

# Write In This Book: Make Me A Song

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## *Literacy & Creative Songwriting Residency*

Kid Pan Alley and Author, Mary Amato

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### **Overview**

The purpose of this literacy project is to inspire and support children in the creative writing process through collaborative journal writing and songwriting. This residency will help children explore, practice and share as they grow into writers.

### **How it works**

#### ***Step 1: Please Write In This Book***

Each class reads and discusses *Please Write in this Book*. This award-winning children's novel is written from the point of view of ten different characters in a classroom who are all writing in a collaborative journal. A reading guide will give teachers what they need to facilitate engaged discussions with their young readers.



#### ***Step 2: SKYPE with Author Mary Amato***

Each class participates in a 30-minute Skype session with author Mary Amato. In the session, the author will introduce the new journal that she will be sending to the students and explain that they will be creating their own collaborative classroom journal. The journal will be a place where students can write about their experiences, thoughts, wishes, and dreams. Amato will give instructions about what they can write in the book, tips for writing, and strategies that will encourage any reluctant writers to embrace the project. In this dynamic session, students will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the writing process and see a real writer in her environment.

#### ***Step 3: Creating a Class Book***

Students will be excited to receive their collaborative journal in the mail. Included in the blank book will be messages from Mary Amato that will serve as “prompts” for writing. Over the next four weeks, students will write in their class book. Their teacher will review, monitor, and support their creative writing skill. We will provide additional mini-lessons.

#### **Step 4: Making the Song**

Kid Pan Alley arrives! Two KPA songwriters will review the collaborative journal with the students, choosing material in the journal to turn into a song. Students will see firsthand how writers look for and choose material from journals to develop creative projects, such as songs. KPA will write songs with 4 to 8 different classes that are participating in the literacy program. They will learn how to employ classic literary elements in writing song lyrics: rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, assonance, symbolism, voice, metaphor, etc.

#### **Step 5: Performance and Recording**

At the end of the residency week, students will perform their songs with the KPA songwriters in two concerts—one for the school and evening concert for the community. The assembly will be recorded and CD's will be available at the evening concert.

Kid Pan Alley's mission is to inspire and empower children to work together to become creators of their own music and to rekindle creativity as a core value in education.

**Mary Amato** is an award-winning children's and YA book author, poet, playwright, and songwriter. Her books have been translated into foreign languages, optioned for television, produced onstage, and have won the children's choice awards in Ohio, Minnesota, Utah, and Arizona. She teaches popular workshops on writing and the creative process around the country.

**Paul Reisler** has written more songs than the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, and Stephen Foster combined—somewhere north of 3,500 compositions. And, he's probably had more than enough collaborators to make it into the Guinness Book of World records—approaching 40,000 and counting (though he's lost count). He's written songs with tens of thousands of children through his Kid Pan Alley project and he's written songs with a bunch of Grammy winning songwriters. Artists including Sissy Spacek, Raul Malo, Cracker, Corey Harris, Jesse Winchester and many others have recorded his songs. He's had over 40 years of experience as a professional songwriter, composer, performer, teacher and record producer.

*“There is nothing more helpful to a developing human than to learn how to express feelings in sound. Kid Pan Alley is a fabulous way of bringing young people into the loop of reflective behavior, of constructive action. Power to the organizers of this remarkable initiative.”*

Maestro Lorin Maazel, Former Conductor, NY Philharmonic

*“Our kids left her program excited to read her books and write their own works. We highly recommend Mary!”*

Nancy Shaw, PTA, West School, Glencoe, IL

*“A stunning example of what can happen when children are given the opportunity to create without boundaries. The sheer joy and the profound wisdom of simplicity are evident on every track and the recording and musicianship are stellar.”* Performing Songwriter Magazine

*“The program resonated long afterwards and the “tricks” Mary showed us will be called upon in moments requiring creativity and imagination.”* .Jane Folger, Maplewood Library (NJ)