



Susan Fletcher HONORS AND LITERARY AWARDS

GENERAL

Willamette Writers
Distinguished Writer Award, 2003

For ALPHABET OF DREAMS

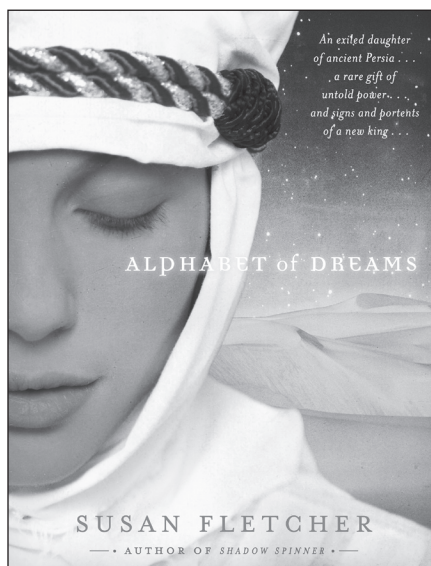
American Library Association
Best Books for Young Adults
Children's Book Council
Notable Social Studies Trade Book
Cooperative Children's Book Center
(CCBC) Choices List 2007
New York Public Library
Books for the Teen Age 2007
A Booklist
Top Ten Religion Books for Youth 2006
Junior Library Guild Selection
Kids Online
Books for Holiday Giving 2006
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Master List
2007-08 (Vermont)
Oregon Young Adult Network
Book Rave List 2007
Maine Student Book Award
2007-08 Reading List
Beehive Award
2007-2008 Nominee (Utah)
Oregon Book Award
2007 Winner

For WALK ACROSS THE SEA

Western Writers of America
2002 Spur Award Finalist
Women Writing in the West
Willa Literary Award
A Book Links
2001 Lasting Connection Title
Children's Literature
Choice List for 2002
Bank Street College of Education
Best Children's Books of the Year, 2002
Children's Crown Award Nominee
Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Master List (Vermont)
Pacific Northwest Library Association
Young Reader's Choice, 2004 Nominee
West Virginia Children's Book Award
Nominee

For SHADOW SPINNER

School Library Journal Best Books, 1998
Bulletin of the Center for Children's
Books Blue Ribbon, 1998
American Library Association
Notable Books for Older Readers
American Library Association
Best Books for Young Adults
Children's Book Council
Notable Children's Trade Books in the
Field of Social Studies
Children's Literature
Choice List, 1999
ABA Pick of the Lists
Junior Library Guild Selection
NCTE Notable Children's Books in the
Language Arts 1999
Jury der Jungen Leser Kinderbuchpreis
2003
Pennsylvania Young Readers' Choice
1999-2000 Nominee
Chicago Public Library
Best of the Best List, 1998
ABC Children's Bookseller
Choice List, 1999
Oregon Battle of the Books
Booklist 2007-2008
Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award
1999-2000 Nominee, (Vermont)
Lone Star Reading List
2000-2001 (Texas)
Land of Enchantment Book Award
2000-2001, Nominee, (New Mexico)
Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award
2000-2001, Nominee
South Carolina Junior Book Award
2000-2001 Nominee
2001 Nominee, Rebecca Caudill Young
Reader's Book Award (Illinois)
2000-2001 Nominee, Maud Hart
Lovelace Award (Minnesota)
Colorado Blue Spruce
Young Adult Book Award
2001 Nominee
Utah Book Awards
2000-2001 Nominee
Volunteer State Book Award
2001-2002 Finalist (Tennessee)
Arizona Young Reader Book Award
2002 Nominee
Nevada Young Reader Book Award
2002 Nominee



An Oregonian Book Club Selection
Oregon Book Award 1999 Finalist

For FLIGHT OF THE DRAGON KYN

American Library Association
Best Books for Young Adults, 1995
International Reading Association
Young Adults' Choice, 1995
Texas Lone Star Reading List, 1996-97
Oregon Book Awards 1994 Finalist
Sequoyah (Oklahoma) Award
1995-96 Nominee
World Book Encyclopedia Annual
Supplement
An Outstanding Book of 1993, 1994

