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Back Matter

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A CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

**Michigan Council of Teachers of English
Annual Conference
October 8, 1999
Lansing, Michigan**

Moving to the Millennium: Where Are We Going? Where Have We Been

YOU AND YOUR PRESENTATIONS
FEATURING: STEPHEN TCHUDI-KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SARA HOLBROOK-PERFORMANCE POET
ANN RUGGLES GERE, STEPHEN TCHUDI,
CONNIE WEAVER AS PART OF A MILLENNIUM
PANEL

This has been an exciting century for the English language arts: a century which saw the emergence of literature as a discipline worthy of study, which legitimized persons' rights to their own languages and promoted language awareness, which saw composition studies come into their own, which witnessed the advent of film, film study, and the technology eruption, and which now oversees our work to provide for truly inclusive curricula that integrate the strands of English language arts learning and make it accessible to and vital for all learners.

But, the twentieth century has also been a time of increasingly politicized education, of state and national standards and tests, of language and cultural bigotry, of the constant search for funding, of challenges to public education and teachers' organizations, and of a recent, but steady, decline in the numbers of students choosing English as a college major.

As the new century approaches, we invite you to attend and participate in MCTE's look at where we have been, where we are, and where we are going in English language arts education. Please send us your PRESENTATION PROPOSALS and become an active part of our millennium countdown. What are you doing in your classroom that works? What PRACTICES, PROCEDURES, IDEAS, THEORIES, LESSONS do you see as important to take with us as teachers and learners as we move into the new century? What do you see that we might just as well leave behind? What changes or innovations might you propose?

Do join us and send your presentation proposals (title, a brief description of your proposed presentation, and names, addresses and telephone numbers of presenters) to:

Mary R. Harmon, MCTE President Elect
English Department, Saginaw Valley State University
University Center, MI 48710

SEND PROPOSALS BY JUNE 10, 1999

Join the Grand Valley State University
School of Education, the English Department
and the GVSU Library Services
in a Celebration of Literacy.

Friday: Literacy Experts and Authors
Saturday: Children's Literature Focus
Author Luncheon

Conference Fee:

Friday - \$30, includes box lunch

Saturday - \$30, conference fee,
\$15 Author Luncheon

Full Conference Fee: \$75

Student Rate: \$10-Fri. \$10-Sat. \$15-Luncheon

Join area educators as we Celebrate Literacy together!

The 2nd Annual Celebrate Literacy Conference will be held on the Allendale Campus of Grand Valley State University on October 22 and 23. Our goal is to promote quality literacy instruction at all levels, and to provide the opportunity for participants to meet and share with authors and illustrators of children's books.

Friday Highlights: Literacy experts and classroom application. Afternoon authors panel.

Saturday Highlights: Author sessions and luncheon. New book talk.

A Few of the Authors and Illustrators Scheduled to Appear:

Nancy Johnson, author, *Literature Circles and Response*

Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen, illustrator, *The Legend of Sleeping Bear* and *The Legend of Mackinac Island*

Kathy-jo Wargin, author, *The Legend of Sleeping Bear* and *The Legend of Mackinac Island*

Crystal Bowman, poet and author, *Ivan and the Dynamos* and *Cracks in the Sidewalk*

Kevin Kammeraad, poet and artist, *The Tomato Collection*

Anna Murray, author, *Sarah's Page*

Jane Strochlin, author and artist, *A Unicorn Named Beulah Mae* and several others

Michael Monroe, illustrator, *Buzzy the Bumblebee* and *M is for Mitten: The Michigan Alphabet Book*

Annie Appleford, author, *M is for Mitten: The Michigan Alphabet Book*

Shirley Neitzel, author, *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow*, *I'm Taking a Trip on My Train* and several others

Professional books and children's literature selections will be available throughout the conference.

Discounts and giveaways will be given!! Authors will be available for autographing.

For more information or to register,
contact Liz Storey at the School of Education,
(616) 895-2091.
e-mail: <storeyl@gvsu.edu>

Language Arts Journal of Michigan
CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Reflecting on Writing Instruction

Writing instruction is a popular topic for professional development these days in Michigan. Due to the emphasis on writing in all subjects of the MEAP tests and the call for students to be ready for the workplace, teachers all over our state have a heightened interest in teaching their students to write. It's a good time to share our best strategies, assignments, and projects.

We know the best preparation for all kinds of writing is a strong writing program which emphasizes many opportunities to write to a variety of audiences for a variety of purposes.

What are some ways that you teach the writing process to students? How do you engage students in the revision process? How do you enable your students to be successful with peer conferencing? In what ways do students publish or share their writing in your classroom?

How do you teach reflective writing? What are some of the areas of the curriculum in which you incorporate reflective writing?

How have you integrated writing into other areas of the curriculum? How do you use writing across the curriculum?

For this issue we are interested in manuscripts which address these issues from any viewpoint in a variety of forms and from teachers in a variety of contexts.

Deadline: July 15, 1999.

Stranger than Fiction

Are your students reading cartoon and comic books, books about rock stars, ghosts, and magic, or stories about famous people and events? These popular kinds of nonfiction writing are being read by our students but often never find their way into our classrooms or our lessons. As our students read popular forms of nonfiction in their leisure time or seek information for their inquiries and research; as we are called to extend writing across the disciplines, to teach what is real and current, to integrate the disciplines, and to prepare students to read and write for tests such as MEAP, SAT, and AP, we are met with the challenge of extending the literature in our classrooms beyond the pages of fiction trade books and novels, short stories, and poetry. Whether we use gripping nonfiction stories, informational texts that tie us to our past, or instructional texts which lead us to the future, teachers have an obligation to guide students in the enjoyment and use of nonfiction.

Are you using the popular current books such as *The Perfect Storm* and *Into Thin Air* or enduring books like *Kon-Tiki*, *Night*, or *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*? What other titles have you found? How are you using these texts?

What have you found to be the best methods to introduce your students to reading nonfiction?

What nonfiction texts have found meaningful places in your curriculum? How do you counter the negative impressions your students may have about nonfiction writing?

What do students need to know about reading nonfiction to encourage the most effective uses?

How can we encourage frequent and positive use of nonfiction texts both as resources for information and rare gems of reading pleasure?

For this issue we are interested in manuscripts that may take a variety of forms from teachers in a variety of contexts.

Deadline: December 15, 1999.

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 48859

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