

Mr. C.

By Suzy Hopkins

He had that bronze Italian skin and dark hair. His playful smile lit up the room. He was the most creative exciting person I had ever met. He sang in the Boston Opera Company so I got to sneak backstage during the performances.

I adored my 7th grade art teacher. Art class was the best part of every week for me in my Lexington, Massachusetts middle school. Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 A.M. He took the whole class to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and helped us appreciate the famous and not so famous works of art. Several of us went with him to New York City to stay for three days, saw the New York Opera perform, visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art and ate dinner in a different ethnic restaurant each night.

Mr. Ciano's enthusiastic encouragement and bold artistic skill inspired me to go to college to be an art teacher.

Nowadays, schools don't have art class – no money. What a shame. It could change someone's life.