

# LEGENDIZE

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## *How it Began*

### Teacher or Creative Facilitator?

My first teaching appointment took me to Moruga, a village on the Southern coast of Trinidad that many of us would be quick to call ‘backward’. Moruga is the place that Columbus first landed when he invaded our shores and the big event in Moruga is the ‘Discovery Day’ celebrations when the arrival of Columbus and his interaction with our original peoples, The Amerindians, is re-enacted.

I was carded to teach History and Social Studies; I was a modern-day University educated woman; I was the middle-class daughter of a teacher; I was going to bring the light of education to this forgotten place where filling water at the community standpipe was considered social interaction.

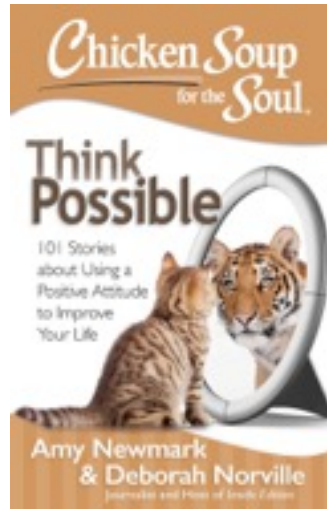
Imagine my surprise to find that my students were not as taken with me as I was with myself! Sure the boys called out as I passed and the girls thought I dressed good and generally I was considered ‘cool’ but who really cared about all those topics and chapters and school-based assignments? How was that important when there were animals to hunt and fish to catch and garden to plant and money to find?

I wasn’t prepared to be a test-performance focused teacher...I wanted to inspire... so I started talking more and teaching less, I started asking and listening more and telling less.

And then one day, I stumbled upon the key to inspiring my students as they re-enacted the Discovery Day celebration for me...they made no connection between this and Chapter 1 in the History textbook; I understood then the power of storytelling and the need for people to be at the center of their stories...their history...their legends...the need to be at the center of their own learning if learning is to be relevant to them. **I understood the difference between teaching and facilitating natural creativity and intelligence.**

Read about it here in my story Think Outside the Book in the Chicken Soup: Think Possible Series.

<https://www.amazon.com/Chicken-Soup-Soul-Possible-Positive/dp/1611599520>



*Who taught Who?*

## My life-lesson from Moruga

After I left full-time teaching to become a full-time writer, the lesson from Moruga never left me; education haunted me; the need to celebrate youth beyond the limits and demands of the education system became a passion to equal my writing and I formed Pepperpot Productions as a way to marry my background in education with my belief in fostering creativity and expression as celebration of learning.

I believe that young people do thrive, just not always in the way we expect and demand through our education system. I believe my role is to provide additional spaces, not to teach, but merely to be a Creative Facilitator for young people to explore and express their own intelligence, curiosity and creativity.

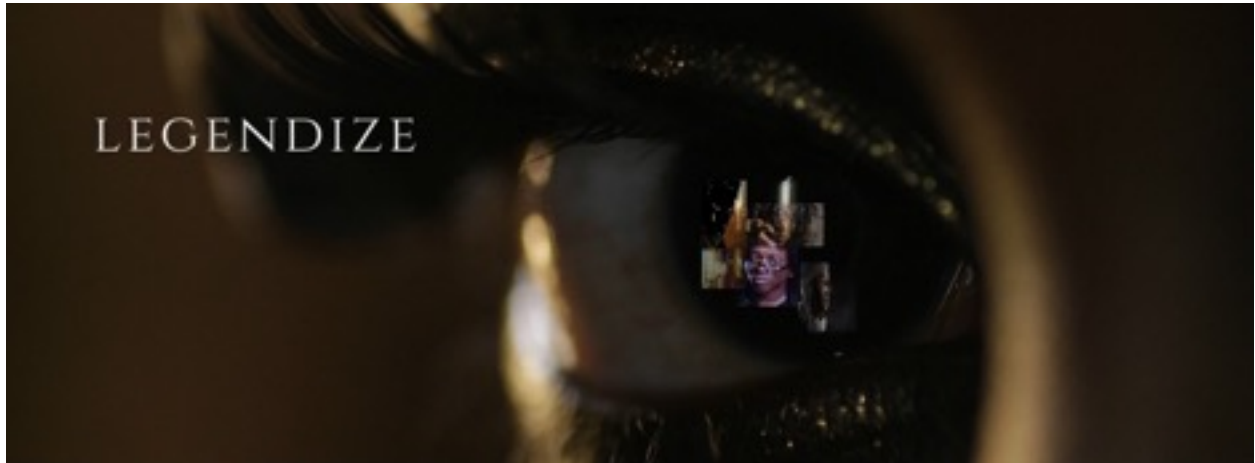
So I started exploring this journey of being a Creative Facilitator.

Armed with my knowledge from Moruga and the understanding that when things make sense, when people connect, we don't have to force them to be interested and to learn...this comes naturally.

The way in which my Moruga students connected with the history of Columbus' arrival through story, drama, re-enactment, theatre, the way in which they felt themselves to be within the story, brought me to **LEGENDIZE**.



## LEGENDIZE: CREATIVE HISTORY UNFOLDING



LEGENDIZE is a transformative project that promotes people at the center of their learning and celebrates the natural curiosity, intelligence and creativity in all of us.