

OCTE EXCHANGE

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English, c/o Dianna Just, 440758 E. 230 Rd., Vinita, OK 74301-- <http://octe.ecok.edu>

Fall 2009

English Teacher Named Oklahoma Teacher of the Year

Brian Grimm, an English teacher at Tulsa's Will Rogers High School, was named Oklahoma Teacher of the year last month during the Oklahoma State Fair. A member of OCTE, Brian is known for his entertaining and provocative presentations about teaching strategies that promote student learning.

In an excerpt from Mr. Grimm's application for Oklahoma Teacher of the year, he wrote, "My greatest contribution is my message. Teachers need to know they can do it! It is not an easy task to pull kids away from failure. Apathy is easy, but change is a challenge. Students must know that they are not a product of their environment, but rather through education and empowerment, their environment because a product of their resolve to change. Students must know that their beliefs drive their actions, and their actions drive their community" (qtd. In The Oklahoman, 27 Sept. 2009).

Congratulations, Brian!

Deadline for OCTE's Young Writers Contest Is Earlier This Year

After receiving feedback from several teachers, the OCTE board voted to make the deadline for entries to the 2010 Young Writers Contest earlier this year. All entries must be postmarked by December 4.

"We hope this earlier deadline will result in more students and teachers participating in the contest" said Mrs. Cathy Hume, the Young Writers Contest Coordinator. For more information about the contest see page 2. A cover letter to submit with each entry is on page 3. Make as many copies as you need. The same information may be found at the OCTE website <http://octe.ecok.edu>.

Happy
Thanksgiving!

Important Dates to Mark on your Calendar:

November 19-22: National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Philadelphia

December 4: Postmark Deadline to submit entries to the OCTE Young Writers Contest

January 16: OCTE Winter Board Meeting, Full Circle Bookstore

April 7: OCTE Spring Conference at Oklahoma City University

2010 Oklahoma Young Writers Contest

CATEGORIES: Short Story (maximum 1,500 words)
Essay (Expository, no narrative essays, maximum 500 words)
Personal Narrative (first person, maximum 500 words)
Descriptive Paragraph
Poetry
(\$2 entry fee per entry)

Fillers: Descriptive sentences may be submitted as "fillers."
(\$1 entry fee) Note: Writers of descriptive sentences that are used in the anthology are welcome to attend the Young Writers Conference and luncheon for the discounted price of \$10 per person and to purchase a copy of the 2010 Anthology for the discounted rate of \$3.00.

Age Groups: K-6
7-9
10-12
College

Entries: Each teacher (OCTE members only) may enter up to 10 original manuscripts for his/her students with a fee of \$2 per entry. Also, each teacher may enter up to 10 "filler" descriptive sentences for his/her students with a fee of \$1 per sentence. Make checks payable to OCTE. No student may enter more than one entry per category. Entries must be typed and double-spaced. Poems may be single-spaced. Teachers should submit the original entry plus one copy of each manuscript and in addition send an electronic copy to contest coordinator at clhume@cox.net.

Contest rules: All contest rules, such as maximum word length, entry deadline, OCTE membership for teachers, numbers of copies, cover sheets, no names on entries, etc., must be strictly observed. Failure to do so will disqualify entries. No entry fees will be refunded.

Cover Sheet: After duplicating, fill out the enclosed cover sheet completely. Use only one cover sheet per entry. The student's name should appear on the cover sheet only. Please be sure all letters are legible to ensure names are accurate.

Winners will have their work published in the 2010 Oklahoma Anthology and will be invited, along with their teachers and parents, to attend the Young Writers Conference and luncheon April 7, 2010, to meet with the judges and receive a copy of the anthology.

Sponsored by:
Oklahoma Council for Teachers of English, and
Petree College of Arts & Sciences Center for Interpersonal
Studies Through Film & Literature

COVER SHEET

2010 Oklahoma Young Writers Competition

(Please type information.)

Title: _____ Grade Level: _____

Category: _____ Number of words in entry: _____

Student's Name (Please Print): _____

Student's Address: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Address: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

School Name: _____ Phone: _____

School Address: _____

SIGNATURES:

I hereby attest to the originality and length of this piece.

Student Signature_____
Parent Signature

I verify that the above is my student, the number of words is correct, and I am a current member of OCTE.

