



# Adventures in Culture and Character

*Drama, Poetry, and Visual Artist Visits to Engage Learners  
at Home or at School*

**Live, Interactive Hands-on Learning  
Planning Meeting + Four Virtual Artist Visits**

Fully funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Network for Arts and Learning, Arts Can Teach, and the Greater Essex County District School Board.

Contact Karen McClellan at Arts Can Teach with your choice of topics to reserve your spot.

**[artscanteach@publicboard.ca](mailto:artscanteach@publicboard.ca)**

*See the following pages for lesson descriptions and artist bios.*



## Lesson Descriptions

### What's Your Origin Story?

**Artists: Samantha Badaoa and Erik Johnson**

*Grades: 4-8*

What's your origin story? Everyone has an origin story, from Superman to Black Panther, and every hero in between! In this lesson, students will be introduced to the concept of storytelling through a historical lens. Through the use of multimedia (comic strips and poetry), students will be asked to write about their personal history in relation to their collective family history and the history of Windsor. Come explore the wonders of culture, history, and heritage with us!

### Culture through the Arts

**Artist: Naomi P. Peters**

*Grades: 5-8*

Students will learn to express their culture and customs through art and practise drawing techniques that will aid them in various areas. Using household materials and various drawing implements, they will create a piece that is significant to them and their roots.

### Exploring Shapes and Patterning through Visual Art

**Artist: Maryam Safarzadeh**

*Grades: 2-3*

Students will be introduced to modern paintings from Iran and invited to observe the shapes and patterns within the paintings and in their home environment. Using materials found at home, students will be invited to draw and design their own artwork in each visit.

### Respect and Kindness through Story Drama

**Artist: Ariel Clarke**

*Grades: 4-8*

Using the picture book *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun* by Alejandro Cruz Martinez as a pretext, students will step into the world of Lucie and her village to explore themes of respect, kindness, and individuality. Students will learn to step in and out of role to storytell, while also reflecting on personal experience and acceptance.

## **Perspective and Acceptance through Process Drama**

**Artist: Ariel Clarke**

*Grades: 4-8*

Using the pretext *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!* by Jon Scieszka, students will explore multiple perspectives/voices through a multicultural societal lens. Through process drama, students will explore and discuss the consequences of vilifying one perspective/voice without hearing another.

## **Power and Voice through Poetry and Drama**

**Artist: Ariel Clarke**

*Grades: 7-8*

With a specific focus on Maya Angelou and Amanda Gorman, students will be able to examine and explore Black poets and their work to make powerful statements. Students will learn different poetic forms to express their own voice as well as learn to perform spoken word that highlights and emphasizes the meaning and message of their poems.

## **Morality and Identity through Greek Theatre**

**Artist: Ariel Clarke**

*Grades: 6-8*

Students will learn the origins of script and plays in Greek theatre. They will be introduced to the elements of a Greek tragedy or comedy, as well as look at mask and chorus work. Students will be able to explore traditional Greek mythology stories as well as analyze their significance and deeper meaning. Students will be given the opportunity to create their own Greek theatre-inspired pieces.

## **Self-Love and Identity through Verbatim Theatre**

**Artist: Ariel Clarke**

*Grades: 6-8*

Using the pretext *Where Are You From?* by Yamile Saied Méndez, students will explore self-love and identity through verbatim theatre work. *Where Are You From?* is the story of a little girl who constantly gets asked, "Where are you from?" She goes on a mission to get the answer from her abuelo, who teaches her the value of her heritage and home. Through the use of verbatim theatre (a theatre piece made from real people's words, a form of documentary/applied theatre), students can explore their very own heritage and identity through voice.

## Diversity and Unity through Role Play

**Artist: Ariel Clarke**

*Grades: 7-8*

Students will explore the concept of diversity and unity through the pretext *All Kinds of Children* by Norma Simon. Students will be able to respond, relate, and explore the necessities of life for different countries around the world. Students will get to bring their own uniqueness, research, culture, and identity to the lesson while exploring it through role and debate in a model UN conference.

### Artist Bios

#### Ariel Clarke

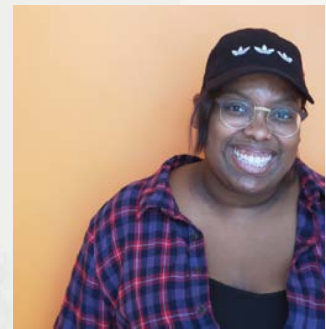
*Drama/Theatre*

Ariel Clarke is a drama and education alumna from the University of Windsor. She went on to complete a master's in teaching at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

Ariel has done a variety of community work with marginalized and racialized youth and has taught across multiple elementary and secondary schools in Ontario during her undergrad and graduate programs.

