated example.

## **GETTING STARTED WITH DRAMA INTEGRATION: PART 1, THE BASICS**

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of Grades 1-8**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

When learning to integrate drama with other subject areas, teachers often ask, “How do I begin?” This workshop provides an answer for teachers new to integrating drama or experienced teachers who are looking for alternative ways to integrate drama. Through simple movement activities and enacted story, participants learn to effectively set introductory management structures, build collaborative classroom communities, and introduce the tools of drama: body, mind, and voice. Story elements and the skills of self-management, imagination, and concentration are also explored. Drama is a powerful tool for learning and experiencing literature, history, science, and human interaction. The right beginning ensures success.

Note: For an additional charge, Ms. Erickson’s book, *Getting Started with Drama*, which extends and reinforces the activities demonstrated in the workshop, may be purchased for each teacher.

## **GETTING STARTED WITH DRAMA INTEGRATION: PART 2, MANAGING AND CREATING THE LESSON**

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of Grades 1-8**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

Picking up where Part I left off, this workshop demonstrates how the drama process can be transferred to students by introducing a model for independent planning and practicing. Participants also learn to use a variety of techniques for designing lessons around stories. More management techniques are introduced, including teaching in role, viewing student work, and evaluating group cohesiveness. Participants move step by step through the lesson planning process and leave with the tools to plan their own integrated drama lessons with confidence.

## INTEGRATING DRAMA WITH THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of Pre K and Kindergarten**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

How can children's need for play be channeled into activities that teach fundamental language, self-management, and character-building skills? In this hands-on workshop, teachers examine a series of "playful" lessons that demonstrate a variety of drama techniques that make connections to early childhood curriculum content. Participants examine the developmental stages of young children and how these stages can be used to create a context through which activities are presented. Traditional themes and new ideas are explored with workshop leader Karen Erickson.

Note: For an additional charge, either the full or workshop version of Ms. Erickson's book, *Getting Started with Drama, Kindergarten Grade Level Guide*, which extends and reinforces the activities demonstrated in the workshop, may be purchased for each teacher.

## POWERFUL PARTNERS: IMPROVING STUDENT WRITING THROUGH DRAMA

**Workshop Leader: Karen Erickson**

**For Teachers of Grades 4-8**

**3 hours of instruction time**

**Maximum number of workshop participants: 30**

Guide students on the path to improved writing through the integration of creative drama techniques. In this workshop, explore how creative drama concepts of characterization, story elements, movement, and dialogue help students write with added detail, consider the impact of word choice, and include tone color. The drama skills of concentration, imitation, and collaboration are combined with descriptive writing activities culminating in original stories in script form created by all participants. Come and see how partnering writing and creative drama gives students confidence in their written language and in their ability to create both as an actor and an author/playwright.

## ARTS INTEGRATION: THE KENNEDY CENTER'S APPROACH

**For Administrators, Arts Specialists, Teaching Artists, and Teachers of All Grade Levels**

Many of the Kennedy Center's professional development offerings are based on a philosophy and practice of teaching called arts integration. So what is arts integration? This session unpacks the Kennedy Center's definition and gives you the opportunity to uncover the characteristics of quality integration. In addition, the session includes your participation in an arts-integrated lesson and examines how arts-integrated instruction aligns with current learning principles and best practice.

Kennedy Center Teaching Artists Randy Barron, Deborah Brzoska, Lenore Blank Kelner, Judy Thibault Klevins, Sean Layne, and Stuart Stotts also offer the Arts Integration [Presentation](#).

An 8-hour version of this presentation is available as a Seminar for Artist Development. Please contact the Partners in Education office at (202) 416-8806 for more information.

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**KAREN ERICKSON ALSO OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES\* FOR:**

**Students**

- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/Exhibit Attendance
- Other Workshops
- Residencies

**Teachers**

- In-Depth Courses
- Demonstration Teaching
- Coaching in the Classroom
- Action Research Coaching
- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/Exhibit Attendance

**Parents**

- PTA/PTO Presentations/Speeches
- Workshops for Parents
- Workshops for Parents with their Children

**School Administrators**

- Speeches
- Workshops

**Schools**

- Strategic Planning for Arts Integration Schools

**Partners in Education Teams**

- Program Planning Advice
- Strategic Planning

**Other**

- Technical Assistant Training
- Teaching Artist Training
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Team Building and Leadership Training

*\*Not all services have been designed or presented by the Kennedy Center.*