For DRAGON'S MILK

Oregon Book Award, 1990
International Reading Association
Young Adults' Choice, 1991
Pacific Northwest Library Association
Young Reader's Choice, 1992 Nominee
South Carolina Young Adult
Book Award, 1992-93 Nominee

For SIGN OF THE DOVE

Sequoyah Award
1998-99 Nominee (Oklahoma)

For THE STUTTGART NANNY MAFIA

International Youth Library
Selection, 1992
South Carolina Children's Book Award
1993-94 Nominee

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
OC TE Chalkboard
PO Box 9126
Portland, OR 97207-9126

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH Spring Language Arts & Reading Conference

APRIL 4-5, 2008 • PENDLETON, OREGON

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH Spring Language Arts and Reading Conference APRIL 4-5, 2008 • PENDLETON, OREGON

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-registration deadline: March 21, 2008

Name _____ Street Address _____
City _____ State/Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
School _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

| | No. Attending | Registration Fee | Amount |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| OC TE Members | _____ | @ \$60 | _____ |
| Non-members | _____ | @ \$70 | _____ |
| Full-time Students, Retirees | _____ | @ \$25 | _____ |
| Total | _____ | | _____ \$ _____ |

Academic Credit/PDUs Available
Earn one graduate credit from PSU
(separate registration at the conference).
Earn five Professional Development Units
for continuing licensure.

On-site registration will be \$75 for everyone. A group pre-registration for 5 or more OC TE members is available at \$50.00 each. Must request a group form (e-mail address below). Pre-registration deadline: March 21, 2008. **For information: bjwiegele@aol.com**
Make checks payable to **OC TE** and send to: Barbara Wiegele • 14867 SE Orchid Avenue • Milwaukie OR 97267-2454

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THE
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Volume 33, No. 1, Winter 2008

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Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for more than 60 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OC TE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

Chalkboard is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

For inquiries, please contact:

OC TE
P.O. Box 9126
Portland, OR 97207-9126
Editor: Janna E. Reid
jereid@grantspass.k12.or.us

Susan Fletcher Wins 2007 Oregon Spirit Book Award

Paul Gregorio

OC TE AWARDS the Oregon Spirit Book Award to the author of a distinguished contribution to children's or young adult literature that engages and encourages readers' imagination, discovery, and understanding. *Alphabet of Dreams* by Oregon author Susan Fletcher does all of this in her vivid, compelling, and informative novel.

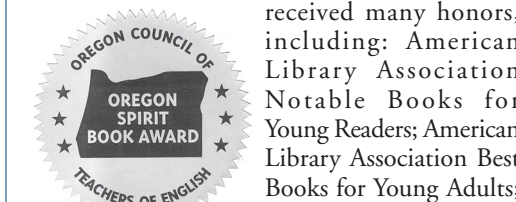


Set in the Persian and Roman Empires at the close of the first century AD, *Alphabet of Dreams* provides a rich look at a time and place not described in many works of historical fiction for youth. As in her other novels, especially *Shadow Spinner* and the *Dragon's Milk* trilogy, Fletcher presents the narrative through the perspective of an intelligent, caring, and resourceful young woman who is in conflict with the expectations and norms of her time. Mitra, a Persian teenager and her younger brother, Babak, are descendants of royalty, but after their father's unsuccessful coup attempt against Phraates, they find themselves living in poverty, begging and scheming for food. Then it is discovered that Babak has the power to dream of future events. Part gift and part curse, this ability leads brother and sister on a journey in search of safety and family. Fletcher's detailed plot of survival and believable characters is enhanced by her description of place. Recent travels to Iran have enabled the author to bring alive the period for readers with a look at a distant land.

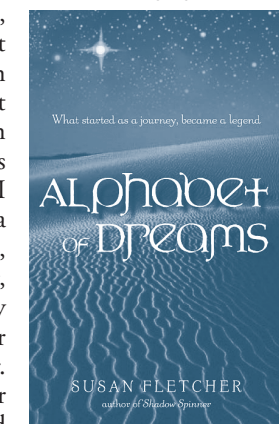
Alphabet of Dreams is recommended for middle school and high school readers.

