

Many thanks to the Bright Ideas Steering Committee and especially to the following people who have helped organize this conference:

**Frank Accavitti
Samantha Caughlan
Ellen Cushman
Janice Hartwick-Dressel
Lindsay Ellis
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Kitty Geissler
Mary Juzwik
Mary Anna Kruch
Julie Lindquist
Kathy Morcom
Rob Rozema
Sue Steffel
Chuck Steltenkamp
Marilyn Wilson**

HUGE THANKS TO OUR PRESENTERS



Michigan State University Union
East Lansing, Michigan

Notes

Day at a Glance

- 8:15-9:00** **Registration**
Second Floor Concourse, MSU Student Union
- 9:00-10:00** **Keynote Address**

Gary Schmidt, Young Adult Author
“Sleepers, Awake: Why Story Matters”
Gary Schmidt has twice won the Newbery Award for his young adult fiction. He is the author of *Trouble*, *The Wednesday Wars*, *First Boy*, *In God's Hands*, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and other works.

MSU Union Ballroom
- 10:00-11:00** **Discussion with Gary to continue in Ballroom**
- 10:00-11:00** **Breakout session 1**
- 11:10-12:10** **Breakout session 2**
- 12:20-1:30** **Lunch**
Included in registration fee for pre-registered attendees
- Open Mic Reading** Ballroom
- 1:40-2:40** **Breakout session 3**
- 9:00- 2:45** **Book Exhibit**

**Please visit Cornucopia Books and
Everybody Reads**

Parlor B

Michigan State University Union
East Lansing, Michigan
April 4, 2009

Session 1 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Session 3 1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

Session 1 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Presenters • Talk Titles • Summary

Room

Presenters • Talk Titles • Summary

Room

Anna J. Small Roseboro Grand Rapids, MI
Measure for Measure: Reading and Writing About Literature Using Nine Yardsticks of Value
 HS
 Experience ways a unit on evaluating literature can help students understand why they respond to literature in the ways they do; expand their vocabulary for discussing and writing about literature more articulately, and read and analyze published literary criticism more insightfully.

**Parlor A,
2nd
Floor**

Alexander Hayner, Haslett HS, MSU
Meditation in the Secondary English/Language Arts Classroom
 HS
 A new approach to personalize student reception of challenging subject matter through having secondary English/Language Arts classes participate in a guided meditation to connect with a text on a deeper level. A demonstration will accompany explanation, background, and research on the technique.

**Lake
Ontario,
3rd Floor**

Deb Van Duinen, MSU
***“I don’t like writing – it makes my hand hurt”:
Adolescent boys and their writing (or lack thereof)***
 MS/HS
 In this presentation we will discuss different messages that adolescent boys receive about writing and about themselves as writers. Using data from a qualitative interview-based study, we will examine how people, institutions and commercial forces influence boys’ literacy choices. We will explore strategies aimed at increasing boys’ engagement with writing.

**Parlor C,
2nd
Floor**

Nicole Guinot Varty, EMU
Sharks and Pilot Fish in the Classroom: Awareness of the Reading-Writing Symbiosis
 MS/HS
 How can we help students write like readers, and read like writers? This presentation outlines practices designed to help students strengthen the reading/writing connection, while describing the theories supporting these practices. Get ready to dive in and swim with the sharks and pilot fish of the classroom: reading and writing.

**Lake
Michigan,
3rd Floor**

Gretchen Rumohr-Voskuil, Aquinas College
Amy Weesies, Oakridge High School
Writing Well with a Common Interest: Using Harry Potter and Twilight in the Secondary English Classroom
 MS/ HS
 J.K. Rowling used elements of grammar to communicate stunning images, complex events, and difficult truths in her Harry Potter series. More recently, Stephenie Meyer has enchanted adolescent readers with Twilight. This presentation invites teachers from various subject areas to utilize both series in order to improve students’ writing.

**Lake
Huron,
3rd
Floor**

Erica Saidoo and Kathy Morcom, MSU NCTE SA
Pre-Service Teachers
 Student teachers will share their experiences from within the classroom. Learn from their first-hand accounts of what it’s really like during the internship year, and get ideas for making the experience a productive one.

