

SAG Conference 2009

ELA: English Language Artistry

Fri. Oct.23, 2009 River East Collegiate 295 Sutton

Pre-Conference Event: Manitoba author **Struan Sinclair** will be sharing passages from his debut novel Automatic World and the critically acclaimed Everything Breathed, followed by the **Kel Brooker Award of Excellence** presentation.

Location: St. John's- Ravenscourt School, 400 South Drive. Award presentation and readings will be followed by a Wine & Cheese (7:30 pm)
RSVP by e-mail to Linda Ferguson at mate@mts.net

CONFERENCE AGENDA:

Keynote Speaker: Margaret Sweatman and Dennis Cooley

Location: River East Collegiate 9:00 -10:00

Health Break 10:00 – 10:30

Morning Sessions 10:30 -11:30 (marked A1-A16)

Lunch 11:30 – 1:00 (Please see list of nearby restaurants in Registration Package)

Afternoon Sessions 1:00 – 3:00 (marked B1-B5) or 1:00 – 2:00 (marked C1-C5) and 2:15 – 3:15 (marked D1-D4)

Parking: Please note students will be directing conference participants to nearby parking as parking bans have been lifted for the duration of the Conference.

MORNING SESSIONS

A-1 Session: **Imagination and Reading Response (MY/SY)**

Students must read literary texts with an “openness to the horizon of possibilities offered by the text” Judith Langer. This workshop will examine instruction and assessment practices that emphasize the role imagination plays in developing an interpretation and a response to literary text. **Warren Nickerson** currently works for MECY as a Middle Years Consultant. He is also pursuing a doctorate in Education at the University of Manitoba.

A-2 Session: **We Don't Need No Education (SY)**

How do we engage “connected” youth? Turn up the volume and show them how Pink Floyd, Pearl Jam and Bob Dylan can teach them ELA skills such as critical thinking, making connections in literature and understanding metaphors. **Ryan Muirhead** is an English teacher of 12 years when he's not hacking away at his garage band. **Session repeated in D-2**

A-3 Session: Character Development: Creating Characters in the ELA classroom (MY/SY)

Talia Pura (Creative Drama instructor University of Winnipeg), using exercises from her book, *STAGES: Creative Ideas for Teaching Drama*, explores what makes a person tick and teaches you how to create a compelling character. **Please note Part 1 of workshop is in A-3; the second part of the workshop will continue in D-3.**

A-4 Session: Keeping Them Awake! (MY/SY)

Bernadette Phillips will present several opinionated recipes (or “proposals”) for keeping students conscious, while pondering the six modes of English Language Arts. **Bernadette Phillips** is a retired English Teacher who has taught at St.Paul’s High School and Silver Heights Collegiate.

A-5 Session: The Evolution of Literature: Using Graphic Novels and Visual Literature Strategies in the Classroom (EY/MY/SY)

Passionate about graphic forms as legitimate literature, this presentation will open up the tangible classroom use of visual literature. **Mike Johnston** is a teacher in the Louis Riel School Division.

A-6 Session: Integrating ICT and the 6 modes of ELA through story writing (MY/SY)

Aaron Russell and **Jeff Hiebert** are middle School teachers at St. John’s Ravenscourt School. Learn about a term project that has students writing creatively, representing their writing using Power Point Macromedia Fireworks (graphics program-students create their own graphics to illustrate their story), and presenting their story books to their classmates. This project incorporates writing, representing, speaking, listening and viewing modes of ELA. Assignments and rubrics will be included. **Session repeated in C-3**

A-7 Session: Celebrating Creativity: How to develop a school “Literary Magazine” (SY)

This workshop will share tips for developing a student led publication of creative writing and photography including theme, submissions, design and marketing. **Laura McMaster** supervises PULSE, Miles Macdonell Collegiate’s literary magazine. **Session repeated in C-2**

A-8 Session: So How Do You Teach Writing These Days? (MY/SY)

Introduced and facilitated by **Richard Davies**, this open-ended sharing will allow participants to discuss how writing is taught in their district, school, and classroom. **Richard** is an Edmonton-based ELA educator and is the co-author of *The Gage & Nelson Canadian Writer’s Handbooks*.

