

**ELAN 5/7312 Teaching Poetry in Elementary and Middle School
with JoBeth Allen (jobethal@uga.edu, 542-4528)**

Welcome poets and teachers of poets! We'll use several structures to help our exploration of a poetic approach to life and learning ~

Poetry Workshop - we'll begin every class with reading and writing poetry. Bring in your favorites, spend some time gathering new poems, and try your hand at writing a wide variety of poetic forms.

Poetry Pedagogy - discussion of readings. In grade-level groups we'll discuss how to apply our readings with children of various ages, abilities, and needs.

Classroom Poetry Project - see next page - I'm excited about this!

Poetry Notebook - create a resource notebook that will include 1) your own poetry and reflections on yourself as a poet, 2) a resource section that included notes on your readings (which we will also use in pedagogy group discussion - bring each time (I do check ☺), 3) written response to attending a Poetry Event (poetry reading, open mic, or slam; Jacqueline Woodson's session at Children's Literature Conference), and 4) your Classroom Poetry Project

Options for Graduate Credit - read and report on an addition book (and integrate what you learn in your pedagogy group discussion and Classroom Poetry Project if relevant), create a poet study of your favorite poet, go to/report on 2 poetry sessions at the Children's Literature conference, present at the conference, create a poetry data base, or design your own option - make it meaningful!

All of you are encouraged to attend **poetry sessions at the Children's Lit Conference**. The 37th Children's Literature Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, April 21-22 at the Georgia Center. **As ELAN students you may attend the conference free!** (excluding the meal function).

Authors this year include **Linda Bailey & Bill Slavin**, co-winners of the 2005 Georgia Children's Storybook Award for *Stanley's Party*, **Jacqueline Woodson**, author of *Coming on Home Soon*, *Locomotion*, *Show Way*, **Karen Hesse**, author of *Out of the Dust*, **Jim Murphy**, author of *An American Plague* and *The Great Fire*, **Emily Arnold McCully**, author and illustrator of *Mirette on the High Wire*, *Picnic*. For more information on the conference go to <http://www.coe.uga.edu/gachildlit/>

Classroom Poetry Project

Option A: implement poetry practices directly with teachers at Chase Elementary School. We have a unique invitation to work directly with Chase teachers before and during April, which is National Poetry Month. Chase Street Elementary School is part of the Partnership for Community Learning Centers, a partnership of UGA, CCSD, and the Athens-Clark County community. The focus this year at Chase is Art and Poetry, with an emphasis on Folk Art.

Here are some of the exciting things you might be involved in:

- pairing with an individual teacher or grade level (including ESL, special education, possibly art, music, counseling, or PE) – all planning, instruction, gathering resources, and other involvement would be collaborative
- planning with that teacher or grade level for writing instruction, gathering books/poems, and other poetry experiences in April; planning might include
 - poet studies (e.g., Eloise Greenfield, Gary Soto, Nikki Grimes, or Jacqueline Woodson or Karen Hesse who will be here in April!)
 - poetry workshops
 - helping students link art and poetry
 - working one-to-one with students in conferences poetry centers like those we'll do in class
 - "awakening the heart" – helping kids write about important topics
 - writing/reading poetry in connection with a particular content area or unit (e.g., studying the ocean, responding to a novel, writing poetic biographies of famous people, etc.)
- creating displays of poetry throughout the school, and perhaps a school-wide anthology of poems written by teachers, staff, and students
- helping plan the Chase Poetry Picnic for parents and community members

Option B: implement poetry practices with your students if you teach

As we read and discuss various strategies, approaches, and practices, you can select those that seem most appropriate for your students. You'll write lesson plans, implement them, and reflect as you go on how your students respond and what you'll do differently next time.

If you are currently teaching, this is the most important thing you can do!

ELAN 5/7312 Teaching Poetry Syllabus Spring 2006

DATE FOCUS

PREPARATION, EVENTS

Jan 9	Poetry immersion; Poetry of Identity: I Am	Read, write, explore poetry and yourself
Jan 23	Poetry of Place: Where I'm From; poetic doors for ELLs	<i>A Note</i> , 9; Filbrandt or Vanwyhe; Lyon (read, bring to class)
Jan 30	Connecting Poetry and Art Important subjects and words	Grant (read thoroughly)
Feb 6	Hearing the poetry kids hear: Music/Poetry	<i>A Note</i> , 1 & 2; Project Planning
Feb 13	Reading poetry	<i>Awakening 2</i> ; Elster; Lenz
Feb 20	Writing & shaping poetry	<i>Awakening 3-4</i> & appendix A; <i>Bunce</i> ; Christensen - <i>Celebrating</i>
Feb 27	Discovering poetic moments	<i>A Note</i> , 3 & 4; Record "eavesdroppings" and "lists"
Mar 6	Building community; children's wonderings	<i>A Note</i> , 6; <i>Awakening 1</i> & p.108-116; <i>Plan poetry centers</i>
Mar 13	SPRING BREAK	READ A POEM! WRITE A POEM!
Mar 20	Poetic Environments	EXPERIENCE POETRY CENTERS
Mar 27	Poetry in schools	Guest Maisha Fisher! <i>Chose one by Fisher, one other from Comstock, Siemens, Five, Tsujimoto, or Christensen 1 & 2 - Poetry in HS...</i>
April 3	Poetry of social issues	<i>A Note</i> , 11; Merriam or Christensen - Poetry of Protest; skim Jordan or Strickland; Bring 2 poems Coffee House Poetry Reading
Apr 10	No Class	PROJECT WORK TIME
Apr 17	How Poetry Works	<i>A Note</i> - 5 and 8
Apr 21-22	Children's Literature Conference!	Present, attend, enjoy!
Apr 24	Connecting poetry &	<i>A Note</i> , 7; Christensen - Remember

	photography	Me, Forgiveness, and Praise Poems; Bring evocative photograph
May 1	Nature Poetry Celebration	FIELD TRIP to Botanical Gardens, <i>Awakening</i> p.91-108; <i>A Note</i> , 10 Poetry Notebooks Due

* Heard, *Awakening the Heart
Under the Door*

* Flynn & McPhillips, *A Note Slipped
Readings on WebCT by Author's Name*