

2009

Back Matter

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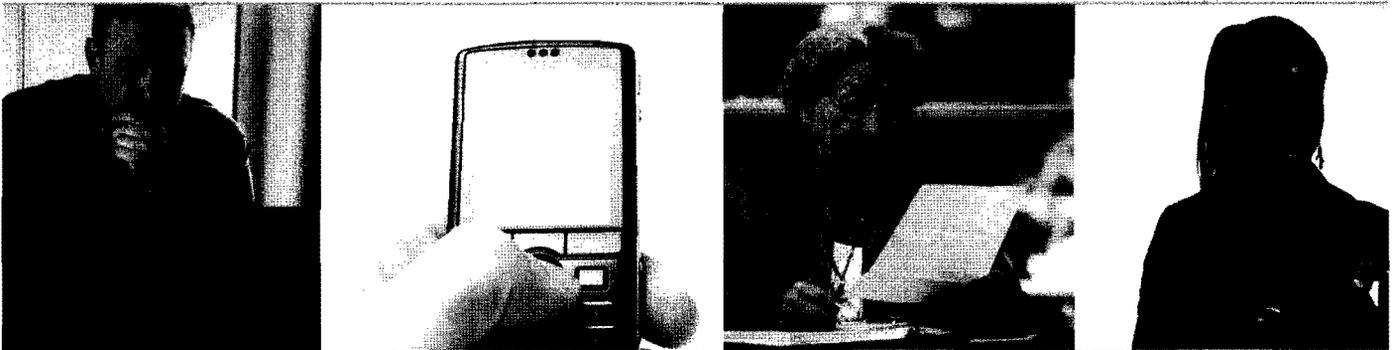
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The National Day on Writing

The National Gallery of Writing



**America's writing will be front and center on
October 20, 2009**

<http://www.galleryofwriting.org>

Contribute Your Writing Today!



The Michigan Council of Teachers of English



Autumn Assembly 2009

Friday, October 30, 2009 at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel



Mark your calendars for MCTE's
Autumn Assembly
October 30, 2009



**“Many Voices,
Many Literacies:
Texts, Tools, and Topics
to Engage Every Learner”**

Please plan to join us on Friday, October 30, 2009 as we welcome two nationally acclaimed, award-winning authors to inspire our conversations on teaching and learning: Jacqueline Woodson and George Ella Lyon. Woodson and Lyon both compose for multiple audiences and motivate writers and readers of all ages to find their voice and tell their story.

As a teacher, are you

- Blogging about *Beowulf* or other texts?
- Using great mentor texts to support developing writers and readers?
- Using e-Pals so students can write to peers across the globe?
- Using podcasts with literacy studies or “This I Believe” essays for distant web audiences?

In today’s teaching world the possibilities can seem endless for helping students discover their voice with engaging texts, tools, and technologies.

As Donald M. Murray reminded us in *Crafting a Life in Essay, Story, Poem*:

“The effective writer tunes the individual voice to the purpose and meaning of the text as well as to the reader.”

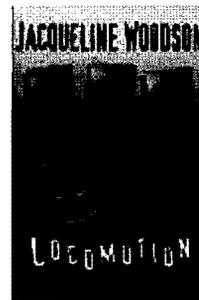
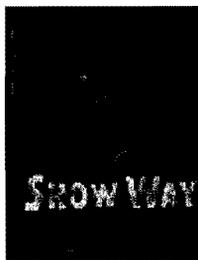
Please plan to submit a proposal this spring or summer for our MCTE Autumn Assembly 2009. You might share with your colleagues how you support students to find and develop the right voice for a specific audience and purpose. Or, perhaps you'll demonstrate how you use mentor texts, inspiring writing and reading invitations, and new technologies.

A Call for Proposals will be out this spring at Bright Ideas and in both *LAJM* and in our monthly *eMET* <http://www.mienglishteacher.org/>

If questions emerge before spring, contact Toby Kahn-Loftus by email at:

tobykahnloftus@gmail.com

Jacqueline Woodson



JACQUELINE WOODSON: READ WITH FRIENDS
Who is your favorite author? That answer might change depending on the book you're reading right now, but Detroit Public Schools students have a new favorite author and book. This year, "Miracle's Boys" by Jacqueline Woodson was selected as the favorite book and the 2009 Author Day winner. Jacqueline was also the winner in 2007 with her book "If You Come Softly."

We talked with Jacqueline a few years ago when she won the best book honor, and again recently when she was in Detroit to meet about 1,400 students at Author Day events. Jacqueline says she was

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thrilled to get word that one of her books had won a second time. "I've written 26 books so far, with 23 published and the others in the way."

Jacqueline was happy to be back in Detroit meeting so many fans. Jacqueline says she's been on the road a lot this year -- and in recent years -- and has now visited all 50 states. This

summer she's looking forward to relaxing a little bit and spending time of time with her 15-year-old girl, Tohi.