A-9 Session: Challenging Bullying Through Creativity: Introducing the Novel Study Guide and Anti-Bullying Guide to The Beech Nut of Big Water Beach (MY/SY)

With an engaging power point, Margaret leads teachers through her dynamic new guide, through which students’ understanding of the bullying dynamic increases substantially. **Margaret Shaw-Mackinnon** BFA,MA author of award winning *Tiktala* and *The Beech Nut of Big Water Beach*, short listed for the 2009 Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award

A-10 Session: Creative & Dramatic Approaches to ELA for Teachers in their Beginning Years (MY/SY)

Lisa Van Den Bussche and **Diana Daoust** are both in their first 5 years of teaching, and have gathered and grown a collection of fun ideas to energize your ELA classroom. This

session will also be an opportunity to share, feel encouraged to bring your own ideas.
Session repeated in C-5

A-11 Session: Teach a Novel in 70 minutes (SY)

Engage your students in lively presentations. Each group has one slot to teach their class a novel. They must include handouts, visuals, dramatizations, and one game/talk show format. **Heather Lytwyn** is an Assessment Consultant for MECY; she taught senior high English for 30 years in the Flin Flon School Division.

A-12 Session: Navigating Geographic and Cultural Boundaries: A Cultural Studies Approach to Teaching Language Arts (MY/SY)

In this workshop, specific texts from Africa, Middle Eastern, South American, and Western culture reflecting universal themes in literature will be high lighted. Experiential learning strategies that include literature circles, critical incident questionnaires, popular theatre and script writing, problem solving through case study analysis, journal writing, and self directed research will be emphasized in the presentation. An article and resources will be provided. This workshop will highlight the way that cultural studies can be used to promote transformative learning. **Dr. Karen Magro** worked as a senior high ELA and ESL teacher with the Winnipeg School Division for 23 years. She is currently an assistant professor at the University of Winnipeg.

A-13 Session: Tricks of the trade: Accessing the six language arts, managing a classroom environment, and not losing yourself in marking (SY)

This session will present practical tricks of the trade from a high school ELA teacher with more than ten year's experience. **Heather Anderson** teaches mostly grade 12 focus courses (LF, CF) at Vincent Massey Collegiate and specializes in teaching youth at risk. Topics will range from managing the marking load, preparing students for the provincial exam while accessing outcomes, and integrating the six language arts into one's ELA program. This session is well suited to beginning and "getting burned out" teachers.

A-14 Session: Creating and Promoting Positive Educative Environments: An Inventory for Considerate Spaces of Learning (EY/MY/SY)

In the workshop we will analyze physical spaces for learning, as well as the nature and importance of teacher-student relationships. We will also examine the architecture of schools to argue that physical spaces have a profound effect on the people within the structure. **Erica Pflug** and **Laura Saydak** recently graduated from the faculty of Education at the U of M.

A-15 Session: Lights, Camera, Action! Session 1 Video Applications (MY/SY)

A hands on, three part workshop on how to use video production in the English classroom. Session 1 (A-15) Video Applications, Session 2 (C-4) Teaching Filming Techniques, Session 3 (D-6) Editing Video using Imovie. Come prepared to make a short film. **Pat Chelack** is a teacher at River East Collegiate.

A-16 Session: Writing with Photographs (MY/SY)

Adolescents of today are engaged in visual literacy as part of their out of school literacy practices. This session will provide ideas for using students' photographs in the classroom setting to learn and write about themselves. **Donna Copsey Haydey** is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg. Meeting the interests and literacy practices of adolescent learners is a key component of her course in teaching Middle Years Reading and English Language Arts. **Session repeated in D-5**

B-1 Session: “Stripped Down *Hamlet*” – World Premier! Followed by talk back with SIR actors (EY/MY/SY)

Shakespeare in the Ruins performs a one hour version of *Hamlet*. This “nothing but the hits” adaptations of Shakespeare’s most popular play, launches students to a greater understanding and appreciation through clarity of text, humor, and innovative staging. Following the play there will be a talk-back with performers.

