

VATE VOICES

June 2017

Thank You for Reading Tori Otstot, Editor

Happy summer, teacher friends!

Hopefully you've already sunk well into summer relaxation mode – I know I have. Maybe you're reading, maybe you're sleeping, maybe you're cleaning, maybe you're traveling – maybe some of all of that. I hope you're definitely resting and recharging your batteries. We're keeping this edition light, but we have a few updates regarding board members, Literacy Explosion, and our fall conference we wanted to share.

See you in the fall!

Literacy Explosion Recap Cheryl Golden

On March 11, VATE hosted its annual Literacy Explosion event virtually. Literacy Explosion is a language arts festival designed to celebrate and promote the integration of literacy and 21st century learning skills. The Literacy Explosion encourages and rewards Virginia students' excellence in reading, writing, speaking, presenting, filming, drawing, and acting. Students from around the state read a book of their choice, completed a project based on the book and submitted it online for the competition. The categories for the projects were book cover, podcast, photo essay, book trailer, scene it or digital poster.

Winners from Seneca Ridge Middle School, Sterling, VA



Winners from George Wythe High School, Richmond, VA

Jashaun Hyde - 1st place Scene It
Isis Briscoe - 2nd place Scene It
Zahne Jones - 1st place - Book Trailer
Gabriela Junez- 2nd Place with Isis Briscoe Scene It



Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Public Relations Chair: Kathleen Leigh
Middle School School Member-At-Large: Heidi Branch

Open Positions

If you are interested in the position of **Professional Development Chair** or **VSRA (Virginia State Reading Association) Liaison**, please contact Kelly Trump at kahtrump@gmail.com for more information. We'd love to have you "on board"!

Student Submission
Lexie W., 7th grade, Amelia County Middle School

Everything I'll ever need

*Oh can't you see
That you're slowly killing me?
The way you walk and talk
Makes me weak.
You have no flaws
At least not that I can see.
You are made of gold
Or so I am told.
You make me so happy.
I look at you and see
Everything that I'll ever need.*

Call for Submissions: Virginia English Journal
Sean Ruday, Editor

Virginia English Journal
Winter 2018
"Who tells your story"

The brilliant musical *Hamilton* asks an important question about the nature of knowledge and storytelling: "Who tells your story?" This question, used in the play to address the idea that certain historical figures have had their stories told more than others, also raises important issues related to the English classroom.

Reflecting on the question "Who tells your story" can prompt us as English teachers to consider thought-provoking ideas, such as:

- What kinds of stories do our students most encounter?
- In what ways do the stories with which our students interact align with their lives?
- In what ways are these stories incongruous with our students' lives?
- How can we encourage and enable our students to tell their stories?
- What teaching ideas or practices have you used that can facilitate meaningful and personal writing from students?

In the Winter 2018 issue of the *Virginia English Journal*, we'll consider the importance of students reading and writing meaningful stories and celebrate teaching practices that lead to this important work. You are invited to submit a manuscript that addresses the importance of storytelling and the instructional methods that can make this possible.

This issue of the *Virginia English Journal* will contain three types of articles, described below:

Feature articles: These are longer articles of 3,000 to 5,000 words that blend research and practice, providing educators with theoretical understandings as well as practitioner-friendly ideas.

Great teaching ideas: Shorter articles of 1,000 to 2,000 words that focus on effective and innovative teaching practices that other educators can quickly put into action in their classes.

Promising young scholars: This section is designed for English and English Education majors interested in sharing their ideas with an audience of fellow educators. Articles in this section should blend research-based insights with practical suggestions for application and share unique perspectives on English instruction.

Submission deadline: November 1st, 2017

Please find additional submission guidelines at www.vate.org

We have a gorgeous new website! Please check it out at <http://vate.org/>



Virginia Association of Teachers of English


Please contact Peggy Gearhart at peggy.gearhart@lcps.org to update your email and post office address so that you will not miss a publication or announcement. Encourage others to join VATE online at www.vate.org.

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The Virginia Association of Teachers of English is committed to enhancing the quality of the teaching of English and language arts in the Commonwealth.

THE VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS PRESENTS ITS 2017 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE:

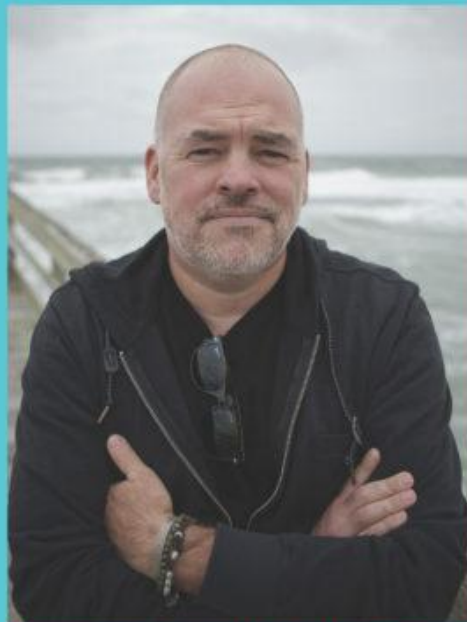


#LOVELEARNVATE: EMPOWERING TEACHERS, EMPOWERING STUDENTS

FEATURING:



JOCELYN CHADWICK
NCTE PRESIDENT-ELECT



MATTHEW QUICK
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



FREYJA BERGTHORSON
VEA TEACHER TRAINER

OCTOBER 20-22, 2017

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AND CONFERENCE
CENTER
FREDERICKSBURG, VA**

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VISIT
WWW.VATE.ORG**



VATE Socials

Come and get to know the members
of VATE or more about the
organization!

Social Opportunity

June 23, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Hardywood Brewery
2408 Ownby Ln
Richmond, VA 23220

The social is family friendly. There will be food trucks and a relaxed environment for you to come and hang out with other English teachers and board members. Optional: Bring a chair or a blanket