

*When you go away,  
I won't forget poetry.*

*~4th grade student*

## Alice's Bio & Experience

- Designed and delivered innovative visiting poet projects in almost 30 different Illinois schools, libraries and community centers, 2000 to the present
- MFA in Writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Author of "This Must Be The Place" (Mayapple Press, 2008)
- Winner of a 2005 Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship Award
- Work published in more than 25 journals
- Roster Artist, Illinois Arts Council Arts in Education Program (grants may be available to support residencies)
- Active community volunteer
- Consultant to the nonprofit sector (fund raising & organizational development)



**The Wind God ~ Alexis (4th grade)**

I am the wind god  
blowing wind from my mouth.  
Feel the chilly  
wind blow over the city.  
Feel the wind in your  
hair it feels good  
doesn't it?

Super windy in the  
air watch the wind  
the wind blow here  
and there watch the  
clouds go back and forth it's  
a windy night oh yeah!

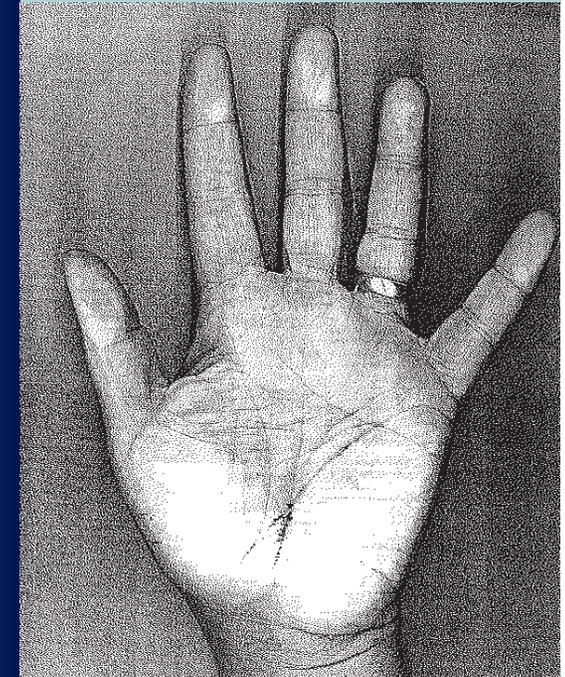
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Read more student work & learn how Alice can  
bring poetry to your venue at her website.

[www.alicegeorge.org](http://www.alicegeorge.org)

# Head Heart & Hand



Alice George  
~Teaching Poet~

# The Power of Poetry

## My hands

Bright as the rays of the sun  
scars telling my yesterday  
wrinkles telling my tomorrow.  
My hands are a mouthful of words  
expressing me.  
My hands are hard  
when I work and hate  
and soft when I rest and love.  
Forever they shall shine  
until my soul is gone.  
~Luis (7th grade)



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## My Approach

My teaching integrates play and work, head and heart, engaging students and helping them create work which moves and excites them. I teach creative writing in a wide variety of situations:

Writer-in-Residence in K-12 schools, libraries, and other community centers.

After-school writing creative writing teacher for K-12 students in parks, schools, and other venues.

Workshop teacher for college students and adults.

I also conduct professional development sessions for teachers, train poets to be teachers, and help groups design and implement creative writing curricula.

## Why Poetry?

A Poetry 'genre study' can align with and reinforce school language arts curricula and state standards—therefore decreasing the 'down time' some visiting artist residencies create.

Poetry differentiates extraordinarily well, allowing both struggling and proficient writers to achieve significant success.

Poetry can integrate with science, social studies, social-emotional, and even math curricula in ways that enliven student learning and forge deep connections across disciplines.

Poetry challenges students to think 'outside the box', develop their individual voices, and take creative risks—all while developing key language arts skills.

## What do the teachers say?

*My students were exposed to an expert who modeled the writing process.*

*The students light up when she walks in the door! They are so inspired and always comment how the time flies.*

*Ms George's energy, expertise, teaching methods and overall lessons were absolutely fantastic!*

*Alice's unique technique for combining visual art with writing brought a fresh approach to what it means to create art.*

*Poetry as expression is FAR out of my comfort zone... so this was very informative for me.*

## Project Gallery

**"The Poetry of Change"**, a 2nd grade unit integrating concepts from earth science with personal experiences of change and transformation.

**"A River Runs Through Us"**, a 3rd grade unit in which a habitat study and field trip yielded rich subjects for poetry.

**"Cool Poets"**, a K-5 unit integrating poetry with a social-emotional curriculum to help students articulate their feelings.

**8th Grade After-School**, a program for at-risk students in which poetry games & exercises pave the way for web publication and a public performance.

**"Two Sides of the Brain"** High School Arts/Poetry project in which students created collages & drawings then wrote creative pieces in response to their artwork.

*What did I learn? To put in lots of adjectives, use juicy words, add great details, use the senses. Most importantly to blink 3 times and whisper poetry.*

~ 2nd grade comment after 6-week residency

## Poetry as one of the arts....

Visual art, drama and music play a large part in my teaching. I lead students in integrated arts projects such as writing blues lyrics, creating drawings or collages and then writing about them, crafting handmade poetry books, and performing their work.