



Adventures in Reading and Writing

Summer 2009

with

Stephen Bárczay Sloan

of

The Library Table

A service of: Sloan Creative Group, Inc

Learning adventures in reading, writing, photography, and drawing while walking in beautiful local parks. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

## Step 1. Pick a fun class

### Reading, Thinking, Photography, and Writing Skills

#### Writing Intensive: Letting ideas flow onto paper

**The big questions:** Why can we speak so freely but freeze before a blank page? How can we warm up to writing freely and comfortably, pouring your heart and mind onto the page?

**The content:** Will be of our own creation!

**The skills and activities:** Walking to activate the mind and imagination, writing exercises to reconnect heart, mind, and hand. Maybe even some drawing to heighten our observational sensitivities.

#### Laughing at Life

**The big questions:** What makes writing funny? How can everyday occurrences become hilarious stories? What in a person lets them create a laugh riot out of what thousands of others simply endured?

**The content:** Mark Twain's [Roughing It](#) and our own creations.

**The skills and activities:** Deep reading, finding what makes us laugh, writing our own humorous takes on the situations and characters we meet each day.

#### I'm Not a Kid Anymore!

**The big questions:** How do we "come of age"? Can the process be chosen or must it be forced upon us? What do we gain by engaging in the process actively? Learn about coming of age in Joseph Conrad's adventurous world on the high seas. This class will focus on reading skills, drawing, and envisioning our own lives as acts of creation.

**The content:** We will read Conrad's high-seas adventure stories "Youth" and "The Secret Sharer" while we plot adventures of our own!

**The skills and activities:** Walking adventures, deep reading, clear thinking, dynamic writing and journaling, drawing.

#### Nurturing Self

**The big questions:** How do we protect and grow our positive, creative sense of self amidst the waves of popular culture today? How do we make choices that are uniquely our own amidst societal and family pressures?

**The content:** Our literary companion for this adventure will be Miss Lucy Honeychurch from E. M. Forsters, [A Room with a View](#).

**The skills and activities:** Promenading through the park, deep reading, clear thinking, creative writing and journaling, drawing. What could be more lovely?

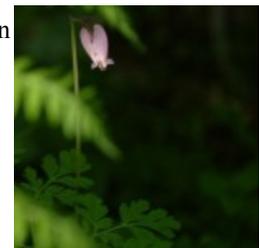


#### Digital Photography - Portraits of Friends and Nature

**The big questions:** How do I use this camera to its full creative potential? How do I engage my own creativity to find and capture more moving, more beautiful images?

**The content:** You, your camera, readings on perception, your world.

**The skills and activities:** Walking, seeing the world afresh, perception exercises, capturing the seen and unseen with our cameras, journaling.



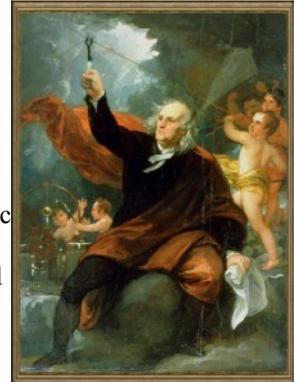
## Great People

### Ben Franklin, Super Man

**The big questions:** How did a printer's apprentice educate himself and become a successful business and political leader, creator of the first public library in the US, author, scientist, and diplomat?

**The content:** We will read selections from Franklin's Autobiography and Poor Richard's Almanac that help us to understand how to emulate his love of life and learning.

**The skills and activities:** Walking adventures, deep reading, clear thinking, dynamic writing and journaling, drawing.



### Gandhi: Experiments with Truth

**The big questions:** How did Gandhi become, well, Gandhi? What was his personal and spiritual path to such amazing moral and political leadership? How might we convert this knowledge into wisdom for living our own lives? Why would an intelligent, sane man shoot one of the greatest men who've ever lived?

**The content:** [Gandhi's Autobiography, My Experiments with Truth](#) and his assassin's deposition/confession essay.

**The skills and activities:** Deep reading, walking, discussion, exercises in voluntary simplicity, journaling.



### Thomas Jefferson

**The big questions:** What in Thomas Jefferson's life formed him into such an extraordinarily influential thinker, writer, and inventor? Would it be possible for Jefferson to reach the same heights in today's world? What would make this extraordinary outcome more likely in today's world? Less likely? What can we do about this in our own lives?

