

NOTES FOR TEACHERS: Study Guide for the assembly program,

"Write about it!" with Paul Lauzon

Program Description: Singer/songwriter Paul Lauzon will present a program of primarily original songs that will help students understand the importance of creative writing as a means of self-expression. Paul will introduce the songs with brief stories, both serious and humorous. In doing so he will demonstrate and explain the basic elements of songwriting: having something to say/a message, the lyrics, the music, the arrangement, and the performance. These elements may be described as follows:

The Message: Where it all begins, the thing that makes you want to write. Each song has its own story -- it begins as something you notice, or a comment you hear, a funny thing that happens, a deep emotion you're feeling, or a place you visit -- each kernel developing into a song that wants to take on a life of its own, you have something to say and so you **write about it!**

The Lyrics: Song poetry is real poetry, linked to the great tradition of oral and written language full of its own natural music, rich with poetic strategy and phrasing, encompassing endless variation, within a spectrum of highly structured to free verse. Find lyrics for some of Paul's songs at www.paullauzon.ca

The Music: Paul demonstrates many different song forms. The melodies build on the natural music of the words. We will talk about uses of the voice, and finding your own voice.

The Arrangement: For this program, this means how the guitar is being used to support the song: the keys, picking patterns, tunings, electronics.

The Performance: The performance is about pacing and sequence of the songs, and encouraging the students in extended interactive moments. The Program models the benefits of the art of song writing as self-expression.

NOTE: English Language GCO (General Curriculum Outcome) #8 states that "Students will be expected to use writing and other forms of representation to explore, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and learning and to use their imaginations".

Audience Expectations:

Students will be invited to join in, to sing, suggest lyrics, clap, or move at special and specific moments during the performance. This will be done within a context of encouragement, listening to one another, respect.

The program will close with a quiet, meditative energy to facilitate an orderly and easy transition to their next activity.