

NCETA Notes

North Carolina English Teachers Association (252) 935-5176

Winter 2010



For Your Information

- It's back! NCETA will be hosting a fall conference in October 2010. Check the website for more details.
- The three NC sites of the National Writing Project have year-round activities that would be of interest to NCETA members. Please check out their websites for flyers, announcements, and applications. For more information, visit:
 - UNC Charlotte Writing Project <http://education.uncc.edu/wp>;
 - Tar River Writing Project (ECU) www.trwp.org
 - Capital Area Writing Project (NC State) www.ced.ncsu.edu/cawp
- NCETA Notes would love submissions for an ongoing idea exchange. Send submissions to marmbrester@alumni.unc.edu.
- For more information, visit us at www.ncenglishteacher.org.

NCETA Today

NCETA would like to give a special thank you to each and every person reading this newsletter. Without you, this organization would not exist. This is why we want all ELA professionals, past, present and future to know that they can look to NCETA as their "Go-To Organization for ELA Professionals".

The Executive Board has spent the last two years reworking the organization's constitution to increase efficiency and services for our members, rebuilding NCETA's website, and

restructuring our conference offerings to be both effective and affordable for North Carolina's ELA professionals.

NCETA is working hard to support ELA teachers statewide, from Manteo to Murphy. Regional directors are the first level contact for members and offer local professional development opportunities for members.

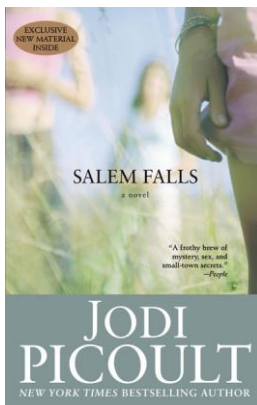
NCETA has openings in several regions and welcomes nominations for these positions. A strong board will lead a strong



organization. On page three, readers will find a list of NCETA's Board of Directors, including information about openings.

If you have any questions about the organization, or how you can play a bigger role, send an email to Executive Director Deanie Dunbar, President Sally Griffin, or one of your regional directors. ~~MA

Book Review: *Salem Falls*



"The readers are left to wonder how they would react if placed in the shoes of the various characters"

If Arthur Miller's version of Abigail Williams were walking around in modern day America, what would she be like? According to Jodi Picoult, she'd be Gilly Duncan, a beautiful 17-year old Wiccan being raised by her father, owner of the town's pharmaceutical research and development plant.

In *Salem Falls*, Picoult brings the paranoia, spitefulness and misguided naïveté of the Salem Witch Trials into the 21st century.

The novel also follows Jack McBride, a former history teacher and soccer coach who has lost his family, career, and faith in humanity because of a mistake made years ago.

As the novel's John Proctor, McBride is a flawed man seeking redemption on his terms while fighting the judgments others wish to place upon him.

What makes this, and most Picoult novels, such an intensive read are the open doors and windows

the author gives the reader to explore. By the time the book closes, many questions have been answered, but just as many are posed. The readers are left to wonder how they would react if placed in the shoes of the various characters in the novel and whether these same theoretical reactions are the ones they'd want others to have towards them. ~~MA

NCETA provides extensive membership opportunities: professional awards, grants, staff development, idea exchanges, leadership development, and writing competitions. On the horizon is a new online NCETA community moderated by Jonathan Bartels. Be part of a forward moving organization for English Language Arts teachers.

NCETA Student Writing Awards



Watterson-Timberlake Non-Fiction Contest

- Open to all North Carolina 11th graders
- 750 word original non-fiction writing on a self-selected topic
- Finalists write on demand at annual NCETA conference
- \$250 top prize
- \$50 finalist prize



Amy Charles Short Prose Contest

- Open to all North Carolina middle and high school students (Two categories: 6-8 and 9-12)
- 750 words original short prose fiction
- Winning work published
- \$250 Top prize in each category