**Lake
Superior,
3rd Floor**

Roy Black, Rogers HS, Wyoming (NWP)
“Sucking the Marrow Out Of Life” Without Sucking the Life Out Of Students: Reflective Approaches to Reflective Writing
 MS/ HS
 Are the skills mastered by great writers—tone, style, and voice, for example—being ignored in our present standardized-test-based approach to writing? Writing reflectively, both creatively and in response to literature, can be an effective way to enrich the writing abilities of our students.

**Lake
Erie,
3rd
Floor**

MCEE Meeting
 Michigan Council of English Educators Spring Meeting

**Sun
Porch,
2nd Floor
(Behind
the
Ballroom)**

Session 2 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

Session 2 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

Session 2 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

Presenters • Talk Titles • Summary	Room
<p>Christina Helsel, Pontiac Center for Excellence Eleanor Robinson, Interlochen Arts Academy Jillian VanRiper, Keicher Elementary School All <i>Building Writing Connections: Experiences in creating an online teacher writing group</i> This panel will explore how three beginning teachers and a former university instructor developed an online writing group to grow as writers and support each other as teachers. We will also discuss how pursuing our own writing helped us develop as writers and literacy teachers.</p>	<p>Parlor A, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Kenneth Odle, WMU <i>Mind The Gap: Teaching for Reading and Writing Success to the Boy Brain</i> All We'll explore selected biological and cultural differences that lead to a literacy gap between boys and girls, suggest research-based strategies used to bridge that gap, and reveal its socio-cultural and political consequences. Andrew Taylor, WMU <i>Overcoming Barriers to Using Video Games as Literature</i> All Shows how teachers might utilize video games both as literature and as an exploration of a culturally stereotyped medium. Bringing video games to the classroom can both teach critical thinking about popular media and emphasize that texts are carefully constructed no matter their form.</p>	<p>Parlor C, 2nd Floor</p>
<p>Rachel Kooiker, Spring Lake HS (NWP) <i>Multigenre Fiction: From Mentor Text to Fiction with Ordeal by Cheque</i> All In the short story, "Ordeal by Cheque," readers create meaning by piecing together details from a series of bank checks. In this demonstration, participants will be invited to explore how young writers can use multi-genre fiction writing to think critically about detail, pre-write, and develop awareness of multiple literacies.</p>	<p>Lake Huron, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Tim Hargis, Kentwood Public Schools (NWP) <i>Creating Active Thinkers in the Writing Classroom</i> EL/MS Learn guiding principles that will help make your students stronger thinkers in the writing classroom. Understand the importance of focusing on thinking for instruction in order to help students become confident, knowledgeable, <u>independent</u> writers. See how schools that switched to focusing on thinking while writing have significantly improved writing achievement.</p>	<p>Lake Erie, 3rd Floor</p>

Presenters • Talk Titles • Summary	Room
<p>Sam Napolitan, Becky Prohaska, Danielle Peck, MSU <i>Creating Literary Bridges: How to Incorporate Graphic Novels in the ELA classroom</i> K-12 Everyone knows that comics are "fun," but what do they have to do with learning? This interactive session will introduce participants to the various literary and pedagogical uses of comics and explore how this visual medium can effectively be utilized in the K-12 classroom.</p>	<p>Lake Ontario, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Heather Brewer, Spring Lake Public Schools (NWP) <i>Choice Topics: How and when to give choice in the classroom</i> All By allowing students choice in the classroom, teachers are able to help students write across the divides. In this interactive workshop, participants will study student work to discover how much freedom in writing works with students, share ideas for giving choice in the classroom, and walk away with a workshop-generated list of ways to give choices in their classroom.</p>	<p>Lake Michigan, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Catherine H. Reischl, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Lisa Teshima, King Elementary School, Ann Arbor Hillary Bronson, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor All This presentation describes an "Ask the Expert" unit, where multilingual 1st grade children wrote a "how to" book and were supported by their teacher, teaching interns and a teacher educator. Presenters will take a "how-to" approach, offering practical suggestions for writing instruction and constructing collaborative relationships between schools and universities.</p>	<p>Lake Superior, 3rd Floor</p>
<p>Richard Koch, Adrian College (NWP) All <i>NWP MI's Portfolio Website: Demonstration & Exploration</i> Participants will preview and explore a new National Writing Projects of Michigan "Portfolio Website," designed to support "workshop" approaches to teaching writing and to provide for authentic review of student writing.</p>	<p>Sun Porch, 2nd Floor (Behind the Ballroom)</p>

