

# DEEPENING THE CRAFT OF THE PERSONAL NARRATIVE AND SMALL MOMENT STORY



Grades K-2 December 2, 2008: Saddle Brook, NJ

**M**any of us have become experts at the teaching of “Personal Narrative” and the “Small Moment,” yet we somehow feel that our kids could do more with their pieces. Katherine Bomer will help us teach our students to write even a three page small moment narrative with depth and beauty, using some of the techniques she uses to teach the somewhat more sophisticated genre of Memoir.

Even the youngest child can reflect on an important moment from her life, and write and revise to allow for more clarity, poetic language and imagery, or humor that will make these pieces shine.

Participants will have the opportunity to read short excerpts from a number of published memoirs, for adults and children, and will experience several short, comfortable writing experiences that could lead to their own memoirs or could be used for demonstration teaching in their classrooms.

KATHERINE BOMER



**Katherine Bomer** has taught primary and intermediate grades in New York City, Bloomington, Indiana, and most recently, in Austin, Texas. Her classrooms have been featured in video productions by public television stations, Annenberg/CPB, and the New Standards Project. She worked as a professional developer at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project with Lucy Calkins, from 1989 to 1994, and she continues to consult for that community as a keynote speaker, and a teacher of advanced courses in reading and writing genres and topics.

Katherine is the author of *Writing a Life: Teaching Memoir to Sharpen Insight, Shape Meaning, and Triumph Over Tests* and *For a Better World: Reading and Writing for Social Action*, with Randy Bomer (both Heinemann books). She is writing her third book that will teach us how to notice and name the art and craft of all students’ writing, even the most spare and struggling. Currently, Katherine consults across the country and abroad, presenting workshops in school districts as well as demonstrating and coaching inside K-8 classrooms about ways of teaching reading and writing. Schools also invite her to coach them in creating visions for year-long curriculum in reading and writing and help them form teacher and administrator study groups to continue their learning.

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**About the Presenter**

