



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Unlocking Creativity: A Personal Journey in Crete      **Name:** Jenny Harter

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** Greater Houston Area Program      **Location Visited:** Crete, Greece

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** Seven years ago, I set aside my personal passion for drawing and painting in order to earn a Master of Education degree and learn the fine art of teaching gifted and talented fourth graders. Two months ago, I was given the opportunity to renew my passions by attending a Creativity Workshop on Crete. Because of this experience, I am better able to nurture the passion, drive, and creativity of my students through use of my thematic writing unit, "Unlocking Creativity." While on Crete, my workshop time was spent collaborating with peers and getting in touch with my creativity through specific writing and drawing exercises. My time outside the workshop was devoted to experiencing the beauty and culture of the Greek island. I toured local farmer's markets, hiked Europe's longest gorge, and went to dinner and out on the town with new colleagues to experience life on Crete. I was inspired by the natural beauty of Crete as well as the ideas from my workshop, and I left with a sense of confidence that my time on the island had renewed my creative juices.

**Career Impact:** \* Gained a deeper understanding of my creativity

- \* Practiced using my creativity on a daily basis, thus giving me a sense of renewal towards projects at school and in my personal life
- \* Increased self-esteem in traveling and trying new adventures
- \* Made personal connections with fellow participants in the workshop from around the world and have plans to continue to collaborate online to publish a children's book

**Classroom/Community Impact:**\* Learned new tools to tap into creativity of my students

- \* Approached the new school year with a renewed purpose for the writing curriculum
- \* Shared my experience with fellow teachers with a plan of incorporating new life into our current writing program
- \* Showing by example to my students how writing can empower them
- \* Collaborated with people from all over the world gave me a better understanding for working with my team

**Open Response:** \* Travel blog allowed my current and former students to follow my experience

- \* Met a fellow teacher from the international school in Switzerland and have plans for our students to become virtual pen pals through email
- \* In the process of creating a unit on unlocking creativity based on my experiences in the workshop
- \* Plan on using my blog as part of a presentation to fellow teachers and parents at the state gifted and talented convention

**Quote:** As an experienced teacher, I recognize that I can best nurture passion, drive, and creativity in my students if I reawaken them within myself. My time in Crete gave me that and so much more.

Photos:



Hiking through Samaria Gorge, the longest gorge in Europe



Working on illustrating a children's book



Doorway photo that I used to create a story as part of the workshop



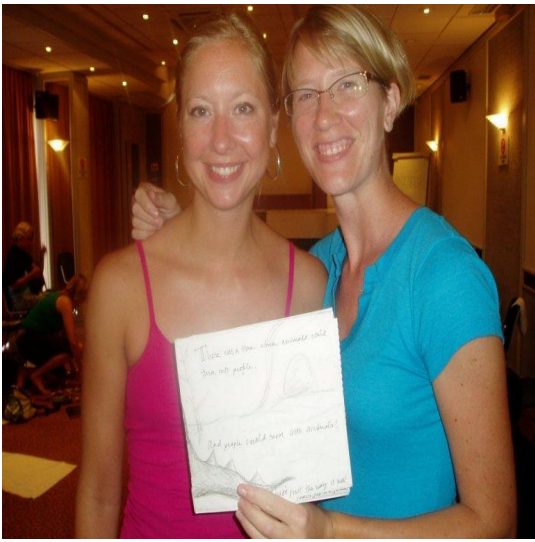
Taking a photo walking tour through Hania



Crossing the river on the twelve mile hike through Samaria Gorge



Creating a collaborative three dimensional photo story in the workshop



Showing off our collaborative children's book with a new colleague



Relaxing at the port in the Old Town