

Dear Teachers and Administrators:

Great Prairie AEA is excited to announce 2020 Young Writers' Conference. On **Wednesday, March 11, 2020** (grades 6-12) conference will convene at William Penn University to honor student writers. *Teachers will be assigned to supervise sharing sessions.* Support from each of you has enabled us to plan an exciting event where students have an opportunity to share writing with peers and to hear from many communicators during workshop sessions. Thank you!

If a student needs special accommodations, contact the YWC Coordinator upon registering. In order to help us with our planning and scheduling, please note the registration deadline of January 27, 2020. The date is firm and will enable us to notify you of your students' schedules prior to the conference. Please return the student and adult registration information to the Young Writers' Conference building contact person.

REGISTRATIONS DUE TO GPAEA BY: January 27, 2020

1. *Registration forms are in the excel files attached to the email. If you are unable to open the attachments, download at www.gpaea.org website. (Under Programs & Services/Student Events/Young Writers' Conference)*
2. **Email two worksheets to complete registration for teachers and students:**
[YWC SEC TeacherParentReg2020](#) and [YWC SEC StudentReg2020](#)
3. *Complete the form: [YWC SEC TeacherParentReg2020](#) with district name, building, and all teachers/parents chaperoning to meet the student participant ratio requirements ratio of 1 adult to 8 students.*
4. *Complete the form: [YWC SEC StudentReg2020](#) with workshop choices for all students from each building(s). Use the student registration worksheet included in this packet to collect each student's workshop choices/parent permission for photo release. Schedule packets will be van mailed to the main contact.*
5. *Save and rename the excel files for each file with your buildingnameSECteacher.xls and buildingnameSECstudent.xls. Email by **deadline** to Lisa Sines at Lisa.sines@gpaea.org.*

A student participation fee of **\$2.00** can be paid by cash or purchase order/school check made payable to Great Prairie AEA. **Your registration is complete when sent to Lisa Sines, GPAEA, 2814 North Court Street, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501.**

Reminder: Because of the regulations of the fire marshal we need to keep the number of participants to the minimum. Do not bring more than the allotted number of students and remember the **ratio of 1 adult to 8 secondary students.** Please do not allow parents to come, unless they are registered as a chaperone to fulfill your adult/child ratio. Remember to select students who have not attended in the past to have the opportunity.

During the conference activities, students will attend a sharing session where they will read a piece of their best writing to a small group of students. They will be placed in a session with students of about their age from various districts. Each student is to bring **11** copies of a revised manuscript to the conference to share copies with other students and the teacher in their assigned sharing session. Copies should be clear and sharp with ample margins, typed, limited to 500 words and may be illustrated. **Please identify student work with: name of student, grade level, school and district in the upper right hand corner.** Students will have a compilation of manuscripts from their sharing session to take home.

Students and teachers need to bring a sack lunch or **Sodexo dining center is offering chicken nuggets, tater tots, vegetable and salad bar for \$4.00.** If interested in the chicken nuggets, please be sure to indicate a count on the teacher/parent form. If your school wants to pay by purchase order for the chicken nuggets, email a copy to Jeff Halverson at Sodexo Inc. at halversonjef@wmpenn.edu (phone at 641-673-1069). **On the day of the event, teachers/students can pick up or purchase wristbands for the chicken nuggets, by purchase order, cash or check until 10:00 am. Please plan for your students accordingly.**

Books: Books from the keynote author will be available at the conference for purchase.

Shirts: T-shirts/sweatshirts may be ordered ahead or available the day of the conference.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday, March 11!

Sincerely,
Lisa Sines
Carol Ryon
Young Writers' Coordinators

SECONDARY STUDENT WORKSHOP CHOICES

2020 Young Writers' Conference
Wednesday, March 11, 2020, William Penn University

Please select **THREE** workshops that you would like to attend during Young Writers' Conference in-group A and B. You will be scheduled for one in each group by availability in the sessions.

TEACHERS: IF A STUDENT NEEDS SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS, CONTACT THE COORDINATOR.

*******CHOOSE THREE FROM GROUP A*******

1. **“Share a Memory”** – Ashley Morton, Author - Write about a memory with a family member, friend, stuff animal or pet.
2. **“Puppetry for All Occasion”** – Crystal James, Retired Educator, English/Speech/Drama /Reading, Ottumwa, Iowa. We use puppetry very often at school, church, variety shows and on television. It's such a special part of our lives because we think, read, write and enjoy. In our class Mrs. James will provide materials to make your own puppet as well as share puppets from her own collection she has use to write puppet plays. We'll review 6 Traits of writing, fluency and special acting – speech ideas to make writing of puppet characters exciting.
3. **“Calligraphy: The Art of Elegant Writing”** – Lory Chaplin, Teacher, Davis County Community Schools, Bloomfield, Iowa. Learn the history of calligraphy or the art of beautiful writing. Ms. Camp will show examples, demonstrate, and guide as you learn to write your own name in elegant lettering.
4. **“Collaborate, Create & Perform”** - Storybook Players/Laura Ross, Oskaloosa High School, Oskaloosa, Iowa. Workshop participants will act out their own stories in small groups with Oskaloosa's own Storybook Players. The Storybook Players will first demonstrate how to turn writing into a performance before splitting participants into groups. The workshop concludes with small group performances.
5. **“Show vs Tell, How to do it Right”** – Winter Peck is a local author writing under the pen name, Winter Austin. Winter Peck, Winter Austin perpetually answers the question “were you born in the winter?” with a flat “nope.” Living in the middle of Nowheresville, Iowa, with her husband, four teenagers, and two crazy dogs, Winter is trying to juggle a career while writing romantic thrillers. Find Winter Austin at www.winteraustin.com, on Facebook, and on Twitter @WinterAustin_. Taking tips from *Understanding Show, Don't Tell (And Really Getting it)*, by Janice Hardy, the workshop will touch on important points in learning when to use show and when to use tell.