Drama and theatre are a big part of the work that Ariel has done, and she has passionately advocated for and researched the benefits of arts integration into non-arts subjects. Ariel has also done specific work in social justice education targeting systemic racism, which can allow the option to implement anti-racist and anti-colonial perspectives as part of lesson plans.

Ariel's teaching speciality is in using drama as a tool to support other core subjects. Her lessons use drama resources like drawing, writing, and acting in role to facilitate student learning across multiple subject areas. Ariel also has a theatre background that guides introductory work in script writing, directing, and acting.



## Maryam Safarzadeh

*Painting/Poetry*

Maryam Safarzadeh is an Iranian poet and painter who moved to Canada in 2019.

Maryam started painting at the young age of 10 and learned many different techniques from various masters of painting in Iran. After graduating from university with a degree in graphic design, she started studying with the renowned Iranian artist Taha Behbehani. These classes opened doors to many new dimensions in her art. Maryam has had many successful solo and group exhibitions since.

Maryam has been teaching art and creation for more than 16 years in various art schools. Currently she is creating art and running art classes Shō Art Studios, which focuses on the interplay of “Art, Spirit & Performance.” Maryam also serves on the board of directors for the Art Gallery of Windsor.

In addition to her work as a painter, Maryam is an accomplished poet. Many Iranian composers have created songs with her poems.



## Samantha Badaoa

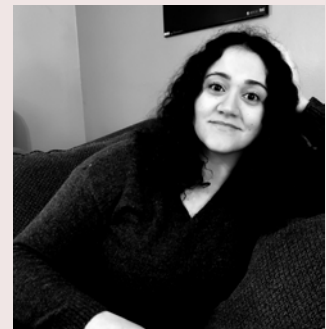
*Poetry/Performance Poetry/Storytelling*

Samantha Badaoa is a graduate of the University of Windsor with an Honours English Language and Literature degree. She is a recognized spoken word artist with an established body of work.

Samantha has been part of the Windsor Poetry Slam since 2015, touring and competing as a representative of Windsor in multiple national poetry competitions. She has also been the director of the Windsor Poetry Slam for several years and has just completed her term as Windsor’s first-ever Youth Poet Laureate.

Samantha’s first full-length collection of poetry, *So am I*, was published in 2020 with Black Moss Press. In 2020 she received a Windsor Endowment for the Arts Emerging Artist grant to create her second collection of poetry, which will focus on the agricultural industry in Windsor-Essex County.

Her poetry centres on lyrical storytelling and the connection between the divine and the mundane. Samantha is enthusiastic about sharing an experience with people through poetry and spoken word, and she hopes to create spaces for people to experiment with expression.





## Erik Johnson

*Hip Hop/Slam Poetry*

Erik “E-Tomic” Johnson is a hip hop lyricist, vocalist, and slam poet from the Windsor-Essex region. Erik has been writing and performing poetry for more than a decade. He draws his poetic inspiration from his Afro-Indigenous culture and experiences as an artist of colour and as a physically disabled creator.



Erik’s goal as an artist is to highlight the experiences of BIPOC through storytelling, a theme that is deeply ingrained in all of his poetic endeavours.

## Naomi P. Peters

*Visual Artist*

Naomi P. Peters is a Potawatomi/Chippewa (Ojibwe) person from Caldwell First Nation, as well as a second-generation Swiss Canadian. She is a graduate of Tyndale University, with a BA in English and a minor in psychology. Her passion, however, is art, which she has been practising for the past 14 years.



In Naomi’s freelance career, she has been drawing since 2018 and has sold multiple custom pieces, as well as had her art on display at the AGW, Point Pelee National Park, the Leamington Hospice Centre, and multiple other locations.

Naomi was one of three artists chosen to create a mural on the Gordie Howe International Bridge tower construction site, along with artists Teresa Altman and Daisy White. The artists’ murals will be visible from both sides of the border for the next two years.

Naomi hopes to bring together her cultural background with other influences to create beautiful and meaningful pieces. She would also like to expand the ways she uses her art, in both her career and her pastimes.

## Contact

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