North Carolina Student Poet Laureate Contest

- Open to all North Carolina middle and high school students (Two categories: 6-8 and 9-12)
- 40-line (or less) original poetry
- Winning work published on NCETA and NC Arts Council website
- Winning poems printed on broadside and presented to winners
- \$250 top prize to winners

Wade Edwards Award for Short Fiction

- Named and sponsored in honor of Wade Edwards
- Open to all North Carolina 11th graders
- 500-1,000 word original short fiction
- \$5,000 1st year scholarship to winner (\$2,000 to winner's English Dept.)
- \$2,000 and \$1,000 prizes for 2nd and 3rd place winners

- *Entries should be typed and saved in an electronic format.*
- *Entries and completed entry forms should be received electronically on or before **April 15, 2010** (see website for contest entry forms and email addresses).*
- *No photographs, please.*
- *For more information, including the contact information of contest directors and more detailed information on individual competitions, visit www.ncenglishteacher.org.*

NCETA Board of Directors

Executive Board

Executive Director

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OPEN

Independent Schools Director

OPEN

Regional Directors

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- ▲ Alicia Datz-- datza.aghs@pitt.k12.nc.us
- ▲ Stephanie West-Puckett-- westpucketts@ecu.edu

Region 2-SE: Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Sampson, Wayne

- ▲ Erin Smith--erinsmith@wcps.org
- ▲ OPEN

Region 3-Raleigh Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Johnston, Nash, Northampton, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wilson

- ▲ Julie Malcolm--jmalcolm@dpi.state.nc.us
- ▲ Jennifer Sharpe -- jennifer.lee.sharpe@gmail.com

Region 4-SC Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland

- ▲ Marcia Rose Long--marciaroselong@css.k12.nc.us
- ▲ Adrean Clark--aclark2@harnett.k12.nc.us

Region 5-NC: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes

- ▲ OPEN
- ▲ OPEN

Region 6-SW: Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Stanly, Union

- ▲ Cheryl M. Nelson -- cheryl.nelson@ucps.k12.nc.us
- ▲ Heather Coffey--hcoffey@uncc.edu

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- ▲ Karen Miller--millerkj@rss.k12.nc.us
- ▲ John Zimmerman--zimmerman@burke.k12.nc.us

Region 8-W: Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey

- ▲ OPEN
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NCETA Notes

Melissa Armbruster
Editor and Chief Writer



Idea Exchange: (Not Quite) Magnetic Poetry

Almost every chapter of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* begins with a beautiful, detailed description of that section's setting, including the riverbank where George and Lennie camp before heading to their next job.

In order to see, not just the beauty of the setting, but also the beauty of Steinbeck's words, students complete magnetic poems using the words from the first two paragraphs of the novel.

In order to prepare for this, I typed the first two paragraphs of the novel—copying them straight from the novel gave me less freedom in terms of word size and font. After getting the words to a decent size that could be seen when posted in

the room, I cut each word and punctuation out individually and put them in an old container that could be shaken to mix up the words.

The next day, I found pictures of different things described in the paragraphs—rabbits, rodents, trees, lakes, mountains and printed them in black and white.

The students' instructions are simple. After getting into groups of their own choosing, they are given a pile of words from the first two paragraphs of the novel. They are instructed to use those words to write a poem about the picture they have been given. If they find that they are missing a word, they elect one person as a trader who

goes to other groups seeking out the word, but they must be willing to trade a word.

Because the pictures are in black and white, students are instructed to color only one aspect of the picture, not the whole thing to capture an observer's attention.

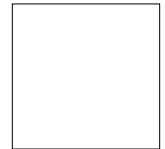
Students use different methods to create their poems. Some sing a song to help develop rhythm; others look for key words and find articles to help fill in the rest of the poem. Some form sentences that tell a story they piece together.

Aside from the preparation that comes with it, the activity is an easy one that students can enjoy. It helps them to see their power to manipulate words to meet their own needs.

~~~MA

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.ncenlishteacher.org](http://www.ncenlishteacher.org)

for information about membership and upcoming drive-in conferences.

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**CUSTOMER NAME**

STREET ADDRESS

ADDRESS 2

CITY, ST ZIP CODE