



Welcome to the world of The Woodland Elves

A book series for all those with a childlike spirit
written by Shary Williamson
and illustrated by Jay Johnston

THE WOODLAND ELVES

A BOOK SERIES PASSING THE JOY OF LIFE AROUND IN 92 COUNTRIES AND ALL 7 CONTINENTS

THE WOODLAND ELVES 2014

Here you will find the *nearly* true story of how one family came to know and love an entire community of elves living in a forest near the family tree house. There was something about life in the tree house that made the children want to stay there as long as possible. Anything could happen there on beautiful moonlit nights or clear sunshiny days. Grandmother knew about the infinite possibilities within the woods. She met the elves when she was young, discovered the secret life that existed in the forest, and throughout the years, remained friends with its hidden inhabitants. It was for her grandchildren that she had a magnificent tree house built at the edge of a forest. A little brook flowed gently past it carrying an assortment of fish, frogs, and turtles. This, indeed, was the perfect place to discover what- or who-lived within the woods. Grandmother felt her grandchildren were old enough now to learn the secrets of the forest. She was so in hopes that the elves would return while her grandchildren were visiting for the summer. And. They. Did.

The Woodland Elves, THE SECRET IN THE FOREST 2017

The series continues in this book where Grandmother's forest is alive with mystery and wonder. How had Grandmother met the elves? Who left a hidden map? The children took the path through the woods to uncover the secrets that were hidden deep within the forest. They found another world—one with no limits. A world that could only be experienced with their hearts. The forest had not changed, but their relationship to it had changed. And life would never be the same again. Grandmother said, "Sometimes you can only see with your heart." If you dare to hear the voices from the forest, it all becomes clear even if you don't understand. Dreams do come true and the magic of childhood can exist forever.

The Woodland Elves, BURIED TREASURE 2018

In this book, life expands for the elves. This book is a voyage of discovery into a seldom-seen world of relationships. For those expecting only a book about elves, this isn't it! A story about courage, passion and discovery, this book challenges the elves to be better and hopefully, it will challenge humans to be better also. The elves are exposed to glimpses of the marvelous differences and commonness that exist in the hearts of elves beyond their own familiar forest and they discover that relationships are worth the risk. As the elves celebrate their differences, the question that continues to arise is, "What's it like to be YOU?" Shary and Jay Johnston show us how much wonder there is to be revealed as the elves learn to understand and care for their fellow travelers on this planet. This book is a beacon of hope that will inspire everyone to work towards peace, love and joy. Our hope is that it will ignite the passion of a child to discover the secrets to be found in friendships everywhere as they are developing an appreciation and respect for all living beings. This book is a rare journey about one small path towards peace.

The Woodland Elves, A MAGICAL TALE OF WINTER 2019

It is our hope that this book will inspire children everywhere to experience the wonder and joys of the holiday season. The woodland elves are the *messengers* who bring to life this story of holiday magic, family, miracles, hope and love. It is our wish that the book will also transport adults to their own childhood (or a childhood of their dreams), reminding them of the many JOYS of the Christmas season. May your joy be so contagious that you will want to go forth into the world and interact with all other living beings. It has been said in so many different ways that the love in your heart isn't put there to stay. LOVE ISN'T LOVE TIL IT'S GIVEN AWAY.

The Woodland Elves, FANTASY IN THE FOREST 2020

Deep in the heart of The One & Only Forest sits a picture-perfect village of elves and fairies. They are the keepers of wisdom and the storytellers of the Earth. Return to the mother of all things enchanted: the forest, where the power of the imagination knows no boundaries. Let the sense of mystery and charm fill your life with springtime magic as you proceed with wonder and curiosity in the woods. Unexpected gifts are discovered in this never-ending love story where the woodland elves and fairies celebrate Spring as many secrets of the season are revealed. The inspiration from the forest is magical as the season arrives with a dazzling array of colors, images and stories. This book is a carnival of unexpected joy bursting forth with secrets you won't want to miss... Be patient. Be still. Enjoy.

