



HIP HOP SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

With almost 20 years of writing raps, hooks, and songs and performing on stages internationally, 23 Skidoo is an expert in the craft of hip hop. A natural with kids of all ages, he enjoys sharing his understanding and helping them create songs that are fun, inspired and completely original. The transformations that occur when shy or misunderstood kids are able to speak their minds and shine their souls with confidence is simply amazing. They all have awesomeness inside of them, just waiting for a little encouragement.

Equipped with an easy attitude and a knack for freestyling, 23 Skidoo's experience as a touring hip hop artist is intriguing to kids of all ages. Even young teenagers who can be jaded to the world of kids' music are engaged. Hip hop is an art form that embraces the empowerment of the truly authentic first person narrative. As a lifelong lover of the art of hip hop and a strong proponent of its power for change, 23 Skidoo helps channel the energy of youth with a microphone.

Workshops explore ways to use hip hop to express yourself, how to find out what you care about, and how to make it rhyme! 23 Skidoo uses popular songs to explain the different kinds of rhymes such as internal rhymes, multi-syllabic rhymes, and near or "slant" rhymes. Flow, syllables, and line structure are also a part of the lesson and by the end, each child has written their own rap or song. 23 Skidoo also demonstrates microphone technique and stage presence. The best workshops are

the ones that end with a live performance, and watching the kids light up with excitement and inspiration while rocking their very first rhyme or hook onstage in front of a crowd is a contagious joy.

The format of each workshop is tailored to the needs of each group. Single day workshops may focus on rhyme writing and finding your voice, while multi-day workshops may end with a fully-realized stage show. He is accustomed to working with kids of all ages, from early readers that require more direction to teenagers who can enjoy a hip hop intensive with homework assignments.

23 Skidoo likes to let the lessons come together in their own way, with the kids helping to decide how things will go. In the last five years, there has yet to be a workshop that didn't end with a room full of grinning kids doing something they thought they'd never do!



TESTIMONIALS

"Many, many thanks for the workshop and performance you put on at the IMA this spring. It all could not have gone any better! Seeing parents and children of all ages engaged with writing and performing their rhymes is a testament to your skills as an artist, educator and all around "inspirer of imagination" of the highest order. The faces of participants who took to the mic spoke volumes of the fun and confidence you injected into workshop. I said it before and will say it again, your music and dedication to your craft will only continue to help grow imaginative and conscientious young minds. You've already inspired my 10 year old son to want to introduce 23 Skidoo to his kids one day! (Now, that's longevity, bruh! ;)"

Tariq Robinson

Manager of Community & Outreach Programs
Indianapolis Museum of Art

TESTIMONIALS

"As a 7th grade Language Arts teacher with a class of twelve and thirteen year-olds, I was overjoyed to see how engaged and enthusiastic my students became with 23 Skidoo's four-day songwriting and performance workshop. By illustrating technique and style using current artists they were already familiar with from the radio, he quickly broke the ice and got them fully involved. Even the class clowns and the very shy were writing songs that got them smiling!

A gifted performer and improviser, Skidoo was able to keep the atmosphere light, yet keep them focused on their tasks, and by the last day, many had transformed from quiet and unsure to proud and confident performers, exhibiting their newly acquired skills of rhyming, singing, mic control and stage presence.

I asked them later how they would score the class on a scale of one to ten, and almost everyone said ten...except for a few that said fifteen or twenty! I would absolutely encourage anyone with a group of imaginative kids to bring in 23 Skidoo to teach them to take it to the stage! The workshop was magic."

Cathy Harmon

Nevada City School of the Arts
Nevada City, CA

"Best Awesome Ever" is the sentiment that one of the participants used to describe his experience with writing a song with Secret Agent 23 Skidoo. I concur wholeheartedly with his thoughts. Skidoo and his amazing crew brought their talent, enthusiasm, and understanding to help 20 children, ages 8-12, create a song.

Through the 7-hour workshop Skidoo organized and guided the children with insight, knowledge, and imagination and kept the chaos that can happen in creation in check. He displayed finesse, abilities and patience beyond words in this event. I encourage anyone who works with school-age children to highly consider booking a song-writing workshop and discover what "Best Awesome Ever" truly is!"

Laura Edmonds

Youth Services Librarian
Black Mountain Public Library
Black Mountain, NC

To bring Secret Agent 23 Skidoo to your school, library or performing arts center, please contact:

Sarah McCarthy
Dandelion Artists
(818) 533-1655
sarah@dandelionartists.com



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