

# The Michigan Council of Teachers of English

Motivating and inspiring Michigan's English Language Arts teachers.

The Michigan English Teacher E-Newsletter

eMet

October 2009

Special Conference Edition  
Autumn Assembly Preview

## Conference Preview

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This year's theme is **Many Voices, Many Literacies: Texts, Tools, and Topics to Engage Every Learner**. We have been delighted to receive over thirty wonderful proposals to present from stellar teachers throughout Michigan. We will also welcome three nationally acclaimed, award-winning authors to inspire our conversations on teaching and learning: **Jacqueline Woodson**, **George Ella Lyon**, and **Constance Weaver**. Woodson and Lyon both compose for multiple audiences and motivate writers and readers of all ages to find their voices and tell their stories.

"**Jacqueline Woodson** is an award-winning author of young adult books. Raised and educated in Greenville, South Carolina, and Brooklyn, New York, Woodson graduated from college with a B.A. in English, and then worked in New York City as a drama therapist for runaways and homeless children. She now writes full-time in Brooklyn. Woodson often writes about characters that feel out of place and the difficulties young people face. Woodson won a **Newbery Honor** in 2006 for *Show Way*. *Locomotion* was a **National Book Award** finalist and won a **Coretta Scott King** Honor in 2004. Woodson also won a Coretta Scott King Honor in 2001 and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for *Miracle's Boys*, which was made into a mini-series. In 2006, she won the **Margaret A. Edwards Award** for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults from the **Young Adult Library Services Association**."<sup>1</sup> After her morning keynote, Ms. Woodson will do a small, breakout session followed by a book signing.

"**George Ella Lyon** was born and raised in Harlan County, Kentucky. She is the author of *With a Hammer for*

## MCTE Autumn Assembly 2009

Friday, October 30, 2009 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sheraton/Lexington Lansing

925 South Creyts Road

Lansing, MI 48917

Deadline October 10-Registration information

[www.mcte.info](http://www.mcte.info)

*My Heart* (a novel), *Catalpa* (poems, winner of the Appalachian Book of the Year Award) and *Where I'm From, Where Poems Come From*, a primer for young poets. Her books for young readers include three novels (*Borrowed Children*, *The Stranger I Left Behind*, and *Here and Then*), nineteen picture books (among them *Come a Tide*, *Together*, *Who Came Down That Road?* *Counting on the Woods* and *Book*), and an autobiography, *A Wordful Child*.<sup>1</sup> Many teachers throughout Michigan have used Lyon's work to inspire and engage their developing writers. After her luncheon keynote, Ms. Lyon will do a small session followed by a book signing.

**Constance Weaver**, for years a professor at **Western Michigan University** and a recipient of MCTE's **C.C.Fries Award**, is now the **Heckert Professor of Reading and Writing** at **Miami University** in Oxford, Ohio. Her classic text *Reading Process* has just been updated with an introduction discussing DIBELS and what led up to it, in a brief version of the third edition. Her most recent books on teaching grammar in the writing process, *The Grammar Plan Book: A Guide to Smart Teaching* (2007) and, with **Jonathan Bush**, *Grammar to Enrich and Enhance Writing* (2008), address ways of teaching grammar for writing that honor "best practice" in the teaching of writing, while still helping prepare students for standardized tests.

*Please see MCTE Autumn Assembly on page 2.*



*Autumn Assembly from page 1*

This year's conference registration includes a continental breakfast, full lunch, beverages, and afternoon snacks.

Additionally, as an added special feature, we are sponsoring a pre-conference session co-presented by **Toby Kahn-Loftus, Taryn Sabo** and **Sue Ortlieb**, entitled: "Reading Like a Writer: Strategies for the Writing Workshop Classroom." The audience for this pre-conference is teachers of grades 1 – 8, elementary – middle school. In this 2 ½ hour session participants will explore the strategies of using mentor texts to teach reading, craft, vocabulary, and conventions in a seamless writing workshop classroom inspired by the work of **Katie Wood Ray** and **Lisa Cleaveland**. The cost per person is \$25 and includes materials, snacks, and door prizes. Space is limited to 30 participants so if you can join us, please try to register soon. Registrants for the pre-conference will receive an online piece from Ray's classic text *Wondrous Words* as part of the materials' packet. The **New Teacher Dollar Store**, an annual favorite, features books, posters, and other teaching supplies. This year, the store is run by **Mary Anna Kruch**, MCTE's 2008 President.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.infoplease.com/biography/jacqueline-woodson.html>

<sup>1</sup> <http://nantahalareview.org/issue3-2/contributors.html>

A sampling of the rich, diverse, and engaging break-out sessions and panels planned for all levels, includes:

- ✦ LOL, ILY, TTYL, & BRB: Reading and Writing for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners
- ✦ Teaching Grammar: "the Research," the MDE Grammar and Rhetoric Module—and You?
- ✦ Engaging Unengaged Males—What Works?
- ✦ Rethinking Technology in the Multimodal Classroom
- ✦ Oral Histories: A Pathway to Authentic Learning
- ✦ We Are a Family of Books: How to Create a Community of Readers
- ✦ Young Writers Craft with Picture Book Mentor Texts
- ✦ Engaging Students in the Obama Era Classroom
- ✦ Introducing Literary Theory Through Film Study
- ✦ The Marriage of Poetry and Science
- ✦ Finding the Literate in Graphic Novels
- ✦ Hip Hop as a Tool for Engagement in Composition Classrooms
- ✦ MACUL Presents TPACK for ELA
- ✦ The Teaching of Grammar: Toolbox to Treasure Box
- ✦ Civic Engagement through Media Production

These sessions and many more will be available for teachers K-16.



## Awards for MCTE

The **National Council of Teachers of English** has awarded the **2009 Affiliate Website Award** to the **Michigan Council of Teachers of English**, <http://mienglishteacher.ning.com>, edited by **Robert Rozema** of Grand Rapids, MI.

Established in 2000, this award recognizes those websites which are outstanding for their high-quality content, easy navigation, size, speed, privacy, links, and interactive abilities (message boards, live chats, forums, blogs, mailing lists, etc.).

At the **2009 NCTE Annual Convention** in Philadelphia, PA, the award winner will be publicly announced as a recipient of the **NCTE Affiliate Website Award** during the **Affiliate Roundtable Breakfast** on Saturday, November 21, 2009.

For more information about the NCTE Affiliate Website Award, see <http://www.ncte.org/affiliates/awards/website>.

The **National Council of Teachers of English** has awarded the **2009 Affiliate Newsletter Award** to the **Michigan English Teacher E-Newsletter/eMet**, edited by **Rita Maddox** of **East Grand Rapids, MI** and **Geneva Scully** of **Plymouth, MI** and published by the **Michigan Council of Teachers of English**. Established in 1992, this award recognizes outstanding newsletters of any affiliate of NCTE that has published a minimum of three newsletters from May 2008 through the program deadline of May 1, 2009. The newsletter submissions are judged on content (particularly the inclusion of current, pertinent information with clear balance between theory, practice, and professional growth information), quality of writing, a clear and accurately defined purpose for the publication, a format which aids the reader in locating information and is easy to read, and the use of graphics to aid the overall effectiveness of the newsletter.

At the **2009 NCTE Annual Convention** in Philadelphia, PA, the award winner will be publicly announced as a recipient.

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*The Michigan English Teacher E-Newsletter* is published monthly and accepts short articles, reviews and opinion pieces on matters of importance to teachers of English Language Arts K-12.

Specific questions about content, length and style should be directed to the editors.

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***Winner of the National Council of Teachers of English  
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