

Standards-Aligned Writing Workshops for Grades K – 5

Presented by Award-Winning Author

Kat Kronenberg

CELEBRATE ANIMALS! WRITE A MYTHOLOGICAL FABLE



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CELEBRATE ANIMALS!
WRITE A MYTHOLOGICAL FABLE

Kat Kronenberg wrote her Live Big Series as Mythological Fables. Kat found mixing a myth with a fable allowed her to write about animals in an informative and dynamic way. Kat started with animals whose life fascinated her. Animals, she wanted to learn more about.

The genre allowed Kat to slow down, walk in these animal's footprints, & use the real science of their life to create stories that help explain how they evolved and why with a moral take away?

Kat loves butterflies. She learned everything she could about them & asked herself what it was like to be that first, overweight caterpillar with so many feet, standing on a limb, eating leaves, wishing, yearning to fly? How did that caterpillar achieve such an incredible feat, no pun intended :), and turn into a beautiful butterfly?

WOW! The stories, the adventures, the life-skills, the empathy, the fun we could bring together with animals & nature is endless.

So let's share in the fun together, but first, let us explain a little more about myths & fables:

"Myths are public dreams. Dreams are private myths."
~ Joseph Campbell

MYTHS:

- Myths are a set of stories or beliefs about a particular person, group, or culture that addresses their origin, history, ancestors, & heroes.
- Myths create belonging, shared experiences, & behavioral models.
- Myths can be truthful, exaggerated, or fictitious with supernatural origins.
- Kat chose myths because of Joseph Campbell's work. His book, *A Hero With A Thousand Faces*, literally fell at her feet in the checkout line of the library. Luckily, Kat noticed and his work changed her life. Campbell studied myths, fairytales, and stories from around the world & over generations. He found that we are all more alike than different, especially once he realized how similar the stories we share are. The title given to these similarities is "The Hero's Journey," an incredible storytelling framework that helped Kat better understand herself, her life, and her choices.
- What a dynamic resource! How fantastic to write books using a variation of Campbell's Hero's Journey to answer questions like why and how did that first caterpillar turn into a butterfly? How did a Tadpole turn into a frog? Why did a rhinoceros grow a horn? A bee make honey, and more.
- Plus, myths can be a fun way for kids to learn about animals & see their life, their choices, & the motivation they will need to celebrate their dreams too.



“Myths are narrative patterns that give significance to our existence.”

~Rollo May

FABLES:

Aesop was a Greek fabulist & storyteller from 620-564 BC. He is credited with creating a number of stories collectively known as Aesop’s Fables, tales characterized by animals that speak, solve problems, and generally have human characteristics.

- Fables are legendary stories intended to enforce a useful truth.
- Fables are fictional stories that feature animals, plants, or forces of nature that speak & act like human beings to convey a moral message.
- Kat chose fables because her favorite book as a little girl was Aesop’s Fables. On her honeymoon to Africa in 1997, Kat also had the thrill of sitting around the campfire with a local tribesman. He explained, “Kat, we are all made of a priceless, timeless treasure called stardust—It’s the divine spark in each of our hearts just waiting to be lit.” He further explained, “When we light our hearts of stars, it gives us the extra courage & strength we need to live our best life.” He then told his stories about the animals who understood & used this wonderful God-given gift to help them achieve their dreams. Kat and the children hung on his every word. They could relate to the animals & see themselves in his stories. Kat saw his stories as a big SECRET that she needed to share with the world!
- Plus, fables can be a great way for kids to see the life skills they need to celebrate their best life too.

“All fables, indeed, have their morals; but the innocent enjoy the story.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

HOW TO WRITE YOUR MYTHOLOGICAL FABLE:

Pick an animal you love or find fascinating - a shark, a skunk, a scorpion, an eagle, and the list goes on. Read and learn as much as you can about the animal. Take notes. Imagine being that very first animal & walking through days, months, & years of its life while considering and experiencing their choices, hardships, mentors, and successes along the way.

As you consider your animal on its heroic quest, answer some of the questions below:

- When you are young, what dream do you want to achieve? What goals do you hope to accomplish?
- What life skills will you need for your journey?
- What character defects will you need to overcome?
- What problems, hardships, naysayers will you face?
- Do you meet any heroes/ mentors along the way?



- Does a supernatural force play a part—God, Mother Earth, Stardust, The Force, or make up your own?
- How do you take the heroic things you learn on your journey & use them to help others?
- Answer any other questions that would help you understand your animal’s quest!

Discuss your answers with family, friends, or your classroom. Consider their input. Play with different storylines.

Go to [The Learn Section](#) on Kat’s website and click on “[Take Your Classroom or Family on The Heroes Journey](#)” section. Use Kat or Joseph Campbell’s framework, or write your own twelve steps of The Hero’s Journey to help you frame your animal’s story.

Then bring everything together and write your Mythological Fable, your animal’s Heroes Journey!

ENJOY!

We hope you have as much fun writing as we have!!!



MEET THE AUTHOR – KAT KRONENBERG



Kat Kronenberg is a born-and-raised Texan with a Big Dream: that Two-Leggere--people--all around the world Love Big, catch CATCH-M too, and watch their wildest dreams come true as we live out the motto, “WE can! WE are ONE!” Kat lives in Austin with her husband and is the proud parent of two amazing boys, two beautiful adopted nieces, four fantastic grandchildren, and three four-legged friends.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:

English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Literature: RL.K.1, RL.K.2, RL.K.3, RL.1.1, RL.1.2, RL.1.3, RL.2.1, RL.2.2, RL.2.3, RL.3.1, RL.3.3, RL.4.3, RL.5.3

English Language Arts Standards » Writing: W.K.2, W.K.3, W.1.2, W.1.3, W.2.2, W.2.3, W.3.2, W.3.3, W.4.2, W.4.3, W.4.2, W.4.3, W.5.2, W.5.3

English Language Arts Standards » Speaking & Listening: SL.K.3, SL.1.3, SL.2.3, SL.3.3, SL.4.3, SL.5.3

TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:

English Language Arts and Reading:

Kindergarten – 110.2.b.1, 110.2.b.3, 110.2.b.6, 110.2.b.9, 110.2.b.10

First Grade – 110.3.b.1, 110.3.b.3, 110.3.b.6, 110.3.b.9, 110.3.b.10, 110.3.b.11, 110.3.b.13

Second Grade – 110.4.b.1, 110.4.b.3, 110.4.b.6, 110.4.b.9, 110.4.b.10, 110.4.b.11, 110.4.b.13

Third Grade – 110.5.b.1, 110.5.b.3, 110.5.b.10, 110.5.b.13

Fourth Grade – 110.6.b.1, 110.6.b.3, 110.6.b.10, 110.6.b.13

Fifth Grade – 110.7.b.1, 110.7.b.3, 110.7.b.10, 110.7.b.13

