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**Chalkboard** is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for 100 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

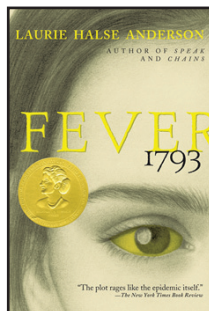
**Chalkboard** is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

**Chalkboard** is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

For inquiries, please contact:

**OCTE**  
P.O. Box 9126  
Portland, OR 97207-9126

**Editor:**  
**Peter Thacker**  
thacker@up.edu



You can find more information about  
Laurie Halse Anderson's  
current projects at her official website:  
[www.madwomanintheforest.com](http://www.madwomanintheforest.com)  
or follow her on twitter:  
[@halseanderson](https://twitter.com/halseanderson)

# Chalkboard

WWW.OCTE.ORG

PETER THACKER, EDITOR

OREGON COUNCIL of TEACHERS of ENGLISH  
OREGON COUNCIL for the SOCIAL STUDIES  
**2015 Fall Conference • October 3, 2015**  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY • 2811 NE Holman Street • Portland, OR 97211



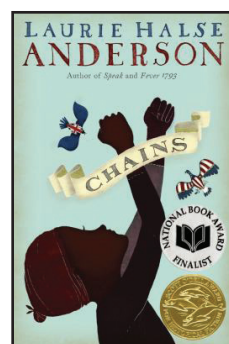
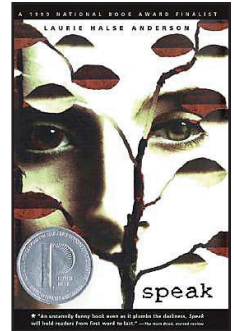
Laurie Halse Anderson

## Exclaiming Laurie Halse Anderson

*Ayn Frazee, Beach K-8 School, Portland*

Our 2015 fall conference keynoter Laurie Halse Anderson's 1999 debut novel *Speak* garnered critical acclaim and multiple awards for its fearless portrayal of a teen in crisis. After publishing *Speak*, Anderson has continued writing popular YA fiction that explores difficult subjects, ranging from rape to eating disorders and other serious teen issues. *Catalyst* (2002), *Prom* (2005), *Twisted* (2007), and *Wintergirls* (2009) all became bestsellers.

Anderson is no stranger to controversy; *Speak* is frequently found on banned/challenged book lists, deemed inappropriate for its honest portrayal of teenage sexual violence and accompanying painful secrets. The main character, Melinda, deals with the social and emotional aftermath of being raped by an upperclassman during the summer before freshman year. Traumatized by the assault, Melinda becomes mute, unable to talk to friends or her parents, yet, ironically, her narrative voice keeps us from falling into despair. The novel is a powerful testament to survival and rising above hardship. While *Speak* is often challenged for its depiction of rape, readers connect with the themes of fitting in, finding yourself, and speaking your truth. Controversial as it is, *Speak* has become a classic, adopted as a required book in many secondary schools.



While her Young Adult novels have become teen favorites, Anderson defies categorization by writing best-selling books for every age group. Her lengthy catalog includes a growing number of compelling works of historical fiction, including *Chains* which depicts a young African-American slave girl living with a Tory family in New York City during the deciding years of the American Revolution. Living in the realities of a society divided by both the war and slavery creates a perfect opportunity to pair language arts and history, particularly when studying the Revolution. The book received the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. *Fever 1793* (2000) about the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia at the close of the 18th century also has captured many a young adult, transporting them into the realities of a long-gone historical period. Most recently, Anderson's non-fiction *Independent Dames: What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution* engages young readers with beautifully illustrated and expertly researched stories of the women behind the Revolutionary War.

Anderson is also the author of the popular fifteen volume *Wild At Heart (Vet Volunteers)* series, geared toward middle readers, and numerous picture books. Her 2009 children's book *The Hair of Zoe Fleeft-bacher Goes to School* deals with a wild-haired first grader who clashes with her rule-obsessed new teacher. The book includes hilarious illustrations by Ard Hoyt and has received many positive reviews.

