



Joëlle Anthony – author Bio

Joëlle started out life in Portland, Oregon as a talker, then a reader, eventually a writer, and by her teen years, the sirens of the stage were calling her name. While she has worked professionally as an actress, her real love is writing and her debut novel *Restoring Harmony* is a May 2010 release from Putnam. Her second book *The Right & the Real* will also be published by Putnam.

In the classroom, Joëlle uses her skills as an actress and her enthusiasm for the written word to excite kids about writing. Recently, she has worked as a Writer in Residence with the Grade 6 & 7 class at Gabriola Elementary School.

She currently lives on a tiny island in British Columbia with her musician husband, Victor Anthony, and two cats, Miss Sophie & Marley. As for the future, their only plan is to avoid real jobs, write and play guitar in front of the wood stove, and live happily ever after.

Author Visits & Writing Workshops

Grades 6-12.

Presentation and Author Q&A

Joëlle will read from her young adult novel *Restoring Harmony*, talk a bit about writing, the life of the author, and process. She will also share her book trailer and tell an interesting story about how it came about.* There will be plenty of time for students to ask questions about everything from craft to the business of being published. This hour includes time for book signing.

Ideal for large groups.

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Grades 3-12

Writing Workshops

Writing workshops are tailored to fit the age of the students, so while mixing of grades can work, it's best if each workshop is taught to one grade level.

Writing Workshop – 40-60 minutes (shorter for younger students)

In this workshop, Joëlle will lead students through individual writing exercises, talk about the writing process, read from her book *Restoring Harmony*, and sign books. Best suited for 30 students or less (but offers some flexibility).

Double Session Writing Workshop – two 55 minute sessions with 10 minute break

While Joëlle will talk a bit about her own writing, and read from *Restoring Harmony*, the focus of this workshop will be on kicking off everyone's imagination and turning ideas into written stories. Students will have the opportunity to write both individually, and work on a small-group story. In the second hour, we will finish with time to read our fantastic creations aloud. Also includes an author Q&A and signing. Best suited for 30 students or less (but offers some flexibility).

For Aspiring and Professional Writers –

Need To Read – 60 minutes

Inspired by Joëlle's own reading program, *The Need To Read*, and the subsequent articles she wrote on it – *Red Hair is Not as Uncommon as You Think – twenty-five of the most overused things in MG & YA Fiction* and *Avoiding the Character Cliché*, this workshop is designed for writers pursuing a career in fiction. Those interested in nonfiction might find some of it applicable, too.

In this hour-long workshop, Joëlle will explain how a Designed Reading Program can take writing to a new level. She will share ideas on creating your own personal program, including how to choose books, how to stay organized, and how to overcome the guilt many writers feel when they read instead of write. She will also lead an exercise designed to show writers how to avoid the most common plot and character clichés.

Read Aloud Like a Pro – 60 minutes

In this hands-on workshop, we will explore vocal warm-ups, relaxation techniques, breathing, and diction. We will also learn how to choose what passages from our own books to read aloud

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at events, and how to edit it for clarity and brevity. In addition to this, we will talk about how reading one's work aloud prior to publication can improve the writing.

Tech Requirements

The school/library needs to provide microphone/sound amplification as needed for the room and audience size, a table to hold Joëlle's notes, and extension cords to reach outlets. *Special tech note: When possible, Joëlle likes to share her book trailer (like a movie trailer, but for *Restoring Harmony*) and tell an interesting story about the making of it with the kids. She will bring it on her computer, so it can be shown if the venue has the equipment – projector/screen.