"Sister!" he would say to me. "Such a dream I had. Roasted chickpeas! I ate till I nearly burst! And oranges, all peeled for me and sprinkled with leaves of mint. And warm rounds of bread with sesame seeds!"
But this talk of feasting only made me hungrier, crankier.
"Move your feet, Babak," I would snap at last. I would drag him through the honeycombed cave passageways and out toward the gates of Rhagae. "You can't eat dreams," I would say.
But I was wrong about that. Dreams can feed you, can send you on journeys to places beyond imagining.
I know this, because it happened to us.
—an excerpt from *Alphabet of Dreams*

The **2007 OC TE Oregon Spirit Book Award** will be presented to Susan Fletcher at the OC TE fall conference. Susan Fletcher is the author of eight novels for young readers, including *The Dragon Chronicles Series* (*Dragon's Milk, Flight of the Dragon Kyn, Sign of the Dove*), *Alphabet of Dreams*, *Shadow Spinner*, and *Walk Across the Sea*. She was the recipient of the Willamette Writers' Distinguished Writer Award in 2003. Her books have received many honors, including: American Library Association Notable Books for Young Readers; American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults; Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Blue Ribbon; School Library Journal Best Books; Finalist, Western Writers of America Spur Award; and two Oregon Book Awards.



"Although I'm drawn to the long ago and far away," Susan says, "I can't seem to get these worlds down on paper without grounding them in the details of this one. To that end, I have explored lava tubes and sea caves, ridden in a glider, and cut up baby chicks and mice for a gyrfalcon's dinner. Once I went so far as to get acquainted with a slug. Most recently, I traveled through northwestern Iran to research ancient settings for *Alphabet of Dreams*."



Susan has an M.A. in English from the University of Michigan. She has taught in the M.F.A. in Writing for Children program at Vermont College. ■

PENDLETON in Spring!

John Scanlan

PLAN NOW to join us for our spring conference in Pendleton, home of the world famous Pendleton Round-up, the award-winning and renowned Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, the Pendleton Woolen Mills, and a great jumping-off point for the Walla Walla wine region!

The conference will begin at Tamastlikt Cultural Institute on **Friday, April 4, at 2:00 p.m.** Roberta Conner, director of Tamastlikt Cultural Institute and the 2007 Buffett Award winner for indigenous leadership, will welcome conference goers. There will be an excellent large-group presentation by a Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation cultural teacher who will speak of various aspects of tribal culture and history. All conference attendees will then be admitted to the interpretive center, a remarkable one-of-a-kind experience that documents the Native American perspective regarding European immigration.

Friday night we will be meeting in downtown Pendleton at Hamley's Slickfork Saloon for an evening social. Local entertainer and cowboy poet (and former English teacher) Marty Campbell will provide the entertainment. Marty has performed throughout the country with such notable entertainers as Baxter Black. The Slickfork Saloon looks to be straight out of the 1890s and is part of the Hamley's Steak House complex that has garnered a number of awards for the meticulous standards of construction. Go to <http://www.thehamleysteakhouse.com/> to see this fabulous venue!

The conference resumes on **Saturday morning** at Pendleton High School with workshops and sessions on **topics** including improving literacy, teaching



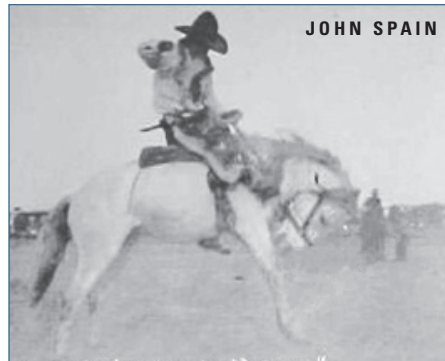
ideas for writing, peer editing, grammar instruction, language arts in the elementary setting, teaching research skills, using "literary excursions" to teach novels such as *Winterkill* (set in Pendleton), teaching film as literature, literature circles, and much more.

Finally, the conference will **conclude** with a screening of "American Cowboys," a documentary by Cedric and Tania Wildbill exploring the most famous contest in Pendleton Round-up History, among George Fletcher, an African-American cowboy, Jackson Sundown, a Nez Perce cowboy, and John Spain, a cowboy from Tennessee. The filmmakers will hold a Q and A session after the screening.

