

Professional Pursuit...The First Connection Issue 1 Fall 2018

Dear SMETA Members,

Thank you for being part of this wonderful organization. I joined SMETA during my second year of teaching because I was craving the support of a professional community, being the one and only English teach at my small, rural school. My membership in this organization has proven to be invaluable. Thanks to the strategies and support I've pulled from local teachers, I am a better, more focused, more effective, and more positive teacher.

This year's conference is about "Bringing Words Together." How wonderful! Think about the power of that. The power of knowledge, information, communication, and connection, all from bringing words together. I was talking to a colleague the other day, a very impressive woman from St. Louis who now has a PhD in English. In high school she struggled with English class, especially with writing. All that changed when her sophomore English teacher told her, "You are a good thinker. Now you need to learn how to communicate so that the world knows you are a good thinker." I wish I could meet this teacher and shake her hand. Yes! That's what we are doing for our students. Some people think that English class is about reading Shakespeare for the sake of tradition and knowing how to correct each other's grammar at cocktail parties. That's not it at all. It's about using all the tools available--through reading, writing, and grammar--to express ourselves, to influence our peers, to challenge old ideas, to create new ideas, and to change the world. All of our students have the power to bring words together in a way that will show the world what kind of thinkers they are. It is our job to give our students the tools they need. Hopefully this conference will help all of us do that.

Amanda Robins SMETA 2018-19 President

Fall Conference 2018

Friday, November 2, 2018 Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) Corner of Pacific and Broadway, Cape Girardeau 9:00-2:00 pm Lunch and business meeting following conference Abigail Beckwith and Susan Hekmat will present

Reading and Writing: Bringing Words Together

- SMETA Teacher of the Year Presentation
- A variety of Round-Table Discussions
- Catered lunch
- Door Prizes, including Staples and Target gift cards
- SMETA Business Meeting where we need to elect a secretary and treasurer for 2019-2020
- Professional Resource swap! Bring a teacher resource to the conference that you would like to share!



Missouri Council of Teachers of English

MCTE would like to revive its membership. Please consider join-

ing or re-joining MCTE, Missouri's state affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English. MCTE is a professional organization which maintains a close working relationship with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Together, they co-sponsor Write-To-Learn in February at Tan-Tar-A. Through MCTE's publications and conferences, English teachers across the state are able to share their professional interests and concerns. As a MCTE member, you will receive F.Y.I, the Missouri English Bulletin and Missouri Youth Writes publications. For more information, visit our new website http://www.missourienglishteachers.com or contact Chris Warren at cwarren@semo.edu

SLATE

Support for the Learning and Teaching of English

NCTE Standing Committee on Social and Political Concerns, was organized at the 1975 Annual convention and

.... seeks to influence public attitudes and policy decisions affecting the teaching of English language arts at local, state, and national levels.

....seeks to implement and publicize the policies adopted by the National Council of Teachers on English.

....serves as NCTE's intellectual freedom network.

SLATE provides information and assistance with English educational issues through:

- SLATE Newsletter—SLATE Starter Sheets-Action Alerts The Newsletter provides regular reports on censorship challenges, on legislation, on issues which affect the teaching of English language arts, on publications and other resources related to SLATE's concerns.
- Report a Censorship Incident form for assistance or call Millie Davis, NCTE Division Director of Communications and Affiliate Services, directly at 800-369-6283, ext 3634
- Rationales for Challenged Books for teaching a number of literary works compiled in 2 volumes on CD-ROMS; Get Censorship information at http://www.ncte.org/about issues/censorship

The local SLATE representative is Christine Warren from Southeast Missouri State University and she can be reached at cwarren@semo.edu or 573-651-2617. For more information about SLATE, visit their Website at: http://ncte.org/about/issues/slate.

NCTE

The National Council of Teachers of English

The National Council of Teachers of English is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. Since 1911, NCTE has provided a forum for the profession, an array of opportunities for teachers to continue their professional growth throughout their careers, and a framework for cooperation to deal with issues that affect the teaching of English.

NCTE's Mission Statement states, "The Council promotes the development of literacy, the use of language to construct personal and public worlds and to achieve full participation in society, through the learning and teaching of English and the related arts and sciences of language."