In 2009, Anderson was honored with the Margaret A. Edwards award for a "significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature" by the American Library Association. Both *Speak* and *Chains* were National Book Award Finalists. The National Council of Teachers of English honored Anderson with the ALAN Award in 2008. Anderson continues to write literature for all ages. Her most recent YA novel, *The Impossible Knife of Memory* (2014) explores living with a parent who struggles with PTSD and drug addiction.

Laurie Halse Anderson is a true Renaissance woman. Come hear her at our October 3rd conference!



**Join Us!**  
**OCTE/OCSS Fall Conference:**  
*Through the Eyes of Another: Inclusive Social Studies & Language Arts Education*

**October 3, 2015 • Portland, Oregon**

*Check out some of the following highlights...*

**Hidden Histories and Alter Egos: Narrative as a Platform for Argument-Writing**  
General Audience (2 hour session)

**Margaret Perrow,  
John Barber, Cindy McDonald,  
Southern Oregon University**



Ways to use students' curiosities and passions as a platform for argument-writing.

**STIR WORDS**

9-12

**Jan Priddy,  
Seaside High School**



Poetry— Short low-stress reading and writing activities.

**How Published Writers Use Writing Groups**

General Audience

**Mary Chase  
Marcia Coffey Turnquist,  
Consultants**



Learn procedures and strategies writers use to get the full benefits of their writing/critique groups.

**Civil Rights Through Poetry, Photography, & Drama**

General Audience

**Lea Mathieu,  
Ione High School**



Learn about 1950's civil rights struggles in a unit including "A Raisin in the Sun," the poem "Caged Bird," and photographs from Life Magazine.

**Using Lit Circles & Jigsawing in a Thematic Author Study**  
K-5

**Peter Thacker, Meagan Daschel,  
Megan Fraser, Nicole Hurner,  
Anna Van Winkle,  
University of Portland**



A one-session Patricia Polacco author study that uses a jigsaw activity to understand how Polacco's life informs her stories.

**Sign of the Times: How Science Fiction Embodies the Era in which It Was Written.**

6-12

**Tyrell Graham,  
McKay High School, Salem**



Understand how the climate, technology, & fears of an era can help readers better understand science fiction stories.

**Bridging the Gap: Folklore in the English and Social Studies Classroom**

6-12

**Eric Holmes,  
Portland State University**



Use folklore in the classroom to bridge English and Social Studies.

**There's No Such Thing as a Book For Boys (Or One For Girls): Degendering Student Reading**  
General

**Heidi Schulz, Martha Brockenbrough, Robin Herrera, Amber Keyser, & Cat Winters, Authors**



Explore how gendering books cheats readers, and how adults can support diverse reading habits, and why doing so ultimately benefits students.



Editor's Note: The following article previews a fine presentation to be shared at our fall 2015 Conference co-sponsored with OCSS. Join us!

## Examining Patricia Polacco through Thematic Author Study

Anna Van Winkle, Meghan Daschel, Megan Fraser, and Nicole Hurner,  
University of Portland

Children's authors help shape minds of students across the world. They introduce children to the world of story, characters, plot, and themes and can spark a passion for reading. Patricia Polacco is one of those amazing authors and analyzing Polacco's life through studying her stories is an entry point for young students to think critically about their own lives, including how their culture has shaped their values.

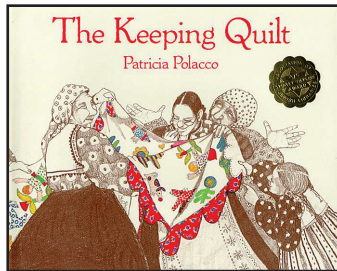
We want students to feel an emotional connection to the literature we study. We want our students to "write what they know." Polacco's choice of stories built on her life experiences is a great example of that strategy. Polacco finds inspiration from struggling with a learning disability, her family heritage, inspirational teachers and so many other themes that resonate with students. Through the act of storytelling, she gives children inspiration to overcome their own struggles.

This compacted author study is designed for third to fourth graders. Students explore Polacco's life through examining her stories. While reading a self-selected book in small groups, students use sticky notes

to point out connections (text-to-text, text-to-world, text-to-self, key points, and questions) and a story map to reinforce the ideas of setting, theme, problem/resolution, and key themes.

