

To whom it may concern:

I am a professional writer/editor and writing instructor with over twenty years of experience. I've known Steffan Vanel for over twelve years. He has lectured to the faculty at the school where I teach on the symbolism of the Tarot, and the school has sent several teachers to his "Mining the Archetypes" workshops for professional development credit. I have taken his workshop twice and recommend it highly. I use what I learned from him extensively in my teaching, in my work with clients for whom I edit and in my own writing. In my writing courses I use "The Hero's Journey" as a template for story writing and ask students to draw upon mythic archetypes to elevate the themes of their stories. I realized the power of this method as a result of my work with Steffan.

With thirty-five years of experience as a reader and teacher, Steffan is highly knowledgeable about the Tarot and its symbols, but more importantly, he understands how the symbols interact with the human imagination to bring creative material into consciousness and give it order through writing. The use of archetypes and symbolic imagery to raise "ordinary" experience to an exalted or mythic level results not only in better writing, but participants find the work healing and liberating. In short, it lifts us up where we belong. Steffan's extensive knowledge of the Tarot and its symbols, his vast experience interacting with them and relating them to thousands of individuals' personal stories make him an expert reader, teacher and healer.

Through Steffan's workshops I've learned how to produce my own workshops for parents, sexual abuse survivors and women veterans of the armed forces. Steffan is widely considered to be the reader's reader, and in my case, he is also the teacher's teacher.

Sincerely,

Martha Quill