



CONNECTIONS

Summer 2011 Volume 10, Issue 3

YA SUPERSTAR ELLEN HOPKINS HEADLINES AETA STATE-WIDE FALL CONFERENCE



Ellen Hopkins

If you are a middle or high school teacher, you have seen your students gobble up **Ellen Hopkins** work. Her **Crank** series featuring the good girl, Kristina, who quickly falls victim to a crippling and potentially fatal drug addiction, has mesmerized our students seeking to understand why their peers are so helpless in the face of peer pressure, daunting insecurities and easily available drugs. They literally cannot put down her books and crave more. Her latest release will cast a different and wider net. Now she asks: "what would you give up to be perfect?" *Perfect*, will be released on September 13, just 2 weeks before the **AETA Statewide Fall Conference at ASU Polytechnic Campus**. You will not want to miss this opportunity to meet this author and hear her speak about literature, teenagers, life and the writing process. Her website is filled with honest reflections on her growing up years and the struggles of her daughter, who provided the desperate inspiration for Kristina. She also shares many writing tips, designed to help young writers find their own maturing voices and navigate the pressures of their teenage worlds. She is sure to keep us spellbound with her prodigious storytelling abilities. Join us on **September 23-24** as we delve into the conference theme, *Passing Perfect: Celebrating the Journey of Self*. ~Kelly O'Rourke, Desert Canyon Middle School

Fall Conference

Sept. 23-24, 2011

REGISTER now!

AETA is an affiliate of the NCTE

Inside this issue:

Conference highlights	2
Featured speakers	4
Publishing opportunities	3, 5
Conference registration	6
Teacher of Excellence nomination form	7



“One thing we promise: You’ll never die of boredom,” read the pamphlet given me by the CIA officer after my interview.

With a double major in English and German, I was flirting with the romance of overseas travel, although I knew all along that Pepperdine Law School would be my next stop. Many years later, fully immersed in my real, true career of teaching English, I realize those words that had scared the bejeesus out of me (I think I literally threw the pamphlet and call-back number across the room), have instead become true for me. While teaching may be frustrating and exhausting and we may not be accorded the respect many of our family and friends. My ca-

