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Back Matter

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News from **NCTE** Public Affairs Office

A Professional Association of Educators in English Studies, Literacy, and Language Arts

Famous Civil Rights Activist Wins Premier Award for Nonfiction Children's Literature—NCTE's Orbis Pictus Award

New York City, Friday, March 17— The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) today named Ruby Bridges winner of the 2000 Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children for *Through My Eyes* (Scholastic Press, 1999). The announcement was part of NCTE's Spring Conference being held March 16-18 at the New York Hilton in New York City. The award will be presented at the 2000 NCTE Annual Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 16-19.

In *Through My Eyes*, Bridges tells her story about being the first black child to attend an integrated school in New Orleans. Her walk into William Frantz Elementary School on November 14, 1960, escorted by four federal marshals inspired the 1964 Norman Rockwell painting "The Problem We All Live With." Bridges recounts what it was like as a six-year-old first grader to be the only pupil of teacher Barbara Henry because the white families wouldn't let their children attend an integrated school. Margo Lundell compiled and edited the snippets from news articles and interviews that frame the story and add rich perspective.

Since 1990, NCTE's Orbis Pictus Award committee has conferred this premier award for nonfiction children's books. Winners are chosen by a panel of classroom instructors who consider accuracy, organization, design, writing style, and usefulness for classroom teaching in grades K-8. The Orbis Pictus Award commemorates the first book for children, *Orbis Pictus: The World in Pictures* by Johannes Amos Comenius in 1657.

The committee also named five honor books published in 1999:

At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England by Walter Dean Myers (Scholastic Press); *Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso* by Susanna Reich (Clarion Books); *Mapping the World* by Sylvia A. Johnson (Atheneum); *The Snake Scientist* by Sy Montgomery illustrated by Nic Bishop (Houghton Mifflin); and *The Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest* by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin)

And the committee also chose 14 recommended nonfiction titles published in 1999:

About Reptiles: A Guide for Children

Babe Didrikson Zaharias: The Making of a Champion

Bound for America: The Forced Migration of Africans to the New World

Building the Book Cathedral
A Child's Book of Art: Discover Great Paintings
Einstein: Visionary Scientist
Fire in Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People Who Fight Them
In Search of the Spirit: The Living National Treasures of Japan
Kids on Strike!
The Mystery of the Hieroglyphics: The Story of the Rosetta Stone and the Race to Decipher Egyptian Hieroglyphics
A Nest of Dinosaurs: The Story of the Oviraptor
Rushmore
Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina
William Shakespeare and the Globe

NCTE members and the educational community at large can nominate books for the NCTE Orbis Pictus Award. To recommend an outstanding children's nonfiction book published in 2000, please send a letter to one of the Orbis Pictus Committee Co-Chairs, Karen P. Smith, 64 Juniper Hill Rd., White Plains, NY 10607, or Richard Kerper, Millersville University, Elementary Education, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551-0302. Please include the following information: the author's name, book title, publisher, copyright date, and a short description of what you liked about the book. Nominations for the 2001 Orbis Pictus Award must be received by November 30, 2000.

The National Council of Teachers of English, with 77,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. Its membership is composed of elementary, middle, and high school teachers, supervisors of English programs, college and university faculty, teacher educators, local and state agency English specialists, and professionals in related fields.

THESE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

Michigan Council of Teachers of English
Annual Conference
September 29, 2000
Lansing, Michigan

CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

We invite proposals in these changing times for the following:

Strategies for teaching Listening, Teaching Reading at the Secondary Level, Integrating Multi-Cultural Voices in Literature, Teaching Writing to early and emergent writers, Using technology in the Language Arts classroom, Teaching via teleconferencing, Teaching On-line courses, Teaching grammar through writing, Using film in the Language Arts class roomn, Incorporating benchmarks into class roomn lessons, and Any Practice, Idea, Theme or Lesson you see as important or innovative.

VISIT MCTE'S WEB SITE <http://www.msu.edu/~mcte/mcte.html>

Keynote speaker

Alleen Pace Nilsen / Professor of English Education, Arizona State University. Alleen Pace Nilsen said, "My primary academic interests are shown through the books I write. Because of a long time interest in language and linguistics, she has written *Living Language: Reading, Thinking and Writing* and co-authored with Professor Don Nilsen *Encyclopedia of 20th Century Humor*. She teaches English Education to students planning to teach junior and senior high schools.

She said, "My main interest here (teaching English Education) is promoting the use of contemporary literature written for teenage audiences. She and Professor Ken Donelson have written the book *Literature for Today's Young Adults*, which is used throughout the United States.