NCTE has over 60,000 members and subscribers in the United States and other countries. Individual members are teachers and supervisors of English programs in elementary, middle, and secondary schools, faculty in college and university English departments, teacher educators, local and state agency English specialists, and professionals in related fields. The 2018National Convention is in Houston in November. Anyone interested in advancing English language arts education is welcome to join the NCTE membership community. For more information, visit NCTE's Website at: http://www.ncte.org

ON-LINE TEACHER RESOURCES YOU CAN TRUST AND USE NOW

- **ChompChomp.com**: <u>www.chompchomp.com</u> This is a good site for grammar and punctuation review and practice. The exercises are printable for paper-pen practice. Students actually find the corny rewards entertaining.
- The Poetry 180 Website: <u>http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/</u> Poet Billy Collins designed this website to give students the opportunity to listen to one poem for every day of school. Be sure to read the poems before you present them. Collins says to ask your student to listen to the poems without having to interpret them. The point is to get students to learn how to listen to poetry and to stop trying to find any hidden meanings. This activity works as a bell-ringer, as an interest rouser, or as a way to fill up the last few minutes of class.
- Daily Grammar blog: <u>http://www.dailygrammar.com/</u> This is a helpful resource of finding useful and educational English grammar lessons and quizzes. The archive makes it easy to find and reproduce focused lessons on every aspect of grammar instruction. A daily email can be subscribed to for regular material delivered to your inbox.
- Make Your Point daily email: <u>http://www.hilotutor.com/myp.html</u> This language focused blog is a free daily email. In each issue, Liesl Johnson "explores a sophisticated word: What it means, beyond the literal; when and why we should choose it; how to use it when we talk and write." This blog also features many other useful language ideas and tools.
- Smart Classroom Management: <u>https://www.smartclassroommanagement.com</u> This is a weekly free email that explains with details how to implement a classroom management procedure ranging from dealing with defiant students, praising students productively, and approaching upset parents. The archive is filled with useful classroom management ideas.
- **Teaching Channel**: <u>https://www.teachingchannel.org/</u> This fabulous free website is filled with videos of real teachers of all grade levels in their classrooms sharing their lessons, procedures, and classroom management ideas. Videos range from a minute to a half-hour in length. The search bar will take you to almost any teaching top-ic you can think of. You must register to view.
- Teacher's Discovery Writing Prompt Wednesday: <u>https://</u> <u>www.teachersdiscovery.com/writing-prompt/</u> This is a weekly emailed schoolappropriate current events article and questions for close reading and critical thinking.
- **Purdue Online Writing Lab**: <u>http://owl.purdue.edu</u> This website is a great source for citations and formatting. It is consistently updated and includes not only MLA, but also APA and Chicago styles. It is free, and there are also printable style guides that can be reproduced and handed out to students. Don't teach research without it.

2018 Conference Presentation

Reading and Writing: Bringing Words Together

Abigail Beckwith will present Tips for Teaching Grammar. Abigail will share helpful rationales and methods and share some great tools for teaching grammar. Through interactive mini-lessons on various grammar concepts, we will experience tried-and-true activities and gain helpful information we can take back to our students.

Susan Hekmat will present Why Bother to Read Anymore? Based on 10 Reasons from author and English teacher Kelly Gallagher, Susan will focus on why reading is essential in today's world of technology. She will discuss using choice of novels for Book Talks and how authors use the first pages to "hook" all readers, including our students.

SMETA st Missouri English Top

Southeast Missouri English Teachers Association

We strive to bring English teachers from our region together to share and exchange ideas. Our Fall meeting is Friday, November 2, 2018. We will spend an informative morning followed by a catered lunch at Statuary Hall at the Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) at 920 Broadway in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A buffet style lunch will be served after the conference. Target and Staples gift cards and a 2019 SMETA Conference fee will be part of the door prizes this year! Parking is plentiful on the RPDC lot at the Innovations building without a permit.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues; they may not know about SMETA yet. Better still, bring them with you to an informative 2018 conference.



Conference fee of \$35 will cover conference attendance, one year of SMETA membership, and lunch. The fee needs to be sent to our new treasurer John Snodgrass by October 26, 2018.

Moments from the 2017 SMETA Conference Bring a colleague and join the fun for the 2018 Conference on Friday November 2.