Session 3 1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

Session 3 1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

Presenters • Talk Titles • Summary Room

Laura Jimenez, MSU
Comprehending Captain Underpants
 Upper EI
 How can educators take advantage of the reading motivation presented by books like Dav Pilkey’s *Captain Underpants*? Participants will see examples of mapping good reading comprehension strategies to texts not traditionally considered quality literature. Participants will work toward an understanding of finding reading comprehension opportunities in problematic texts.

**Parlor A,
2nd
Floor**

Angela Knight, Holbrook Elementary, Hamtramck
Carol Sliwka, Monroe Public Schools
Guilt Monkeys & Plot Bunnies: Fiction in Your Zoo
 All
 National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is the ultimate in project-based learning. Imagine a month free from “What are we doing?” and “What’s the homework?” You will learn about resources, logistics, and freebies. You’ll see how NaNoWriMo connects with Michigan standards and participate in activities to help you and your students write novels.

**Parlor C,
2nd
Floor**

Jeff Blakeslee & Dayna Lang, Plymouth-Canton Schools
Creative Ideas for Technology in Secondary English Classes
 MS/HS
 As two ELA teachers from the Plymouth-Canton school district, we will share how we combine basic technologies and UDL strategies to reach all of our students. If you want creative ideas and techniques to take back to your classroom on Monday, come join us!

**Lake
Huron,
3rd
Floor**

Renee Mungons, Emmanuel Christian HS, Toledo
Multigenre Writing: Creating Self-Efficacy and Motivation in Student Writers MS/HS/C Multigenre writing has the potential to activate student voice and create a classroom atmosphere conducive to self-expression. When students have the freedom to take risks and be creative in their use of topic, language and genre, increased self-efficacy and motivation toward writing result.
Sarah Davis, WMU *Integrating Native American Literature into the Classroom* MS/HS This presentation will be a forum for discussion on how to appropriately include literature by Native American authors into the secondary ELA classroom.

**Lake
Erie,
3rd
Floor**

Session 1 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Presenters • Talk Titles • Summary Room

Annis Brown, Jessica McVettie, Timothy Kitson
Jenelle Humes, Jessica Hendricks, MSU
English Teachers as Writers: The Teaching Diverse Learners Inquiry Project
 MS/HS
 This session will provide focused strategies for teaching diverse learners in your classroom and conducting action research on diverse learners in your school building.

**Lake
Ontario,
3rd Floor**

Chanda Wekwert: Hillman Jr./Sr. High School
Writing without Limits
 MS/HS
 If you’re looking to motivate your students to write with passion, join me for National Novel Writing Month. Using digital storytelling and student artifacts, this interactive session, providing teachers with materials for their classrooms, encourages emerging writers to improve their skills and to identify with a national community of writers.

**Lake
Michigan,
3rd Floor**

Toby Kahn-Loftus, WMU
Megan Emerson, WMU NCTE-SA
Lindsey Hesslau, WMU NCTE-SA
Ransom Note Poems, Headline Poems, and other Found Poems
 EI/MS/HS
 Found poems are composed from words and phrases found in another text. This type of poetry is interactive and accessible to every learner. Each participant will be invited to create a ransom note poem, a headline poem, and a found poem from narrative text. We will provide all of the materials.

**Lake
Superior,
3rd Floor**

Allen Webb, WMU and NWP
Literature and Terrorism: Relevant Teaching for Today’s World
 HS
 This session intends to help language arts teachers and students understand more deeply both the serious reality and the troubling paranoia surrounding "terrorism" — to think more deeply about the term; examine stereotypes of Islam, Arabs, and terrorists in popular culture; and engage with powerful contemporary literature and film that go beyond public obsession and confusion to make understandable the lives and thinking of our so-called "enemies."

**Sun
Porch,
2nd Floor
(Behind
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