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Back Matter

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Language Arts Journal of Michigan **CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS**

Relevance **Spring 2003**

The life inside our classrooms may seem far removed from the world outside them; indeed, often we emerge at the end of the day as if we have been in another world. In reality, however, our lives are not put on hold as we enter the school doors nor do our students abandon their worries, cares, concerns, and celebrations simply because the school bell rings. How can we make sure that the lessons we teach in English/Language Arts classrooms are relevant to the lives of our students? We've learned long ago the many ways to answer, "Why do we have to do this?" But do we design lessons and assignments that demonstrate what we say about the relevance of what we teach? Do we design authentic projects with authentic assessments to help our students see the real-world connections to their school-day lives? We are seeking articles from educators at all levels that show how English/Language Arts classrooms reflect the realities of students' lives.

Deadline: Dec. 15, 2002

Celebrating Teaching in Michigan **Fall, 2003**

Michigan is one of the most diverse states in the America. But we are all tied together – whether from the notion of pointing to our hometown on our hand, or the symbolism of the Mackinac Bridge, which ties our upper peninsula with the rest of the state. We are at once urban, rural, and wilderness. We are a land of water and hills and trees – and corn – and skyscrapers.

Teaching the English language arts also reflects this diversity. The Fall/Winter 2003 issue of *Language Arts Journal of Michigan* seeks to celebrate teaching English language arts in our state. We seek articles that focus on questions such as the following:

- What are the unique projects, literatures, or writing experiences you and your students create?
- What local cultures do you celebrate?
- What personal narratives exist that drive the passion of teachers of English language arts in Michigan?

We encourage submissions of all sorts that show the uniqueness and diversity in our state, celebrating that diversity and helping us define the answer to question "what does it mean to be a teacher in Michigan?"

Deadline: June 15, 2003

Length: four to twelve pages in MLA format (please include two copies and cover letter)
Submit to: *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*, Jonathan Bush, 725 Sprau Tower, Department of English, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5331 or jbush@wmich.edu

Mark your calendars!

MCTE FALL CONFERENCE

October 3, 2003

Newberry Award Winning Author

Christopher Paul Curtis

Keynote Speaker

**Author of *Bud, Not Buddy* and
The Watsons go to Birmingham
- 1963: A Novel**

2004 Fall Conference

October 8, 2004

More information coming soon!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO PRESENT at the "Bright Ideas"
SPRING CONFERENCE ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS on

TEACHING FOR A BETTER WORLD

Keynote Speaker

RANDY BOMER,
University of Texas, Austin
Vice President of NCTE

Bomer is a professor of education at the University of Texas. The author of *For a Better World: Reading and Writing for Social Action*, he has written other books and articles on literacy, has served as co-director of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project in New York City, and has worked with school districts across the U.S. He is currently chair of the NCTE Task Force on High-Stakes Testing.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

We use literacy for a variety of purposes: for pleasure, for discovering who we are as human beings, and for learning about ourselves and our worlds. We also use literacy for shaping and changing our worlds. We invite classroom teachers K-College to share their understandings of how literacy can enable students to make a difference in their own and others' lives. We will accept proposals on a range of topics related to the conference theme, including:

- Engaging the unengaged
- Promoting student involvement
- Justice and democracy: subjects for change
- Bringing the world into the classroom; bringing the classroom into the world
- Building community support
- Literacy for personal reflection and growth
- Books that make a difference
- Issues of censorship
- Critical reading and writing
- Teaching strategies that make a difference
- Issues of equity and assessment
- Teachers and students as agents for change
- Self-reflection for better teaching
- Help for pre-service and beginning teachers
- Other topics of general interest

The "Bright Ideas" conference this past year had over 500 attendees, mostly middle-school and secondary English teachers, elementary language arts teachers, and pre-service teachers. It's a wonderfully friendly group of educators dedicated to involving students in all aspects of language.

Visit our website at <http://www.msu.edu/~brightid/index.htm>

Saturday, APRIL 5, 2003
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
MSU UNION BUILDING,
EAST LANSING, MI

SESSION INFORMATION

Sessions will be 50 minutes
and may involve various
modes: discussion,
demonstration, or workshop.

Proposals may be for a 50-
minute session, a 25-minute
session (paired with one on a
related topic), or a 50-minute
panel (3-5 panelists).

Poster sessions available
(see details on other side).

Please return by January 10,
2003 to Marilyn Wilson,
Department of English,
201 Morrill Hall,
Michigan State University,
East Lansing, MI 48824.

If you have questions, Marilyn
Wilson can be reached at
(517) 355-1899 or by e-mail at
<wilsonm@msu.edu>.

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