The conference is officially over at 12:30, but there will be plenty to do in the **afternoon**. Take the Pendleton Underground Tour where you can explore the underground city of Pendleton, including an opium den, an illicit card room, and a brothel. Reservations available at (541)377-1257. Also scheduled for Saturday afternoon will be a Pendleton Writer's Marathon where you can explore different places in Pendleton and do some writing of your own. Maybe you'd like to venture up the highway to Walla Walla (just 40 minutes away) and visit some of the world-class vineyards and tasting rooms. If you prefer to play golf, there are two courses in Pendleton, green fees are reasonable, and the weather tends to be sunny in April.

Plan now to come out to Pendleton. **College credit** and **PDUs** are available.

Look for registration information on the back cover of this issue and send it in today! ■



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Mac or PC – Which Really Is Better?

Karen K. Johnson

IF YOU'RE like I used to be, whatever computer system you learned, that's the one you are certain is best. And, even if you're not positive, you still wouldn't consider changing, because it would be too confusing.

As a technology "super user"—as I'm known at my school—I can move around a PC keyboard like Fred Astair on a dance floor. I don't have to think about how to do things; it's automatic. On a Mac, though, I'm an Arthur-Murray-Dance-School dropout. Imagine my distress last year when I discovered I had to use the Mac lab instead of the PC lab!

My students and I managed to work our way through the curriculum together,

but I had to have continual assistance. I hated it. Shortcuts didn't work as I'd expected, and I couldn't find my files or even the programs. Each day I was relieved to return to the comfort and security of my classroom PC.

Last June, I, along with a third of our staff, got to choose a new computer. The tech gurus were pushing Macs because they were "less expensive, had fewer security issues, and are easier to use." With their promise to help, I decided to take the plunge and try a Mac. At least then I wouldn't be ignorant when forced to use one.

It's now been several months with my Mac. Is this article going to end with

me telling you how wrong I was? Nope. But I'm not going to say I was right either. I need more experience with it to make up my mind for sure, because, while it's better in some ways (fewer bugs, for instance), in others it's not (some inputs take an extra step, like data entry in Excel). For now I am pleased that I am learning something new.

If you're a firm believer in either Macs or PCs, I'd love to hear your reasons. Email: choirbebe@gmail.com ■



Calendar

OCTE CALENDAR

March 2008

- 21** Pre-registration deadline for OCTE Spring Conference in Pendleton, Oregon

April 2008

- 4-5** OCTE Spring Conference in Pendleton, Oregon

May 2008

- 3** Oregon Writing Festival, Portland State University
- 4-8** International Reading Association 53rd Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia



Conference Notes

Check out the new and improved OCTE website! Go to www.octe.org to see all of this information and more regarding conferences, upcoming events, awards, membership, and grant opportunities, archived issues of *Chalkboard*, and other English and reading news and excitement. To be the most relevant and informed English teacher in Oregon, you will want the OCTE webpage as a favorite!

OCTE is offering teacher grants for classroom projects. These grants are designed to help teachers with expense associated with implementing a new, perhaps innovative, classroom unit or project. Awards will be in the range of \$250-500. Further questions can be directed to John Scanlan. Email jscanlan@pendleton.k12.or.us Grant application guidelines and materials are available at www.octe.org

Oregon is turning 150! In a unique effort to celebrate Oregon's sesquicentennial on February 14, 2009, Oregon 150 is calling for stories: "We want to remember Oregon's past, celebrate the present, and inspire people to dream of the future. This is our mission, and we invite all of Oregon—young and old, urban and rural, lifetime residents and recent arrivals—to join us in accomplishing it."

Join Governor Ted Kulongoski (his story is posted as an example on the site), and get in on the fun by visiting www.oregon150.org Tell others what life in Oregon means to you through your stories of joy, hardship, struggle, perseverance, and laughter.

The Oregon Spirit Book Award committee is now reading texts for the 2008 award. If you have any suggestions for books published in 2007, please contact a committee member: Pam Erlandson, Paul Gregorio, Rick Hardt, Julie Inada, Karen Johnson, and Daphne Wood.