

GRANT WOOD AEA YOUNG WRITERS' CONFERENCE

To: Elementary Principals & Teachers
From: Susie Green, Student Programs Specialist

Grant Wood AEA is pleased to announce that on Monday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., the 11th Annual Young Writers' Conference will be held for area 4th and 5th grade students. This event will be a special day for anyone who enjoys sharing and celebrating the creative writing of students. The conference will take place at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, and is limited to the first 180 students. Below are the details. We look forward to your participation!

General Information

Purpose: To celebrate creative writing and share student writing
Date: Monday, May 6, 2024
Location: Coe College, Cedar Rapids
Audience: 4th and 5th grade students (see *Selection Recommendations* below)
Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (check-in 9:10-9:30 a.m.)
Cost: \$15/student
Guest Presenter: Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre
What to bring: Each student should bring a sack lunch and a story/writing sample to share (2 copies)

Selection Recommendations

The Young Writers' Conference is designed to honor student authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers. These are students who have written, edited, illustrated and "published" (or are in the process of) a piece of creative writing within your classroom or school. When selecting students for this event, schools are urged to give consideration to students from all ability levels (and to consider avid readers, too).

Format

We are very excited to welcome The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company back to the Young Writers' Conference! The Theatre Company will provide an entertaining and interactive puppet show for our opening welcome. Students will participate in three (3) workshop sessions this year rotating with the other students from their school.* Workshops will be provided by Coe College education students and the Eulenspiegel Puppet staff. Lunch will be held on the Coe lawn (weather permitting), and students will also have an opportunity to share their personal writing piece with a partner or small group for feedback. Anticipated schedule below:

9:00-9:25 Check-in
9:25-10:25 Opening & Guest Presentation
10:35-11:00 Sharing Partners/Small Groups
11:00-11:25 Lunch
11:30-12:15 Workshop Rotation 1
12:20-1:05 Workshop Rotation 2*
1:10-2:05 Workshop Rotation 3 + Reflection
2:05 Schools Depart Campus

***if logistics permit, students will be given the opportunity to self-select Workshop Session 2.**

Registration instructions on the next page...

Registration Instructions 2024

Please review and follow the instructions below. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis until **April 1**, space permitting. If you have questions, contact Susie Green (319)399-6775, sgreen@gwaea.org.

Directions

1. Identify students and teachers to attend the conference. See *Selection Recommendations* on the previous page. A maximum of 15 students per school may register. (*As you select your students, I encourage you to include a diverse cross-section of your population.*)
2. Distribute *Student Registration Forms* to identified students (or email to parents).
 - ✓ Forms should be completed and returned with payment attached (**payable to your school**).
 - ✓ Limited financial assistance is available. Email Susie Green to request funds.
3. Collect registration forms and payments.
4. Complete the *School Registration Form*.
5. Submit the following to Grant Wood AEA via email or van mail by April 1st:
 - *School Registration Form*
 - *Individual Student Registration Forms*
 - Note: Payment may be sent later (see step 6)
6. Submit individual payments to your school secretary and request a Purchase Order or one check from your school payable to Grant Wood AEA to cover the registration fees.

Preparing Students for Sharing Partners/Groups

In order that students may be prepared and gain the most from the Sharing* portion of the day (10:35-11:00), teachers are asked to work with each student in the weeks leading up to the conference to:

1. prepare an original piece of writing (story, poem, etc.); and
2. practice reading his/her writing aloud (3 minutes max)

Students have the option to:

1. bring a completed piece of original writing to share for comments, *or*
2. bring an unfinished piece for input and future development (Students who elect to bring an unfinished piece should also come with 2 or 3 questions to ask their sharing partner for gathering input on the development of their story - setting, descriptions, character development, etc.)

Preparing Students for our Guest Presenters

Prior to the conference, we also ask teachers/students become familiar with the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company and visit their website www.owlglass.org. There will be time for questions at the end of the morning puppet show.

School Expectations

In the interest of safety and communication Grant Wood AEA requires schools to provide at least one teacher to accompany students to the conference. The teacher must remain on the Coe College campus during the conference and will be responsible for checking students in; alerting the conference staff of student absences; and, supporting his/her students as necessary while on campus (including serving as emergency contact).