EDITOR’S CORNER

tions in two states from special education-English, all these changes keeping me

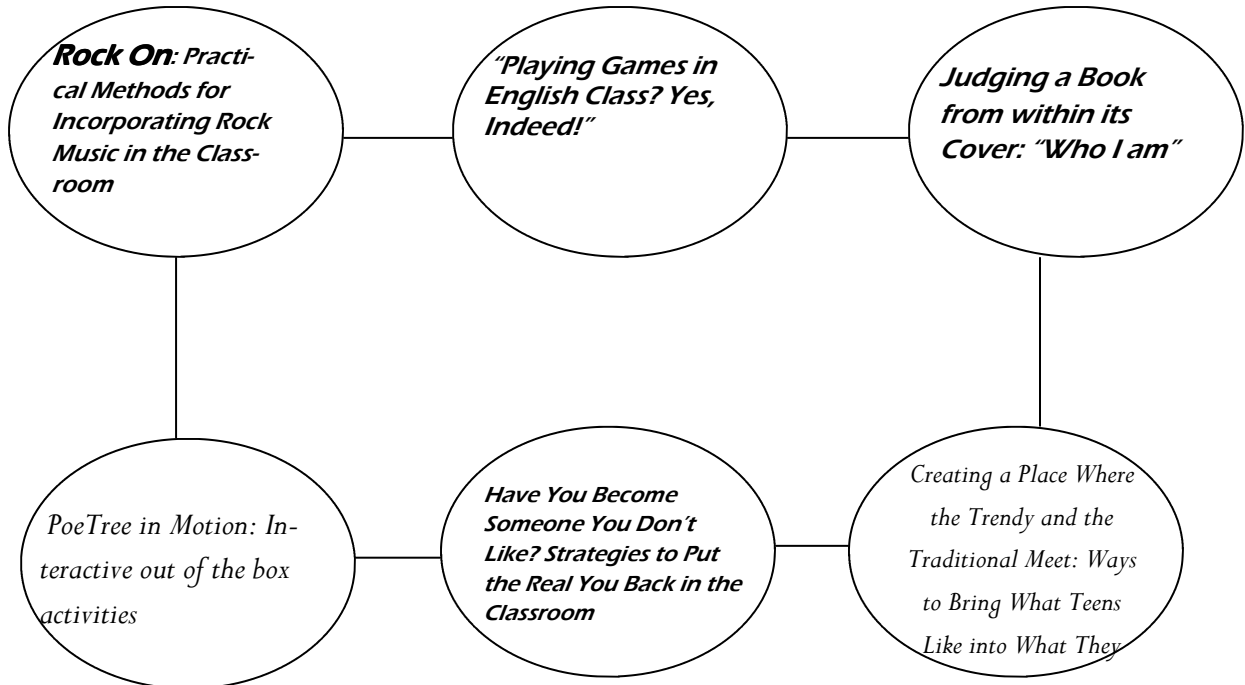
in Cave

transition. I have accepted a new job in the Scottsdale district teaching language arts to gifted students at Desert Canyon Middle School. Teaching middle school is nothing new to me—apart from my first three years in high school, the middle years have been my niche. And, “looping” with these students, having them for 6th, 7th and then 8th is also not new since I started my career in a self-contained classroom for the emotional and learning disabled. The challenging, new part for me will be keeping up with the bright brains of those students identified as the top 3% on the gifted test. I’m excited for the change and ever more grateful to be in this profession.



(continued on p. 3)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: From incorporating art & music into the classroom to dealing with discipline, new and veteran teachers share the magic. Check out a few of the session titles below and register now for this always-engaging and inspiring conference!





TEACHERS AS WRITERS

Original short stories, poetry and non-fiction pieces are being considered by a volunteer panel of judges in the annual TAW contest. Get your write on before the summer's over and join the intrepid teacher-writers who practice what they preach! Winners in each category are awarded \$100.00 and are published in the **Arizona English Bulletin**.

Short Stories (3,000 words)

Poetry (120 lines)

Non-fiction Prose (3,000 words)



Submit all entries with a cover sheet including name, genre & contact info. by **Monday, August 22** to:

Renee Vahling Rude at: imrv@yahoo.com

Some changes I haven't always looked for. I have never enjoyed moving my classroom, yet here I am doing it for the 13th time! I wasn't sure I only wanted to teach writing the past two years, yet that assignment allowed me to hone my teaching-of-writing skills with an uncluttered focus.

A beautiful thing about this profession is how we can move and grow within it.

Ready for a change? Switch grade levels, transfer to a different school, accept that co-teaching offer, take the AEPA for a new subject, continue your education and work with beginning teachers at the college level. And if you're only looking for small changes, little ways to pull yourself out of a rut, **challenge yourself professionally** by the many opportunities offered by AETA. Ditch the excuses and submit something, (anything!) to the Teachers as Writers contest. Collaborate with a friend to work on a piece for publication in the AEB. Don't let the same voices dominate the breakout sessions at the statewide conference...bring your game to us! Our jobs may not be as much fun as spying on a suspected double-agent, but, unlike the technology analyst on the couch in the next room, this teacher will not be complaining of boredom this year. Room change, curriculum change or no change, each year is a fresh start in this profession and I wish you all a fabulous start to the 2011-2012 school year...see you at ASU Polytechnic!

~Kelly O'Rourke, DCMS



Summer To-Do List

- Nominate colleague for Teacher of Excellence Award
- Submit writing to TAW contest or AEB
- Register for AETA fall conference



