

Save Our Canyons Speaker Series

Storytelling Workshop

March 24, 2021

Workshop Intent: *Using the power of your imagination and storytelling, create a new narrative (or “myth”) of our relationship to the Wasatch, to the earth, and to the earth’s climate.*

1. Write a paragraph and begin each sentence with “I am from....” or “I live in....” (**1 minute**)
2. Picture one of your favorite places in the Wasatch. It can be a place you’ve only been to once, or it can be somewhere you visit frequently, just so long as you have fond or special memories associated with it. Describe it in as much detail as you can in **2 minutes**. If you have the time, include what this place looks like in every season.
 - a. **1-minute** bonus question: List as many things that inhabit this place as you can write down, and be specific. (Types of birds, flowers, man-made structures, etc.)
 - b. **30-second** bonus question: What is a song, scent, sound, color, feeling, or taste that reminds you of that place?
 - c. Take another **30 seconds** to write down the names of everyone you’ve ever been to that location with.
3. List a few things you consider magical about this place that others might consider mundane. (**1 minute**)
4. Imagine a story that could happen in this place. It could be about your family, a stranger, it could happen in the future or the past or span across centuries, it could be about animals, or it could just be about the place itself. I’d like you to write the opening paragraph (or page, or sentence, or whatever you can manage) for this story, and the final paragraph (page, sentence, etc) for this story. (**3 minutes**)
5. Write the chorus of a song about your journey. (Bonus if you can think of an accompanying tune!) (**1 minute**)

6. Create a superhero who originated from this place (like Black Panther from Wakanda or Superman from Krypton). Describe their strengths and weaknesses. **(2 minutes)**
 - a. **30-second** bonus question: Describe the arch-nemesis of this superhero.

7. If you had an animal sidekick from this place, what would it be and why? **(1 minute)**

8. If you were to make a scavenger hunt for yourself across the Wasatch that ended at this location, what would the final clue say to help you find it? **(1 minute)**

9. Fashion yourself a ballroom gown, tuxedo, or your favorite outfit using materials from this place. Describe your outfit, or draw it out!

You don't have to answer these questions, but keep them in the back of your mind for this next prompt:

- a. *What do we need to experience this place?*
 - b. *What does this place need?*
 - c. *What do the other creatures living here need?*
 - d. *What are we worried about?*
 - e. *What do we have to give back to this place to make our relationship with it a symbiotic one?*
 - f. *Think of a positive scenario involving humans and this place that does not exist yet, but that can exist.*
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10. Refer to Prompt #2, where you described your favorite place in detail. Pick four words from your description.

Think about this place 100 years from now. When you're ready, write about this place through the lens of a "new myth" – of what this place *could* be in 100 years if we can create a new narrative, rather than what it might be if we don't change our current narrative. You can choose to describe the place, you can choose to tell a story, a beginning, or an ending, you can write a song or a poem, you can draw it out, or you can place your superhero and/or sidekick in the place and let them roam!

Use the four words you listed above, and the four words listed below in your writing. **(5 minutes)**

- a. Reclaim, indigo, chandelier, ensnare

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