Teacher Signature

Postmark Deadline: December 4, 2009

Please send submissions with cover sheets and electronic submission to:Cathy L. Hume
9821 N. McKinley Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
clhume@cox.net

The Spring OCTE Conference is Set for April 7, 2010

Natasha Trethewey is the featured poet

Thanks to Dr. Harbour Winn and the Petree College of Arts and Sciences Center for Interpersonal Studies Through Film and Literature at Oklahoma City University, the featured poet for our spring conference will be Natasha Trethewey. She will give a reading at 10:00 a.m. and will attend the OCTE celebration luncheon to help honor the winners of the 2010 OCTE Young Writers Contest.



Natasha Trethewey is a Pulitzer winning poet for her 2006 collection of poetry entitled *Native Guard*. Her first book of poetry entitled *Domestic Work* (2000) won several awards including the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. Trethewey earned her M.A. from Hollins University and her M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Massachusetts.

Katy Peercy, the OCTE Spring Conference Coordinator, is accepting proposals for presenters at the conference. See the following pages for a proposal form. If you have any questions, you may contact Katy at kpeercy@tishomingo.k12.ok.us. Please consider sharing your best teaching ideas with other Oklahoma teachers at the conference. Presentations of interest to English teachers at all levels are desired.

Other special events at the Spring Conference include the announcement of the 2010 Geraldine Burns Winners, exhibitors, presentations, and the election of OCTE officers for 2010-2011.

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss the 2010 OCTE Spring Conference.

Oklahoma English Journal

If you are interested in submitting an article for publication in the OCTE journal, contact Dr. Teresa Rothrock, the editor (trothrock@ecok.edu) and/or look at the OCTE website for more information: <http://octe.ecok.edu>.

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English
Presentation Proposal for 2010 Spring Conference

April 7, 2010

Oklahoma City University

Oklahoma City, OK

Katy Peercy, Conference Coordinator

kpeeracy@tishomingo.k12.ok.us

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email where you prefer to be contacted:_____

Workplace name: _____

Workplace address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Job Title: _____

Title of Workshop/Presentation: _____

Audience: Please check all that apply:

_____ Elementary _____ Middle Level _____ High School

_____ Higher Ed. _____ K-12

_____ All _____ Spec. Ed.

Please describe your presentation for pre-conference publications:

[illegible]

If there will be other presenters involved in your presentation, please list his/her name(s) and titles here:

AV Equipment: Please list any equipment you'll need. In some cases, you'll need to provide your own equipment (laptop). You will be notified if any requested equipment cannot be provided.

Space/Facilities needed: Please describe any special accommodations you will need.

Please send your proposals to: Katy Peercy
P.O. Box 874
Tishomingo, OK 73460

The deadline for submission is January 29, 2010 for the 2010 Spring Conference. Proposals sent after the closing date may be held for the next available date. You will be notified if this is the case.

Presenters must register for the conference - \$20.00 for members, \$25.00 for non-members. (Registration includes continental breakfast and lunch). Registration forms will be sent when the proposal is accepted. A gratuity of a one-year OCTE membership (or renewal of current membership) is given to presenters.

Thank you for your proposal.

We appreciate your interest in making the OCTE Spring Conference a success!

A Few Thoughts for Reflection by Notable Young Adult Authors

"Books are the ultimate Dumpees: put them down and they'll wait for you forever; pay attention to them and they always love you back."

- John Green (*An Abundance of Katherines*)

"Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable."

- Louisa May Alcott

"So many things are possible as long as you don't know they are impossible."

-Mildred Taylor (*The Land*)

"Poetry = Anger x Imagination."

-Sherman Alexie

"My grandma always said that God made libraries so that people didn't have any excuses to be stupid."

- Joan Bauer

"You have to write the book that wants to be written. And if the book will be too difficult for grown-ups, then you write it for children."

- Madeleine L'Engle

"To fear is one thing. To let fear grab you by the tail and swing you around is another."

-Katherine Paterson (*Jacob Have I Loved*)

"Never miss a chance to keep your mouth shut."

-Robert Newton Peck (*A Day No Pigs Would Die*)

"Nothing travels faster than the speed of light with the possible exception of bad news, which obeys its own special laws."

-Douglas Adams (*The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*)

