

A Boy and His Knife: Storytelling for Healing in an African American School Setting

by Gregory Woods

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SUITLAND, Md., USA -- Schools tend to focus resources on young people who come from broken homes suffering from seemingly insurmountable conditions. One school in the Washington, D.C., area with a large population of such students had a visionary vice principal who felt that school curricula devoted to spiritual, emotional and intellectual development of the individual would produce a better equipped graduate. This vice principal asked us to take some of his top students into the initiatory process of rites-of-passage work and, for four months, work together in a sacred Circle with a powerful array of such sacred tools as ritual, stories, mirrors, ceremony, the Sankofa bird, altars and dialogue with an African centered approach sometimes influenced by traditions from my Native American heritage as well.

Re-introducing the Circle returns initiates to the womb and
[SNIP – End of preview.]