When groups finish, students "jigsaw" to new groups with students who read different stories. In these groups, individuals summarize the book they read, and share their story maps. The groups then find similarities and differences between stories, discovering shared themes. Finally, the whole class comes together to discuss common themes and story elements encountered in the books. An exit ticket asks students to write connections between the stories and Polacco's life.

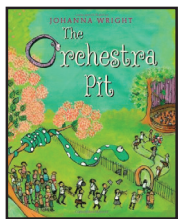
This lesson can expand to a whole unit in which students study Polacco's life and books and practice writing stories using similar themes and ideas. Of course, this practice can extend to other authors, expanding student knowledge and skills, not to mention pleasure, along the way. Students can be the experts, even at young ages!



## 2014 Oregon Spirit Book Award Winners

The Oregon Council of Teachers of English is pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 Oregon Spirit Book Award. This award is given yearly to the author of a distinguished contribution to picture books, middle reader, young adult, graphic novels, or nonfiction literature that engages and encourages readers' imagination, discovery, and understanding, reflecting the spirit and values held by Oregonians.

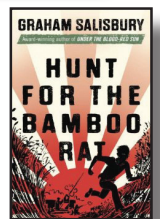
Presentation of awards will be made at the OCTE Fall Conference at Concordia University on October 3, 2015. Meet winners, hear their wisdom, and get autographed copies of their books. Join us at the conference!



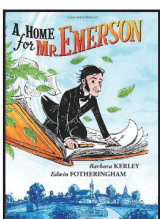
**Picture Book Winner:** *Orchestra Pit*, Johanna Wright;  
Honors: *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Oregon*, Susan Blackaby  
*Simon and the Bear: a Hanukkah Tale*, Eric Kimmel



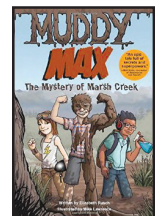
**Middle Readers Winner:** *Absolutely Truly*, Heather Vogel Frederick  
Honors: *Hope is a Ferris Wheel*, Robin Herrera,  
*Hook's Revenge*, Heidi Schulz



**Young Adult Winner:** *Hunt for the Bamboo Rat*, Graham Salisbury  
Honor: *Body in the Woods*, April Henry



**Nonfiction Winner:** *Home for Mr. Emerson*, Barbara Kerley  
Honor: *The Next Wave*, Elizabeth Rusch  
*Gifts from the Enemy*, Trudy Ludwig



**Graphic Novel Winner:** *Muddy Max*, Elizabeth Rusch  
Honor: *Lowriders in Space*, Cathy Camper

*Please Post*

# OC TE / OCSS 2015 Fall Conference • Saturday, October 3

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY • 2811 NE HOLMAN STREET • PORTLAND, OREGON 97211



**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**  
 Pre-registration deadline: September 26, 2015

You may register on-line at  
**octe.org**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

	Number	Amount
Full-Time Teacher \$60 (\$75 after 9/26)	_____	_____
Retiree, Unemployed, Part-Time \$35 (\$50 after 9/26)	_____	_____
Student/Pre-Service Teacher \$25 (\$40 after 9/26)	_____	_____
Group Registration (5 or more) \$45	_____	_____
<b>Total</b> .....		\$ _____

**On-site registration will be \$100 for everyone.  
 For information see octe.org.**

Make checks payable to **OC TE** and send to: Barbara Wiegele 14867 Orchid Avenue, Milwaukie OR 97267-2454  
**Academic Credit/PDUs Available**  
 Earn 1 graduate credit from PSU by registering before the conference at <http://www.pdx.edu/ceed/coop-registration>  
 Earn 6 Professional Development Units for continuing licensure.

**Conference Schedule:**

**8:30am** Breakfast and Vendors  
**9:00am** Workshop Session 1  
**10:00am** Workshop Session 2  
**11:00am** Laurie Halse Anderson  
 OSBA, OCSS & OC TE Awards  
**12:30pm** Lunch  
 Author signing & door-prizes  
**1:45pm** Workshop Session 3