Tohi is one of the big new things in Jacqueline's life. Since we last talked with Jacqueline, she's become a mom and moved into a three-story brownstone on a pretty street in Brooklyn, a neighborhood in New York City.

She even brought pictures on her laptop computer because, she says, she wants kids to know what Brooklyn looks like: neighborhoods with great buildings, trees and parks. Her city, she looks near.

Does Tohi think her mom is a writer? "I think she's just starting to get that mommy's a writer," says Jacqueline. Tohi, who is 12, of course, too young to read most of her mom's books (many are for middle-school and high-school readers) but she really likes reading picture books, including her mom's "We Had a Friend Who Danced First."

Jacqueline loves working on novels for young people but says Tohi has definitely inspired some ideas for future picture books.

This summer Jacqueline plans to take a two-week family vacation to the beach where she'll ride there, get her hair cut and sit under a big beach umbrella and catch up on her

reading, and, of course, she'll be working on her books. Jacqueline is also looking forward to a special trip in January, to Africa with her family.

Jacqueline says she loves to hear from readers and still answers her own mail. She says the summer is a great time for kids to write to their favorite authors because most authors -- just like you -- have a little more time in the summer to write back.

Jacqueline also has another idea for you this summer: Why not start a summer reading or writing group? "It would be cool to think about having a small group of two or three people you trust to share your work with -- and cheer each other on," says Jacqueline. And you don't have to write a novel or even a short story, write a poem or a rap.

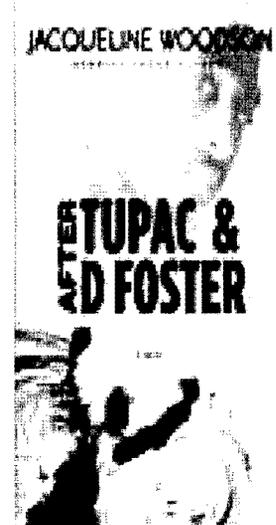
Jacqueline says if you don't want to write, you can pick some books that you all want to read and read them together.

You can read more about Jacqueline or write to her on her Web site at www.jacquelinewoodson.com

By James Campbell
Turn to Pages 4 and 5 for more interviews with authors and some new summer reads.



Children in Detroit Public Schools read Jacqueline Woodson their favorite author for a second time.



For information on Georgia Ella Lyon see <http://www.mienglishteacher.org/>.

LANGUAGE ARTS JOURNAL OF MICHIGAN

The Scholarly Journal of the Michigan Council of Teachers of English

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Fall 2009

Theme – Open

The editors of *LAJM* invite teachers and educators across grade levels to submit articles for the Fall 2009 issue. Thematic content is open, but *LAJM* seeks manuscripts that provide readers opportunities to explore or envision classroom practices, research and policy discussions that influence and inform English language arts pedagogy. The editors seek manuscripts that reflect diversity of perspectives, theories, and practices on a range of topics.

SUBMISSION DATE – JULY 15, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

LAJM seeks articles that explore a variety of topics on teaching English language arts (K-College). Students in the twenty-first century, many of whom are children of the Dot.Com generation, or “Millennials,” are facing dilemmas: what is often “normal” for many of them, e.g., “new” literacies, such as, texting, friending, twittering, is colliding with unique and often unpredictable national and global challenges and opportunities, which in turn become challenges and opportunities for teachers and researchers. Students wonder what is important to learn; teachers and parents wonder how schools can or should prepare students for next educational levels, or for employment in jobs that haven’t yet been created. Although the thematic content is open for this issue, *LAJM* invites teachers, researchers and other educators to consider topics in light of twenty-first challenges and opportunities.

Example Topics to Consider

- *Visual Literacy*. How are you preparing students to become informed viewers of texts, particularly since many texts demand more than one mode of communication?
- *Role of History or Other Subject Areas*. How are you preparing students to learn across disciplines or subject areas?
- *Assessment*. How are you, students and colleagues negotiating demands of standardized tests with expectations of teaching students what is considered vital? How are you assessing student learning or development in particular areas?
- *Classroom Management*. How do your daily management practices become interwoven with your instructional theories or approaches?
- *Classroom Ideas, Strategies and Practices*. What classroom activity, strategies or practices have guided your students to develop their writing, reading, interpreting and viewing (or listening) strategies and skills? These manuscripts can be brief (2-4 pages) but should include a rationale for the lesson, theoretical support, and guidelines for your approach, which other teachers could employ in their classrooms.

SUBMIT MANUSCRIPTS TO EDITORS

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or

Kia Jane Richmond
krichmon@nmu.edu

LAJM is a peer-reviewed journal. For more information on submission guidelines, see the Spring/Summer 2009 issue.