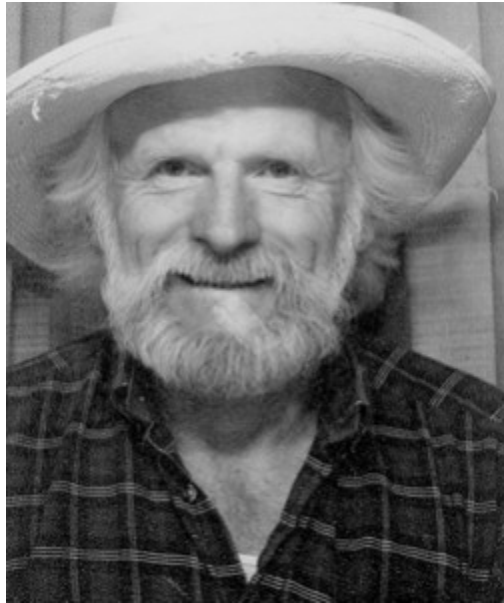




**Poetry Writing**  
**Artist: Carlos Reyes**



Carlos Reyes

**Grade Level:**  
K-12

**About the Artist:**

Carlos attended a two -room Willamette Valley grade school and is a graduate of Yamhill-Carlton High School. He began writing in the 5th grade. As an adult he has been involved in writing, publishing and education since the early 1960s. As a poet he has published several books, including *Nightmarks* (1990) and *The Book of Shadows* (2010). His involvement in Arts Education programs goes back 25 years. During that time, he has participated in programs in Oregon, Washington and Nevada. Carlos has taught at the Oregon Writer’s Workshop, The Portland Art Museum School, University of Arizona, University of Maine, Mt. Hood Community College and Portland State University. He has worked with SAA’s Community Arts Education program for many years.

**Objectives:**

- To lead an exploration into the imaginative use of language
- To encourage the use of word power, keeping language lively and evocative
- To encourage students to look at things differently to keep writing fresh
- To teach value in careful observation and attention to detail

**Activities:**

- “I Am” exercise of sharing a list where each item begins with “I am”
- Becoming a particular thing – sharing what it is like to be something else— “I am a pencil and...”
- Turning abstracts into real objects – “Fear is a broken twig or Happiness is a \_\_\_\_\_” write and share
- Reading from Neruda’s Book Of Questions – writing questions with no answers as fast as possible
- Reading Stafford’s Ask Me and using it as a model for asking why the sky is blue or the earth brown
- “How I Captured the Moon” or “The Alligator Moon” (turning the moon into an animal)

**Workshop Size Limits:**

- No more than 30 students

**Special Equipment:**

- Writing supplies and a copy machine

**Space Needed:**

- A large classroom with tables and chairs

**Connections to the Curriculum:**

- Writing, history, vocabulary, social studies and language arts

**Home Stay:**

- In some cases, a home stay might be required.