For an hour, a day or a week, the elves can help your group “make a connection” and motivate, inspire and educate all ages! The influence of Shary Williamson’s message is intended to be long-term and durable. It will inspire all ages to read, write and express their own creativity!

The presentations are tailored to meet the specific needs of the SCHOOL, LIBRARY, MUSEUM, ART GALLERY, PLACE OF WORSHIP, SERVICE ORGANIZATION or any place where a desire for increased wonder, fun, imagination and literacy is desired! The presentations have been described as “personal, inspirational, creative and informative!” All ages will discover presentations where humans will want to linger, creativity is encouraged and learning is a byproduct of the fun.

Possible presentations could include any or all of the following:

- 1 hour-long program
- ½ day of presentations
- A full day of activities designed for preschool-ages children to elementary children to high school students to colleges to adults

We encourage developing observational and thinking skills, inspiring curiosity and wonder, and fostering collaboration between children and adults, so many of our activities are multi-generational. Some of our programs are age-specific. Others are designed for a broad age range.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

SHARY WILLIAMSON is the author of the series. Her career as an educator spanned four decades in Florida, Virginia and Ohio. With a master’s degree in education, she has taught children from pre-school through high school. She has often been recognized for her exemplary work in education, receiving numerous awards for outstanding educational leadership. On two separate occasions, she was named one of Marion, Ohio’s Outstanding Citizens in recognition of her broad community involvement and volunteer work. Shary is very proud of the fact that this collaborative effort has combined the talents of three good friends and elfin spirits living in adult form. (There are 45 other team members from around the world.) Shary’s contagious enthusiasm and positive energy follow her wherever she goes. The well-known “mission statement” of her life is the motivation for the creation of The Woodland Elves. Simply put, it is to “Pass the Joy of Life Around!”

JAY JOHNSTON is the extraordinary illustrator of The Woodland Elves’ book series. A graduate of The Columbus College of Art and Design majoring in illustration, Jay is an award-winning illustrator and artist. He has received numerous 1st Place, People’s Choice and Best of Show awards in various art contests and shows. He has definitely won the hearts of all worldwide Woodland Elf lovers. Jay has received national acclaim painting The Ohio State University football scenes, in part because of the incredible level of detail. In 2010, he was chosen by NAMOS (National Art Museum of Sport) in Indianapolis, Indiana as an exhibitor in their international sports art exhibit. Worldwide, only fifty pieces were selected to be part of this show. Jay is most passionate about his work in the areas of illustration, history and sports.

RUSS KENDALL is the Creative Coordinator of The Woodland Elves. Russ and Shary have worked together to create the original music for The Woodland Elves. Russ’s musical vision takes you on an irresistible journey. His technical mastery of mixing sounds allows the forest to come alive. The songs are spontaneous and diverse and have a charm and intrigue that is fun, but not frivolous, thus creating contagious joy and energy. Russ’s job description goes way beyond music. He has been essential in the creation of The Woodland Elves’ Enchanted Village, the trail adventure, the lodge, the creative setup of presentations and events and much more. His computer skills are necessary to keep the elves happy in the forest.

Shary Williamson and The Woodland Elves have been featured in newspapers and radio programs worldwide. Shary and the elves are available for exciting programs, workshops, and presentations, keynote speaking engagement, Skype calls and more. Since the birth of the elves, Shary and the team have gone to many schools, libraries, museums and art galleries.



For Inquires

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Presentations can include any or all of following:

- A 1-hour large group presentation
- Small group presentations throughout the day
- Creative writing where participants of all ages will be encouraged to write and illustrate their own stories/books
- An opportunity to hear the author read a book or portion of it
- Some of the illustrations can be on display. Art discoveries, observation and discussions appropriate for all ages. This helps inquisitive people make careful observations, analyze artists' choices, ask questions, and use their imagination while exploring works of art.
- The excitement of linking art and literacy
- Fun combining music and literacy
- Class on what do you need to know about writing and/or publishing a book
- Daytime or evening adult classes on writing/publishing and more
- Small Talk – Based on the book series, *Small Talk* is a card game offering opportunity for fostering communication while learning about feelings and emotions. 52 individual cards present a variety of expressions and emotions. Discover the joy of positive relating building as you..... *Think a little. Talk a little. Share a little.*
- Presentations are always inspirational. It is our hope that at the conclusion of any presentation, people will carry in their hearts the wonders that they have experiences and use them to make our world a more joyful home for all.