2018-19 Membership and Fall Conference Registration	
Name:	
School Name:	
Home Address:_	
Email:	
\$35.00 mailed by H	Example to SMETA . Membership, Conference, and Luncheon Fee of Griday, October 26. If you miss this mailing date, please email entral.k12.mo.us or cwarren@semo.edu by 10/29/18 to let us know you
Ster Ster Ster Ster Ster Ster Ster Ster	end Membership, Conference, and Luncheon ee of \$35.00 by October 26, 2018 to John Snodgrass Scott County Central High School 20794 US Hwy 61 Sikeston, MO 63801-7201 jsnodgrass@scottcentral.k12.mo.us

Help Wanted SMETA is looking for ELA teachers interested in being an officer for the 2019-20 school year Minimal commitment required, professional development opportunity If interested, email Chris Warren <u>before 2018</u> conference, cwarren@semo.edu

When You Have Time to Read, Check Out These Books...



Amanda Robins recommends *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai. This young adult novel is about a Vietnamese girl who immigrates to Alabama after the Fall of Saigon. This coming of age story is told through verse poetry, making it a quick read. Students who struggle with reading will enjoy it for its brevity and readability. Students who are more literary will love it for its complexity and beauty. Make it part of your classroom library.

Chris Warren suggests *In the Best Interest of Students: Staying True to What Works in the ELA Classroom* by Kelly Gallagher. Gallagher breaks down the reading, writing, and speaking standards and how they should be approached with practical writing and reading strategies including the Interrupted Book Report and Six Things You Should Know About...

John Snodgrass would like to recommend *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss. This fantasy fiction is part of a trilogy. A famous wizard has been in hiding to avoid repercussions of an unrevealed crime. The main character, complex, flawed, powerful, is bound by his haunted past, knowledge of a dark future, and a personal code of honor.

Misty Everett recommends *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. This novel is narrated in first person by Christopher John Francis Boone, a 15-year old who describes himself as a "mathematician with some behavioral difficulties." Although his condition is not stated directly, the summary of the book refers to Asperger syndrome. According to the author, however, this book is not about Asperger's; it is about difference, being



an outsider, and seeing the world in a surprising way. Misty is teaching this book because its themes on Social Disability are relevant to students today.

Crystal Cerny is recommending *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neal Hurston. This classic is a beautiful journey toward self-discovery and love. Hurston's language will leave your heart full, your mind alive with imagery, and your soul renewed for your own journey.

2018 CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- **Go-To Reading Strategies** led by Christine Warren. Chris will share her favorite strategies to help students grasp complex text including previewing, summarizing, sequencing, and connecting.
- **Grading Shortcuts** led by Crystal Cerny. Crystal will offer tips and techniques to cut grading time. Shift some responsibility, try a few new tricks, and regain your sanity and free-time!
- Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. Teaching artists from SFSL will share a collection of activities which can easily be used in your classroom to introduce students to Shakespeare's works.
- What's New in Young Adult Literature? led by Cyndi Roach and Mary Pensel. Find new titles to engage your students.
- Engaging Students Who Struggle From Start to Finish led by Shannon Clapsaddle. Shannon will share three strategies to support students who struggle with literacy from reading to analyzing to writing the final paper.
- **Bringing Research Together** led by Amanda Robins. Amanda will focus on a tested and trusted graphic organizer used to help students organize research. Cool apps and websites that help students conduct research will also be shared.
- Sage/Rookie Question and Answer hosted by Misty Everett and Molly McConnell. Bring questions about classroom management, teaching the standards, time management—no teaching topic is taboo at this roundtable.
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For a quick connection to organizational links, the latest newsletters, and conference information, visit our newly updated Web-site http://smeta.tripod.com and "Like" us on Facebook! 2018 Conference Keynote Presentation Reading and Writing: Bringing Words Together





Abigail Beckwith



Susan Hekmat

2017 Conference Highlights



Cindy King, Notre Dame High School SMETA Teacher of the Year



Molly McConnell SMETA Greef Award Recipient

2018-19 SMETA OFFICERS





Crystal Cerny (not pictured) **Amanda Robins Misty Everett John Snodgrass**



2018-19 SMETA Officers

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