SECONDARY STUDENT WORKSHOP CHOICES

2020 Young Writers' Conference

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, William Penn University

*******CHOOSE THREE FROM GROUP B*******

6. **“Writing Visual Stories”** – William Penn Media. Students will use mobile technology (provided) to shoot video and interview people involved in a staged event on campus. After the event they will write and produce a short multimedia video using simple mobile applications.

7. **“Writing for Success”** – Bruce Carlson, President of Quixote Press, Heart’ N Tummies Cookbooks and Black Iron Cookin Co., Wever, Iowa.
Mr. Carlson is a president of three companies, book publisher, self-publisher consultant, and a writer. In this session, students will role-play and learn exercises from a publisher first hand on how to get your ideas published! Learn key principals important to publishers and writers that make the process successful!

8. **“On-Line Self-Publishing”** – Russ Fry, Retired, Author, Burlington, Iowa.
This workshop will show students a process for developing books and documentaries. It continues with the process for publishing your work using print on demand companies.

9. **“Prepare to Scare”** - Linda Fox, Retired Youth Services Librarian, Oskaloosa, IA.
This session will focus on the elements of storytelling, especially scary stories. Students will be asked to share experiences that could lead to great stories. Techniques in what makes a good storyteller will be emphasized. Mrs. Fox will share stories to raise your hair!

10. **“Becoming A Children's Book Author”** – Laci Morrissey, Author, LMHC, NCC Catalyst Country, LLC. Please join a newly published author and her illustrator in discussions about the wonderful world of children's books! Topics may include the writing process, illustration and design, publication submissions and the publishing process, as well as marketing and sales. Find out all the steps it took to become a children's book author!

STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM
(For parent/student to complete for teacher)
SECONDARY DAY – Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Please Print and Complete All Information.

Student's Name (PRINT CLEARLY) _____ Grade: _____

District: _____ School: _____ Teacher: _____

Workshop Choices			
Please indicate the number of workshop in each column below:			
Group A (1 - 5)		Group B (6 - 10)	
First Choice Workshop #		First Choice Workshop #	
Second Choice Workshop #		Second Choice Workshop #	
Third Choice Workshop #		Third Choice Workshop #	

Our Keynote Speaker this year for the Young Writers' Conference: Bob Kann

Registration Fee \$2.00

Students return form &/or fee to your teacher before January 15, for teachers to meet the closing of GPAEA registration on January 27.

By registering my child for Great Prairie Area Education Agency's (AEA) of Young Writer's Conference, I understand and give permission to Great Prairie AEA to develop and use media (audio recordings, still or motion pictures, video recordings, and/or digital recordings) of the individual being registered. The use of the media production may be a part of or associated with: public presentations; programs; publications; Internet publications; Web sites; GPAEA TV, including syndication with other educational organizations; agency social media sites; or other activities not specifically mentioned here. It is not necessary for me to review any finished products and I will not hold the Great Prairie Area Education Agency or the Great Prairie AEA staff producer as liable for any distortion, illusion, or alteration whether intentional or otherwise.

There are no restrictions to the full rights allowed Great Prairie AEA unless specifically noted, by me, within this paragraph (specified here):

Parent Signature _____ **Date:** _____

TEACHERS - BRING SIGNED PARENTAL FORM TO THE CONFERENCE!
TURN IN AT REGISTRATION SIGN IN!!

SHARING SESSION GUIDELINES

The purpose of the sharing session is simply to share. There will be no judging or comparative evaluation. Students should be prepared to present their manuscripts orally at the session, which will be limited to 8-10 students with a teacher or adult functioning as the facilitator. Sharing sessions are scheduled to be 45 minutes in length, therefore presentations should be limited to approximately four or five minutes for each participant. Your conference schedule will tell you when and where your sharing session will be held. Try to be at your session a little ahead of the scheduled time so that it can begin promptly.

The following guidelines are given to provide some uniformity and expectations for participants:

- 1) Furnish **11 copies** of your manuscript for distribution among the participants at the sharing session. The AEA will not be collecting copies this year.
- 2) Copies should be **clear and sharp, preferably typed and limited to 500 words**. Manuscripts may be illustrated. If your manuscript is poetry, please have at least 2 poems.
- 3) During your sharing session, you will be playing the role of audience most of the time. This will involve **listening and showing appreciation** for another's work for a majority of the sharing session.
- 4) **Come prepared to read your own manuscript.**
- 5) **Circle the parts you like** about someone's manuscript while they are reading it.
- 6) After the author reads, share with the writer your response to the piece. Some of the following statements may help to solicit **positive** and honest responses.
 - *I liked the part when you said...*
 - *I liked the characters' names because...*
 - *You had a good description of...*
 - *I thought the _____ part was funny.*
 - *I could clearly see the...*
 - *The way you said _____ was good.*
 - *Your choice of words was good in...*
 - *I liked the ending because... or when...*
 - *I was surprised by...*
 - *I felt sad when...*
 - *I liked the title because...*
- 7) Sometimes questions can offer student writers a positive response and cause them to look at their piece in a different way. Examples include:
 - *How did you get this idea for your story?*
 - *What is especially clear about _____'s piece?*
 - *What did you especially like about _____'s writing?*
- 8) The sharing session is meant to be enjoyed. We hope it will be viewed as a celebration of your creativity. So be enthusiastic about your writing and present it with the spirit it deserves!
- 9) **Teachers – Do not release students early from your sharing sessions. Plan ahead!**