Shary Williamson travels far and wide (both in and out of the USA) with her presentations. If you are interested in further information about available dates or prices, contact:

Shary Williamson 740-225-8391 or shary@roadrunner.com

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OPEN THE DOORS TO YOUR IMAGINATION -Woodland Elf Presentation REVIEWS

*****Love, acceptance, truth: the three words that describe the message of Shary Williamson's visit to our school. I can only interpret her presentation as an experience; it was not a performance. My students left her presence (and yes, a "presence" she is) accepting their unique abilities, trusting that perseverance pays off, and giggling about her anecdotes. They were taught valuable lessons through the captivating storytelling of a grandmother, just as it should be. Her visit was over a year ago and blesses me still--**

Keesa S. Addison 3rd Grade Teacher Cornerstone Charter Academy Belle Isle, Florida

*****Our school author visit with Shary Williamson was like no other experience with an author. With her unmatched style, Shary enthusiastically manages to weave nuggets of wisdom, literacy, nature and magic all while holding every student in the palm of her hand. From the disappearing “ELF” on her magic board to the “secrets” of “how you, too, can be an author” to spreading JOY throughout every moment of her presentation, each word she speaks is translated with “heart”! And, oh what fun our children had viewing Shary’s beautiful Smart Board presentation of nature where Woodland Elves houses were tucked in natural surroundings and alongside woodland animals. The children just loved this! What child wouldn’t be motivated to write a book once Shary shares her own childhood writing and her ultimate treasure as an author, her beautifully illustrated book and energetic CD to go with it, The Woodland Elves? It’s difficult to target just one attribute among the many in Shary’s presentation, but, the prevailing message that children take with them when they leave her presentation is that they are capable, they are important and they are LOVED! What a winning combination!!!**

Crista Sycks, School Guidance Counselor Woodstock Elementary School Woodstock, Georgia

*****Shary exudes fervor in a way that captivates the spirits of children and adults alike. Her very presence in our school incited emotion and ignited passions in the children’s eyes that were previously untapped. True passion is contagious. We are grateful Shary afforded our students an opportunity to catch even a morsel of her love of the written word and a small chance to examine the power it possesses. Somehow, she managed to convey a very special and powerful message in only a short time and with a very magical coin. Teachers and staff were also affected by Shary’s presence. Teachers were discussing the “wonderful” nature of the presentations shared with their students and remarked at how much energy and enthusiasm Shary had and shared. Shary Williamson’s captivation of hearts is no accident and one can only hope her ardor for reading and writing will be invited into many more future communities.**

Lynn Bailey, Liberty Elementary Teacher and PTO President Caledonia, Ohio

*****Fortunately, seventh and eighth grade advanced language arts classes at Grant Middle School experienced a passionate and powerful presentation from children’s author, Shary Williamson. Mrs. Williamson definitely accomplished her primary life mission as she assuredly “passed the joy of life around! Not only did Shary discuss the development of her book, but more importantly she also shared caring and learned statements concerning life in general. In short, she made her presentation fit a group of middle school students! Students heard and took to heart Mrs. Williamson’s astute statements on life! Accordingly, Shary was described by the students in manners such as “caring”, “intelligent”, “honest” and “motivational”. The classes were blessed to experience an author who realizes the true values of life.**

Roger Jury Grant Middle School Language Art Teacher Marion, Ohio

*****What a joy to have Shary come to our daughter’s school to share her story. The children were mesmerized with her story and journey Shary took to actually write the book. She gave them a window of possibilities and had every single student believing in themselves. The car ride chatter for weeks afterwards was all about the books they were going to write – just like Ms. Shary. THANKS FOR THE INSPIRATION.**

Amy Emmatty, parent at Neil Armstrong Elementary School Reston, Virginia