Luncheon Speaker

Alden R. Carter is an award-winning author of nine novels, twenty nonfiction books, and four picture books. His novels *Shelia's Dying*, *Growing Season*, *Up Country*, *Between a rock and a Hard Place* and *Wart*, *Son of Toad* were named American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults. In 1994, the Young Adult Library Services Division of the ALA selected *Up Country* to its list "The 100 Best Young Adult Books of the last 25 years."

Other books he has written include: *China Past—China Future*, named "Best Books for the Teenager" by New York Public Library, *The War of 1812: Second Fight for Independence*, and *The Civil War: American Tragedy*.

THESE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

MCTE 2000 FALL CONFERENCE

MCTE Program Proposal

For a 45 minute small group session at the
MCTE Conference at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel
On Friday, September 29, 2000

"These Times They Are A Changin' "

This is an invitation to speak about your teaching strategies, experiences, materials, practices, reflections, and changes.

TITLE of proposed presentation: _____

LEVEL: (Please Circle) K-5 6-8 9-12 Col Gen

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVE _____

ABSTRACT:

Describe the content of the program in approximately 45-60 words. The abstract may be edited for the program.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF INSTITUTION _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

NAME(S) OF ALL PARTICIPANTS _____

A-V EQUIPMENT NEEDED: _____

As a presenter, you must be a MCTE member and register for the conference.

MAIL PROPOSAL BY MAY 30, 2000 TO:

Ron Iwankovitsch
Ubly Community Schools
2020 Union Street
Ubly, MI 48474

Friday, September 29, 2000
Sheraton Inn, Lansing, Michigan

Name _____ (One Name per registration form)

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ School District _____

Email address _____

Circle your grade level of interest E MS HS C Gen _____

Please Note: On-site registrants will be unable to reserve a meal. Non-member fee includes one-year membership

	Member	Non-Member	Student*
Conference Fee	\$45 ____	\$70 ____	\$15 ____
Lunch and Refreshments	\$20 ____	\$20 ____	\$ 20 ____
Prefer Vegetarian meal ____			
Full Time student Membership			\$15 ____
On-site Registration	\$50 ____	\$75 ____	\$20 ____
Check # _____	Total \$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Participants not ordering the luncheon may hear the luncheon speaker, Alden R. Carter, on a space available basis.

*To obtain student rates, an English/Education professor must verify that you are a full-time student by signing here:

Signature of Professor _____ Institution _____

~Mail Registration and Payment before September 19, 2000: RAY LAWSON
PO BOX 1152
ROCHESTER, MI 48307

~For Hotel Reservations contact by September 12, 2000: Sheraton Inn Lansing
925 Croyts Road
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 323-7100

Call For Manuscripts

The Use of Place in Writing and Literature

From birth to death we live in, travel to, and imagine places that shape and impact our experiences. In this issue we invite explorations of the place of "place" in reading and writing.

Are there pieces of literature that you love because of the setting: Wonderland, Never-Neverland, Oz, Kansas, Shangri-La, Spoon River, home? How do you use these pieces of literature in your classroom? How do you inspire your students' thinking about place as they read and write?

As you consider the use of place in literature, what aspects have inspired you, intrigued you, frustrated you, or befuddled you? Have you visited places that because of their connections to authors, to historical figures, to certain events or to you have inspired thought, action, or creativity? Have you written articles, stories, or poems inspired by place?

We would like to receive manuscripts relating experiences, thoughts, and reflections about "place" from any viewpoint and in a variety of forms.

Deadline: August 15, 2000

What's Cool in Your School?

Too often society focuses on what is wrong in schools. While admitting there are areas that would benefit from improvement, the teachers in our schools continue to be successful in helping to educate the next generation. As English language arts teachers we continue to do more with less while maintaining our enthusiasm and dedication to the profession, promoting reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

We continue to make our schools and classrooms centers of learning, and we need to hear the good stories. Let's celebrate our successes. Let's share in our collective efforts. What is your school doing that you believe is novel, supportive, or just good, solid practice? How do you keep focused on the positive? Do you have colleagues who have teaching approaches or activities which merit notice? What exciting extra-curricular activities are an extension of your English/language arts instruction? What has been especially successful for you in your classroom? How do you keep your own motivation? What feeds your enthusiasm? We invite you to share with us your stories and opinions. Suggested topics might include parent involvement, administrative cooperation and support, colleague collaboration, long-term projects, annual events, something new you just tried, extra-curricular activities, or professional growth. Send clear, black and white photographs, and we will try to include. We welcome a variety of perspectives and genres. Help make this issue a true celebration of our individual and combined efforts!

Deadline: December 1, 2000

Length: four to twelve pages in MLA format (please include two copies).

Submit to: Language Arts Journal of Michigan, Susan Steffel, 215 Anspach Hall, Department of English, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

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