Dr. Beverly Chin

Dr. Chin is Professor of English and Director of the English Teaching Program at The University of Montana, where she teaches and mentors beginning and experienced teachers. Among her many roles, Beverly has directed the Montana Writing Project, been President of NCTE, Board Member of NBPTS from 1995-2003, and Senior Project Advisor for the 2011 Writing Framework for NAEP. Within NCTE, Beverly has served on the executive committees of the Conference on English Education and the Conference on English Leadership, was honored with the Rewey Bell Inglis Award, and is serving on NCTE's Middle Level Section Steering Committee. A former high school English teacher and community college instructor, Beverly received her Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis in Reading and Language Arts, from the University of Oregon. She has taught at Arizona State University, University of New Orleans, and University of Central Florida in Orlando. An engaging and inspiring workshop presenter at national and international conferences, Beverly is the Program Consultant for *Glencoe Literature: The Reader's Choice*, the Editorial Director for Annenberg's *Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for the Middle Grades* and a Literature Scholar/Pedagogy Expert on Annenberg's *The Expanding Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School*. In 2009, she participated in a seminar for teacher educators at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, where she studied with Holocaust scholars and survivors.

~Kelly

O'Rourke, DCMS



Myrlin Hepworth



Myrlin Hepworth appears on Friday evening at AETA fall conference. Although only a recent ASU graduate, Hepworth is already a poetry slam veteran, a celebrated spoken-word poet and performer, and a highly sought after guest speaker. Since he began competing in 2006, Hepworth has been an uncompromising force in slams at both the local and national level. His poems such as "Hey Joe!" and "Beneath Two Skies" are the quintessence of spoken-word poetry. As an educator, Hepworth has taken this love of spoken-word poetry to teens across the Valley, teaching them both to write and perform their poems. He explains, "If a high school student has the courage to stand before his/her classmates and perform a poem that is personally authentic, then they are capable of battling all kinds of adversity." Whether you are an enthusiast of, or a newbie to, spoken-word poetry and slams, make certain you attend the Friday evening event at the AETA Fall Conference: Myrlin Hepworth's particular passion and energy will not disappoint.

~Siiri Granfelt Julian, Notre Dame Prep

Breathe-in experience,
breathe-out poetry.

Muriel Rukeyser



Arizona English Bulletin –Call for Manuscripts

The Arizona English Bulletin invites English and Language Arts teachers at all levels—elementary, secondary, and college—to submit manuscripts for consideration. We seek manuscripts on any aspect of English and Language Arts teaching. Writers may describe ideas, practices, and issues regarding the teaching of English and Language Arts. We prefer manuscripts that focus on classrooms, classroom practices, students, and teachers, although we are also interested in relevant theory and research as a context for action in the teaching of English and Language Arts. We will also publish reviews of books, programs, and resources.

Fall 2011—The Impact and Potential of Social Media (Deadline: August 15, 2011)

The use of social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook has become a hot-button issue in education, with some teachers taking advantage of these tools for professional development and to connect with their students while at the same time some districts are banning teachers from being on Facebook and blocking social media sites from being accessed in the class. How has social media impacted you and your students? Do you see it as a help or hindrance

Spring 2012—Reading/Writing Workshops (Deadline: December 9, 2011)

From classic Atwell workshops to the use of literature circles, reading/writing workshops are still the bread and butter of many English language arts classrooms and the foundation for how many teachers design and implement their curriculum. How and why do you use writing workshops, peer editing groups, and literature circles?

Guidelines for submitting manuscripts

Please submit your manuscript electronically by email attachment only (Please do not mail a hard copy). We require writers to submit a copy of their manuscript as a Microsoft Word attachment. Manuscripts submitted in the body of the email will not be accepted.

The Arizona English Bulletin uses the MLA style sheet. Manuscripts that do not meet MLA formatting and citation requirements will be returned.

Be sure to include the author's name, address, school affiliation, and an email address on the first page. We would also appreciate a short biography of 2-3 sentences. Manuscripts should be no more than 3,500 words in length. Shorter articles are acceptable. We cannot publish any material that has been previously published in print or electronic form. Please do not submit material to other publishers while your manuscript is under consideration for the Arizona English Bulletin. Manuscripts will be read and reviewed, and replies sent, in approximately 3-4 months.

Submit Manuscripts to Sandra Raymond, Editor: sandra.raymond@nau.edu



Note: All dates should read 2011, sorry for the error!

