

Krista Weltner

Teaching Artist



Hello!

I am a children's book author-illustrator, dyslexia advocate, and puppet maker. I have over a decade of experience building puppets for the theme park and animation film industries. I'm excited to share my work with your students and bring my expertise and passion for the arts to your school!

My Education

I have a Master's Degree in Puppet Arts from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor's of Fine Arts Degree in Theater Design from the University of Evansville.

Let's Talk!

For pricing and availability, email me at kweltner206@gmail.com.

To find out more about me and my work, visit:

www.kristaweltner.com

School Visits

I offer both in-person and virtual presentations and puppet-making workshops. Based in Lancaster, PA. I'm happy to travel near and far to bring these experiences to your students. I've gone as far as Seattle! Nothing is impossible. Each visit is tailored to fit your school's needs and grade levels.

The programs listed here are a great place to start our conversation. If you have something different in mind, let's dream it up together—I love creating new experiences that make learning unforgettable!

Everyday Adventures With Molly and Lexi



About My Picture Book Series

Growing up with Dyslexia, I never thought I would be able to call myself a published author, let alone use my experiences to make things a little brighter for the next generation. My books follow Molly and Lexi as they navigate the challenges of dyslexia with determination and creativity. These books serve as an excellent teaching tool to aid in discussions about self-advocacy, learning differences, disabilities, and inclusion.



Presentations

My presentations are 1 hour long. I always include time for questions and student engagement. **For virtual visits, my fee is \$200.00.** In-person presentations vary by location.

How a Picture Book Is Made (K-6th)

My most requested presentation! In this author talk, I take your students behind the scenes, through the stages of development of my picture book series, **Everyday Adventures With Molly and Dyslexia**. We will read one or two books aloud and touch on the themes of self-advocacy, inclusion, and learning differences. I will also share my personal experience growing up with Dyslexia and ways that inspired my series.

How an Artist Gets Started (7th-12th)

This presentation is career-oriented. When I was in high school, I was eager to pursue a career in the arts but had no idea where to begin. In this presentation, I share my career and educational trajectory, from my early exploration of studying theater and puppetry to my work experiences in animation, working on a Netflix Film, **Wendell and Wild**, as well as Laika Studios' upcoming film, **Wildwood**. We will also talk about possibilities in the Theme Park and Publishing industries.

The Wide World of Puppetry (K-12th)

In this crash course, your students will learn about the five branches of puppetry (Shadow puppets, hand puppets, rod puppets, marionettes, and mask theatre). We will review numerous examples of each style and explore the historical context of each branch with plenty of visual examples.



Shadow Puppet Workshop

1- 1.5 hrs depending on your needs.

Description:

✓ What will my students learn?

Students will each design and create their own simple shadow puppet with a center joint. They will hear a brief overview of the history of shadow puppetry and see a demonstration of several types of puppets being performed.

✓ Performance

Students will be given the opportunity to share their puppets on a shadow screen and perform for their peers.

✓ Take-a-ways

Students will keep their shadow puppet. I will also provide a handout for teachers and parents to help their students build their own cardboard shadow theater and additional puppets.

Materials

Fee per student: \$2.00

I will provide:

- two pieces of construction paper
- bendy straws
- masking tape

I ask that you provide:

- One pair of scissors (per student)
- crayons or a pencil to draw with.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES
5 AND UP**

Object Theatre Workshop



1- 1.5 hrs depending on your needs.

Description:



What is Object Theater?

Object theater uses everyday objects to create puppets. In this performance-based workshop, students will stretch their imagination and create characters in individual and group exercises. Students explore the basics of puppetry and have the opportunity to develop their own short scripts.



Puppetry Basics

Through experimentation with movable and static objects, students will learn how to bring their characters to life. Their puppets will come to life through techniques incorporating breath, movement, and creating the illusion of thought. Techniques learned during the workshop can be applied to other forms of puppetry, which will also be discussed.



Take-a-ways

Students will come away having had a first-hand experience with puppetry.

Materials

Students are asked to bring:

- A clean sock
- Three static objects.
Examples: a pencil, a mug, or a wooden spoon
- Three movable/flexible objects. Examples: a sweatshirt, a flexible ruler, a leaf, A plastic bag, or a scarf.

These objects will be used in a group setting. Please make sure they are items you are willing to share.

**SUITABLE FOR AGES
8 AND UP**

Sock Puppet Workshop



1- 1.5 hrs depending on your needs.

Description:



What will my students learn?

In this puppet-building workshop, students will design and build their own sock puppet. I will guide them through the process of creating a mouth plate, adding arms, an arm rod, eyes, and other features. As time allows they will also learn about lipsync techniques and puppetry.



Puppetry Performance Basics

As time allows, students will use their new creations to prepare a performance in small groups. They will learn how to breathe life into their puppet from learning lip-sync techniques to giving their puppets a unique expression of movement. We will discuss character differences that can be expressed through movement and voice.



Take-a-ways

Students will come away having had a first-hand experience with puppetry performance and fabrication.

Materials

Fee per student: \$10.00

I will provide the following:

- Two clean socks.
- roughly 8X8 inch piece of cardboard
- hot glue sticks and guns
- black felt (3X3 inches)
- ping pong balls
- masking tape

I ask that you provide:

- 1 pair of scissors per student

SUITABLE FOR AGES 9 AND UP

**NOTE: THIS WORKSHOP INVOLVES
THE USE OF LOW TEMP HOT GLUE GUNS.**

Testimonials

"We are immensely grateful to Krista for sharing her inspiring story and for empowering our students to believe in themselves and their dreams. Her visit will be remembered as a highlight of our academic year."

Mandi Davis Skerbetz, EdD
Principal, Dallas Academy

"Her professionalism, preparation, and enthusiasm captured not only the children in the audience but also the adult educators and staff present as well. She no doubt inspired future artists!"

Craig Brauner
President, Ellipse Theatre Community