B-2 Session: Social Concerns in Books for Young People (MY/SY)

Award winning authors present on social concerns in their work, exploring themes such as bullying, guilt, shame, racism, and violence. The Panel will address: how the YA genre shapes the delivery of socially sensitive material. Authors include: **Margaret Shaw-MacKinnon** (*The Beech Nut of Big Water Beach*); **Duncan Thornton** (*Shadow-Town*); **Martha Brooks** (*Mistik Lake*); **Eva Wiseman** (*Puppet*).

B-3 Session: Does Writing Still Matter? Teens and Teachers Show Us How (MY/SY)

This session will highlight current research on adolescent literacy with a focus on connecting out-of-school writing practices and in-school achievement (Moje, Overby, Tysvaer, & Morris, 2008). Implications for teaching are presented in the form of writing assignments that foster communication, relationships and self-expression in English language arts and other content areas. How teachers use digital technology and new literacies, including media literacy, will be examined. **Dr. Robin Bright** is a professor in the University of Lethbridge’s Faculty of Education. She teaches courses to undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of language arts, reading, writing and gender. Previously, Dr. Bright taught elementary school for ten years.

B-4 Session: Graphically Speaking (MY/SY)

Participants will reflect on methods of integrating visual arts with English language arts. An emphasis for this session will include discussion on graphic novels and their evolving role in our classrooms. **Krista Vokey** is the provincial program specialist for 4-12 English Language Arts in Newfoundland and Labrador. Prior to this, she was a district level specialist in English and Fine Arts.

B-5 Session: Significant Engagement: Supporting the High School ELA Learner in Critical and Creative Response to Visual Text (SY)

The session will focus on processes and strategies to support High School learners in personal deconstruction, interpretation, and subsequent critical and creative response to various visual texts. **Donna Nentwig** is a High School ELA and Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

C-1 Session: Senior ELA Overview: Putting It All Together (SY)

An audacious attempt to present a comprehensive overview of ELA and changing pedagogy with respect to goals, literacy, language, and literature. Participants with media and technological expertise are especially welcome to share their views. **Richard Davies** taught senior ELA for 30 years and has advised Ontario publishers, Alberta Education and Manitoba Education. Since 1980, he has been the author of over 50 texts and guides, many currently published by Nelson.

C-2 Session: Celebrating Creativity: How to develop a school “Literary Magazine” (SY)

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C-3 Session: Integrating ICT and the 6 modes of ELA through story writing (MY/SY)

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C-4 Session: Lights, Camera, Action! Session 2 Teaching Filming Techniques (MY/SY)

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D-1 Session: Teachable Movies (SY)

This discussion-sharing will identify a range of films that work for various streams, grades, and courses. I'll also give information on bridging literature and film. Come prepared to share/talk about your favorites. **Richard Davies**, long-time film aficionado, has worked as a film classifier in Alberta. He has taught film often in his own ELA classes.

D-2 Session: We Don't Need No Education (SY)

How do we engage "connected" youth? Turn up the volume and show them how Pink Floyd, Pearl Jam and Bob Dylan can teach them ELA skills such as critical thinking, making connections in literature and understanding metaphors. **Ryan Muirhead** is an English teacher of 12 years when he's not hacking away at his garage band. **Session repeated in A-2**

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D-4 Session: NEW TEACHERS ONLY! (MY/SY)

Part experiential and part Q & A, this session will give teachers in their first five years a chance to discover and practice some of the tricks of successful lesson planning. Come prepared to be a teacher and a student! We'll set aside some time for questions. **Pam Lockman** is in her 31st year of teaching (YIKES!) and still loves it! She is currently English Department Head at St. John's-Ravenscourt in Winnipeg.

D-5 Session: Writing with Photographs (MY/SY)

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D-6 Session: Lights, Camera, Action! Session 3 Editing Video using Imovie (MY/SY)

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