AETA 2010 Conference Registration Form



Register and Pay online at <http://www.asu.edu/aeta/>

Pre-register by September 2, 2010 to ensure that conference materials and meals are available for you. All conference participants and presenters are responsible for conference fees. Submit fees online with PayPal at www.asu.edu/aeta or mail this form and your check or purchase order payable to AETA to:

Jean Boreen, AETA Executive Secretary
1285 N. Wakonda St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

STUDENT REGISTRATION	Full Conference Package---\$45 (meals, student registration, membership dues)	_____
MEMBER REGISTRATION	Full Conference Package---\$135 (meals, registration, membership dues)	_____
A LA CARTE		
AETA Membership 10-11	Educator, new or renewed---\$40	_____
Conference Package A	All Friday & Saturday Activities---\$140	_____
Conference Package B	Friday Only---\$70	_____
Conference Package C	Saturday Only---\$110	_____
LATE REGISTRATION (after 09/02) add \$10		_____
TOTAL FEES: \$		_____

NAME: _____

(Last Name First Name)

ADDRESS: _____

(Street and Apt. Number)

PHONE _____ - _____ - _____

(City, State, Zip)

ALT. PHONE _____ - _____ - _____

(Indicate Work or Cell)

E-MAIL _____

FAX _____ - _____ - _____

SCHOOL AFFILIATION/INSTITUTION _____

ALT. E-MAIL _____

Please indicate level of service or interest: Elementary Middle High School College/Uni

Participation in Conference: Presenter Participant AETA Executive Member

Are you interested in joining the AETA board? **YES/NO**



AETA TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION FORM

The Arizona English Teachers Association seeks to honor Arizona teachers who consistently demonstrate the highest ideals of our profession. A nominee should consistently demonstrate a deep knowledge of students' needs, implement effective curriculum, and function as a leader/collaborator at his or her school site.

Please indicate to which level your nominee belongs:

High School

Middle School

Nominee's (Teacher's) Name _____
School _____ Grade _____
Area or Specialization (Reading, AP English,) _____
School Address _____
City _____, AZ ZIP _____
School District _____
Charter _____ Private _____

Nominated by _____
School _____ Grade _____
School Address _____
City _____, AZ ZIP _____
School District _____
Charter _____ Private _____
Contact e-mail _____ Contact phone number _____

Please include a nomination statement of 100-words or less that demonstrates why this teacher is deserving of the AETA Teacher of Excellence Award. Address the effectiveness of instruction as it relates to her/his particular group of students, as well as this teacher's ability to work effectively with colleagues and take on leadership roles. Send this completed form and nomination statement to:

Siiri Granfelt Julian
Notre Dame Preparatory High
9701 E. Bell Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
sjulian@notredamepreparatory.org
FAX: 480.634.8299

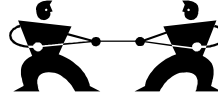
NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR ARE DUE BY:

Monday, 22nd August.

Internet Connections



Following are some Web links to help you connect — with other teachers, students, and the larger education community.



What are your favorite Internet sites and resources? Send us your links so we can share them with other AETA members.

Arizona has adopted the Common Core State Standards Initiative in an effort to provide students across the country with instruction in common topics. The Common Core Curriculum Mapping Project is not affiliated with CCSS and was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Carol Jago, the current NCTE president reviewed the curriculum. This site is arranged by grade level and includes thematic units based on a variety of literature. Have fun exploring!

<http://commoncore.org/maps/index.php>

AETA CONNECTIONS STAFF

Kelly Shobe O'Rourke, Editor
Desert Canyon Middle School
10203 E. McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85255
Phone: 480-484-4600
Fax: 480-484-4601
Email: korourke11@q.com

Siiri Granfelt Julian, Co-Editor
Notre Dame Preparatory
9701 E. Bell Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260-2125
Phone: 480-634-8200
Fax: 480-634-8299
E-mail:
sjulian@notredamepreparatory.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://WWW.PUBLIC.ASU.EDU/~JBLASIN/AETA/](http://www.public.asu.edu/~jblasin/AETA/)

Tucson, Arizona

PAID

U.S. Postage

Non-Profit Org.

Arizona English Teachers

Association

c/o Jean Boreen

