



WORKING WITH STORY

As human beings, we have an essential need for meaning and purpose in our lives. Without it, pain is magnified. Joy flattens. Our light fades. We lose ourselves, and our way. We are liable to become owned. To lose our freedom. Throughout history, **the phenomenon of Story** has been our primary act for deriving meaning and purpose. *Story*. Not the chronological recounting of our life, but the distillation, testimony, and servitude of our personal and collective existence. Story as a communal dynamic of testifying and bearing witness. Story as spark for social change. Striking embers of kinship. Illuminating our divine distinction and sublime commonality. Story as celebration, healing tonic, remembrance, reunion, and edification. Story as noun and verb, seed and produce, method and result.

I am grateful to offer keynotes, talks, and healing circles on Story. Our method together will be creative writing, spoken word, and purposeful reflection. We will break bread (word) together, heart and soul. Our space and experience will not be conventional “training” nor linear, scripted transmission of information. Our space will be safe, content will emerge organically, and we shall grace ourselves with laughter, tears, joy, and actual human feelings. We will dare to be open, truthful, honoring, and real. We will literally face each other. Not as adversary, but with Love and compassion. Intimately. Our objective will be epiphany, transformation. Building our human capacity. My hope is for you to cultivate a new relationship with your true nature, giftedness, passion, and calling. For your life, work, workforce, organization, and mission to be renewed and re-envisioned. For the children, youth, and communities you serve to be emboldened and empowered to heal themselves. Our landscape will be the emotional terrain. The human aspect of our existence. That which dominates our work and life, for better or for worse, even as we treat it secondarily. Through creative reflection we will harvest new language: the vocabulary of wellness, wholeness, fruitfulness.

This service experience is for nonprofits, schools, programs, initiatives, public agencies, and businesses. It serves and adapts to your topical priorities for children, youth, adults, professionals, and executive leaders. It belongs with those who value innovation, creativity, activism, and pioneering change. My priority is to support the rehumanization of those who have been dehumanized: Indigenous, displaced, and vulnerable populations and workers. So that persons may find themselves in their story, and in the collective story. That they may discover and rediscover their meaning, purpose, beauty, power, vitality, courage, heart, and full humanness. Particularly, we will strive to preserve cultural Story that is vulnerable to extinction, oppression, and supremacies. This work is global. It is imperative and it is time. I am happy to further familiarize you with what this experience looks like, feels like, and where it leads. Please reach out to me at jaiya@soulwater.org.

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