

OREGON COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

OCTE Chalkboard

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
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OCTE

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Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for over 100 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 OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

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WWW.OCTE.ORG

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A Message from the OCTE President



Shh! Come in quietly please! Raise your hand! Stay in your seats! Phrases like these dominated my early teaching career. At that time, we believed that students who were in their seats and quiet were learning. Things have changed a lot since then! Today, we strive to offer students voice and choice in their learning. We want their voices to be heard. That's what excites me about our spring conference on April 8th. With the theme: "Let's Talk," we'll hear Molly Josephs, creator of the podcast, This Teenage Life, followed by an unconference to hear your ideas and opinions. Molly will be bringing a student podcaster along, and you are encouraged to bring one of your students too.

Then May 6th, the Oregon Writing Festival is another opportunity for us to elevate student voices. We'll be live and in person again at PSU. In addition to sharing their writing and participating in writing workshops, students will hear published authors speak about their craft. Check out the OCTE website for more details.

Looking ahead, we have another in-person conference planned for November 4th, 2023. The conference organizers are already busy generating an exciting event. Teacher, author, and advocate Penny Kittle will be our keynote speaker. In her words, "What began as a belief that it's never too late to inspire a love of reading, became the book, Book Love, and then the Book Love Foundation." Watch your inbox for details about our fall conference.

So, here are my new phrases: What do you think? What are your ideas? Find a partner or small group. Move around. Let's Talk!

Laurie Dougherty
President

Please Post

"Winner" *continued from page 3*

Many years ago, it was my own ELA teachers who inspired me. From Mrs. Hollister in 2nd grade where I wrote my first 'book' (Adventure over Water), to Shamus Weber in 9th grade, who loved to shock us by one-upping Shakespeare's bawdy jokes, to the college professor who scribbled on my first freshman English paper that my prose was "curiously overwritten" and became a permanent voice in my revising brain: they all became part of the person – and the teacher – that I became. I'm grateful to OCTE for this honor, but more importantly for supporting, championing, and connecting ELA teachers in Oregon—for reminding us that whatever challenges we face and whatever successes we experience individually, we are part of an endeavor much bigger than ourselves.

With gratitude,

Margaret Perrow/ Professor and Chair of English,
Southern Oregon University

BOOKMARKS:

OCTE Grants and Awards

Could you use a small financial boost in getting an exciting new curriculum idea off the ground? **OCTE awards annual grants of \$150-\$300** to assist teachers in developing curriculum, purchasing materials, or otherwise enhancing instruction in language arts/literacy. Submit grant application online at <https://oregoncouncilofteachersofenglish.wildapricot.org/Teacher-Grants>. Grant submission deadline is **February 15**.

Do you know an outstanding language arts instructor at any level, kindergarten through college? Consider nominating your colleague for **OCTE's Oregon Excellence Award in Teaching the English Language Arts**. One teacher may be nominated from any Oregon school. **Nomination submission deadline is April 6, 2023**. Submit nominations at <https://oregoncouncilofteachersofenglish.wildapricot.org/Teacher-Excellence>.

OCTE CONFERENCES

SPRING
April 8, 2023



FALL
Nov 4, 2023

Check out the OCTE website for details

<https://oregoncouncilofteachersofenglish.wildapricot.org>

“Let’s Talk”: A Meeting of the Minds OCTE’s Spring Conference

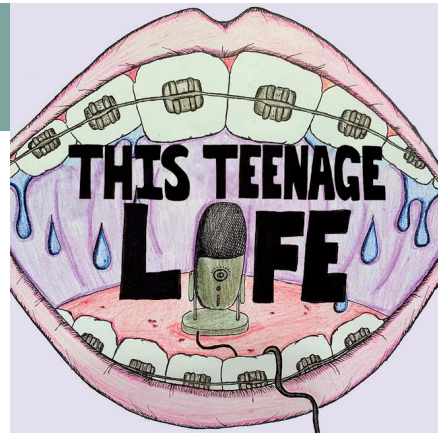
OCTE’s Spring Conference, a professional development opportunity with a twist, will arrive Saturday, April 8, 2023 on Zoom from 9- 11:30 am. The event will open with discussion, led by Molly Josephs, creator and producer of the podcast, *This Teenage Life*, and one of the teen partners. Participants will explore the possibilities of using podcasts in the classroom as tools to invite conversation, to foster well-being, and to create multimodal text followed by our variation of an unconference. True to the ethos of an unconference, participants will be encouraged to ask questions and engage with the presenters.

This Teenage Life centers teen voice and fosters a “...community where youth boldly express their identities, tastes and interests.” It is “meant to offer a sense of connection—a way to process thoughts and feelings.” (thisteenalife.org) Currently *TTL* is busy creating its fifth season. It provided support and encouragement for many youth from around the globe during the pandemic and continues to do so.

In this spirit of support through dialogue, the un-conference will follow, offering an opportunity for participants to engage in conversations depending on what matters most to them. The agenda will be established on the day of the event.

