

Erminio,

It's Keith Spencer from the George Keverian School in Everett. I wanted to thank you once again because the students had an amazing experience when you held a workshop about a month ago to create 2D abstract creatures for a dramatic presentation of a myth. It was absolutely the best day I've spent teaching in a long time! It was not only a great artistic experience, but it also provided a real learning THROUGH collaboration and a creative process that is not just an add-on activity. This is such a valuable tool that I will continue to develop and adapt with my team and specialist teachers in the future.

It also helped sell the entire process to my whole seventh grade which consists of 100 kids because the students who participated spoke so very highly and proudly of the process and products created. Those students are now working with their English classes on creating five NEW sets of characters/creatures that they are applying to a narrative poem we read & analyzed: The Highwayman. They created an amazing set of drafts in the history teachers class before they came to English. We went through the editorial, process and voted democratically on our choices, and moved onto the black marker outlining. The workshop will now continue in my English class for two or three more days depending on how the poem/script adaptation, rehearsal, and recording goes on Friday. We may have to do our in class performances next week, but I'm willing to dedicate a solid 5 classes to doing it right!

I'll continue to update you about the project after its completion, and I most definitely will be sharing a folder of my favorite photos from both our day together with the students as well as my workshop with the entire seventh grade. I've attached a few pictures to this email from my workshop to show their progress in just two 50-minute class periods.

I am also a writer in addition to my teaching (<http://www.nobomagazine.com>), and I will be working with my principal and our SmART Schools coordinator Katherine McKie who you know to develop an article to be placed in all three of our local papers here in Everett. I will make sure that we send you links to any digital posts of the article as well as mail you physical copies of the papers for you to have for your records as well.

Once again, **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! This is something that has changed my students' learning experience forever.**

Keith Spencer
George Keverian School
Grade 7 English