**The content:** Selected letters and writings from the heart and mind of Thomas Jefferson.

**The skills and activities:** Walking, deep reading, letter writing, journaling, drawing our own inventions or homes.

### Emerson and Thoreau

**The big questions:** How shall we live? What can a couple of Transcendentalists from the early 1800's tell us about our lives today? What are Transcendentalists and what are they transcending? What should we work on today? How should we relate to others today? How can we possibly relate to others who lived long ago?

**The content:** Selections from Emerson's essays "Self-Reliance" and "History" and Thoreau's "Walden"

**The skills and activities:** Deep reading, clear thinking, lively discussion, walking, voluntary simplicity exercises.

## Moving Modern Tales

### The Book Thief

**The big questions:** How can reading literature help us even when Death is all around us? What if our personal values conflict with those popular around us? Are we humans beautifully good or brutally bad?

**The content:** [The Book Thief](#) by Markus Zusak A moving tale of a young girl's life inside Nazi Germany during WWII.

We will dive deeply into this page-turner of a book written for young people but moving for any reader with a beating heart. An amazing fictive feat!

**The skills and activities:** Walking, deep reading, lively discussion, inner picturing and drawing to heighten imagination and reading enjoyment.

## Adventure

**A Time of Gifts: From London to Constantinople on Foot**

**The big questions:** How can a young person step out into the world in a positive, life-affirming way? What happens inside us when we travel? How do we savor every drop of joyful learning and living from our travel experiences?

**The content:** Patrick Leigh Fermor's [A Time of Gifts: From London to Constantinople on Foot](#) - Walking through the Netherlands, Germany, and Austria in 1933 with the most extraordinary young man on this amazing adventure.

**The skills and activities:** Deep reading, walking, journey/pilgrimage planning, drawing, lively discussion, map reading, orienteering.

**Ill Met by Moonlight**

**The big questions:** What makes a mission impossible possible? Is there anything in this world that can connect even sworn enemies in the depth of war?

**The content:** [Ill Met by Moonlight](#) by W. Stanley Moss - British operatives have kidnapped a German general. Can these gentlemen soldiers smuggle him off the island before they are captured by thousands of Nazi soldiers? A true, completely engrossing story. Not glorifying of killing or brutality in any way, therefore an adventure.

**The skills and activities:** Walking, capture the flag, deep reading, lively discussion, map reading and orienteering.

## Military History

**First Person Shooter: Literature from the Front Lines (WWI and II)**

**The big questions:** When the firefights end, some soldiers settle into their muddy dugouts and pull out pen and paper.

What did they write? How do these veteran writers portray warfare? How is their portrayal different from the portrayals in today's popular movies and games? How do we turn this knowledge into actionable wisdom?

**The content:** Selected poems and novel passages from Brooke, Sassoon, Graves, Ledig.

**The skills and activities:** Deep reading, walking, clear thinking, capture the flag, journaling, and some drawing.

**Step 2. Visit our web site or call to see the available time slots, costs, make reservations.****Step 3. Reserve your spot**

Class minimums are 3 students. You may sign up as an individual and we will hold the week for you. In case some weeks are chosen by more than one group, the first group to fill the minimum of 3 spots pre-paid will secure the time slot. Of course, every effort will be made to accommodate everyone interested in these adventures.

**Details:****Summer 2009 - Day Camps Battlepoint Park, M-Th, 9:30am-12:30pm, \$200**

These are intellectually fascinating, active morning camps designed for middle and high school students (unless otherwise noted). All classes convene in the parking lot nearest the play structure at Battlepoint Park on Bainbridge Island and are taught in the [peripatetic style](#) to offer the best learning environment to active young minds and bodies. We will remain on Park property at all times though our wanderings may take us onto the [trail to the Grand Forest or into Fairy Dell Park](#). We will weave together:

- Reading literature and history
- Discussion
- Drawing
- Walking in beautiful parks

By weaving these all together, we'll be following in the footsteps of the greats. Socrates walked with his student Plato. Later, Plato walked with his student Aristotle. Aristotle later founded the Peripatetic school and tutored Alexander the Great, most probably while walking.

These classes available afternoons, evenings or weekends for students of any age. Please visit our website for details.