An interest survey will arrive by email in February with an invitation to add topics, questions, and suggestions to the unconference Jamboard. Participants will be able to express what they hope to gain from this event. OCTE will monitor this forum, but everyone involved will be able to share in the process.

“We have so much to learn from and with one another when we take the time to come and talk together.” (Shelly Rodrigo, NCTE President-Elect) Join the talk this April—none of us is as smart as all of us!



Oregon Writing Festival

The Oregon Council of Teachers of English and Portland State University College of Education are pleased to announce the 38th annual Oregon Writing Festival for Saturday, May 6, 2023, on the PSU campus. After canceling the festival in 2020 because of the pandemic, and holding virtual festivals in 2021 and 2022, we are thrilled to be back in person this year.

Keynote speakers will be award-winning Oregon authors Mike Lawrence (grades 4-5), William Ritter (grades 6-8), and Kylie Schachte (grades 9-12).

These speakers will be assisted by 150 teachers and writers as students share and critique samples of their best writing and participate in workshops in small-group settings. We will conduct some sharing groups and writing workshops in Spanish. See details at

<https://oregoncouncilofteachersofenglish.wildapricot.org/Oregon-Writing-Festival>

The registration fee is \$40 per student. For questions, contact registrar Barbara Wiegele [bjiwiegele@aol.com] or festival chair Rick Hardt [hardt@pdx.edu].



Mike Lawrence



William Ritter



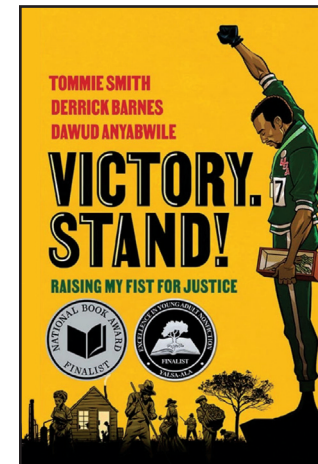
Kylie Schachte

OCTE Reads

By Marie LeJeune

OCTE Reads is back for a winter book club in the month of February. We are excited for another season of building community through shared reading and discussion. For our winter book group we’ll be exploring graphic novels—a literary format wildly popular with many adolescent readers. We are also hoping this format will provide some fast paced pleasure reading for our OCTE members during a time of the year that it can feel harder to squeeze in outside reading. Graphic novels as a literary format are published in a variety of genres and we hope you can join us for our two selected titles—one fiction, one nonfiction.

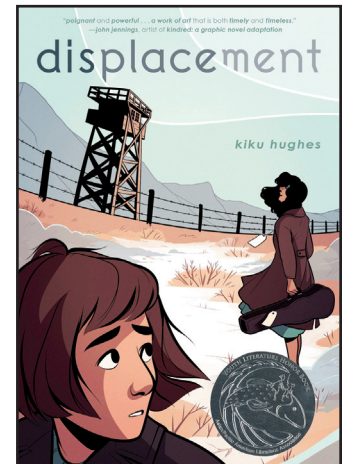
We’ll meet February 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 2023 from 7-8 p.m. on Zoom. You can join us at the zoom link below or email Marie LeJeune for more information (lejeunem@wou.edu). (You are welcome to attend any or all sessions that work for you.)



Our first read will be the nonfiction title, *Victory. Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice* by Tommie Smith, Derrick Barnes and Dawud Anyabwile. This graphic memoir chronicling Smith’s iconic protest at the 1968 Olympics was a National Book Award Finalist in 2022. We will discuss this title on February 8 and 15.

Our second selection blends historical and speculative fiction; *Displacement*, by Kiku Hughes explores the main character’s family history when she time travels from present time to World War II era internment camps where she meets her maternal grandmother and extended family. We will discuss this title on February 22 and March 1.

Even if you are new to graphic novels, we hope you’ll consider joining us for the book club sessions—there is no requirement to attend all four meetings to enjoy the book club. Come when you can, enjoy hearing from other language arts educators, and receive some fun new resources on teaching literature, particularly graphic novels, in your classroom. We’ll also have time to recommend books and build our ‘to read’ lists for the future. Note: OCTE does not provide copies of the books but they can be located at your local libraries and booksellers.



Winner of the 2023 Oregon Excellence in Teaching Language Arts Award

Dear Delana and the OCTE Board,

As director of the Oregon Writing Project at Southern Oregon University, I am privileged to work with many dedicated and talented English language arts teachers throughout southern Oregon. I often nominate an inspiring K-12 colleague for a teaching award, so when I received an email from OCTE in late summer I glanced at the subject line and wondered “who’d I nominate?” Opening the email, I was surprised and honored to learn I had been selected for the 2023 Oregon Excellence in Teaching Language Arts award. As a professor of English Education, one of my favorite things is mentoring and working with students as they make the transition from high school to college, become English majors who develop impressive capstone projects, enter the Master of Arts in Teaching program at SOU, become ELA teachers and then mentors themselves to new student teachers. I’m lucky to keep getting to work with many who return to participate in Oregon Writing Project classes, workshops, and institutes at SOU. These connections make my work gratifying, grounded, and inspiring.

