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2009 Booklist

7th-9th Grades

Kids on Strike!

Susan Campbell Bartoletti

A Mango-Shaped Space

Wendy Mass

A Long Way from Chicago

Richard Peck

Blue Skin of the Sea

Graham Salisbury

Under the Blood-Red Sun

Graham Salisbury

Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie

Jordan Sonnenblick

The New Policeman

Kate Thompson

10th-12th Grades

Kids on Strike!

Susan Campbell Bartoletti

The Warrior Heir

Cinda W. Chima

Runner

Carl Deuker

Keesha's House

Helen Frost

Eyes of the Emperor

Graham Salisbury

Blue Skin of the Sea

Graham Salisbury

The Book Thief

Markus Zusak

A special thanks to
Kathy Leeper and **Ken Borowicz**,
YSU Graphic Services,
for their artistic design of our 2009 cover,
update of our Festival logo
and for their help in the production of this
document.

Information for Students

The following information will help you to decide whether you want to go to the English Festival at YSU this year—and, if you are going to the Festival, to help you to prepare for and to benefit from the activities.


After your teacher gives you an overview of the Festival, you will be asked if you are interested in attending. **To be invited (or to be an alternate), you must make a commitment to read all the Festival books for your grade level by late February.**

From those who make such a commitment, your teacher will choose up to 35 student participants if you're a 10th–12th grader, or up to 30 student participants if you're a 7th–9th grader, and several alternates, giving preference to those who have never attended the Festival before and to those who have never won a major Festival prize.

Registration for each day of the Festival is limited to approximately 1,000 students. There is a non-refundable school registration fee of \$8 per student (\$10 if out of district).

Eligibility

Registration



To register for the Festival, you must demonstrate to your teacher (probably by taking a written or oral quiz) that you have completed the required reading on schedule.

In early January, you will be tested on four of the books to see if you've read them and on the other three by the end of February.

When you register, you will be expected to sign a statement that you have read the Festival books, that you will conform to the Festival's policy on acceptable behavior, and that you will attend all your scheduled sessions.

Any infractions of these rules will be reported to your principal.

Festival Activities

At the Festival, you will follow a prearranged schedule called a “track.” Your teacher may ask you which track you prefer, so read the descriptions of the various activities. Along with all other participants, you will hear the featured author-lecturer and have a break for lunch. In addition to the Awards Ceremony, you will participate in four of the following:

Visiting Lecturers. Faculty or administrators from other universities often lead special sessions at the Festival on topics dealing with concerns about writing or reading or on topics deriving from the Festival Booklist. Some of these sessions are intended for faculty, teachers, librarians, and parents.

Impromptu Writing Contests. These contests are held on the day of the Festival. You are allowed fifty minutes to deal with a topic that is given to you at the beginning of the session. You are limited not only in time but also in how much you can write. You are allowed to write only on the front and back of one sheet of paper. You may not bring notes or paper to the competition. Topics may require you to explain, criticize, compare, contrast, or argue points of plot,



Starting on top of the rock: featured authors Chris Crutcher, Scott Dikkers, Joan Bauer, and Naomi Shihib Nye, escorted by Festival committee member Patricia Hauschildt on far left

characterization, theme, setting, etc., in various Festival books, or they may require you to describe situations beyond the stories—for example, to create a conversation between two characters from different Festival books.

The highest scores go to those who answer the questions directly and creatively, offer the most appropriate specific details to support points, organize material well, and use standard spelling, punctuation, etc. The essays are identified by code numbers only, so no judge knows either the students' names or their schools. Papers are graded by holistic and trait analysis scoring systems.

Writing Games. In Writing Games, you work with other students on a task that necessitates pooling your understanding of a book or books on the Festival Booklist and responding imaginatively, according to rules given to you at the beginning of the session.

Writing Games reward not only reading and writing skills but also ingenuity and the ability to cooperate. For example, one Writing Game might ask teams to develop promotional campaigns for books they have read. To do that, each team would have to prepare a brief news release to booksellers, describing its book, a marketing slogan, a newspaper ad for it, etc. The results are judged on the basis of how imaginative the projects are and how skillfully the teams followed instructions while working within a strict time limit. Entries are coded and judged anonymously, using a trait analysis scoring system.

Poetry Workshops. Poetry Workshops encourage creative responses through varied innovative activities.

Prose Workshops. Prose Workshops, concerned with generating ideas and using creativity, engage you in exercises that tap your imaginative and critical abilities.

Journalism Workshop. Journalism Workshop introduces you to journalistic interviewing techniques by having you participate in a “press conference” with the Thomas and Carol Gay Memorial Lecturer, the James A. Houck Memorial Lecturer, or another noted writer, and then having you write up the interview for publication. Entries are judged anonymously.

Writing Labs. Festival Writing Labs encourage learning about writing through a group activity writing task based on the Festival Booklist. The labs are conducted by university and high school faculty working together and are noncompetitive.

Insights. Insights sessions give you the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about selected books on the Festival Booklist. Insights into the creative process,



background material on the books, and provocative critical approaches to them are some of the things you might gain from these sessions.

Not-So-Trivial Pursuit.

Teams of students compete in an exciting, challenging game that tests your memory and attention to detail by requiring you to answer extremely specific questions

about characters, events, locations, names, and who-knows-what in Festival books.

Performances. Reading poems and plays provides a special enjoyment, but hearing them read or performed by accomplished performers heightens enjoyment. Theatrical and musical performances expand the appreciation of art.

Supplies

You will need reliable pens or pencils. You will not need paper since it will be supplied to you when necessary. Do not bring any books, notes, or dictionaries.

Entries

All entries in Festival competitions **except the art and music competitions** become the property of YSU. None can be returned. The University reserves the right to publish any of the entries submitted, with credit given to their authors.

Attendance

If you attend all your scheduled sessions, you will receive an English Festival attendance certificate signed by your teacher.

You must attend all the sessions for which you are scheduled.

No changes are permitted.

Monitors will take attendance.

If you do not attend your scheduled sessions, your principal will be informed.

Certificates and Awards

Special certificates, gift certificates, savings bonds, T-shirts, books, dictionaries, and money are given as prizes for Festival competitions. All prizes are awarded at a ceremony in Kilcawley Center from 3:15–3:45 p.m. on each day of the Festival. Prize winners will come on to the stage to receive their awards and the congratulations of the author-lecturer, the visiting lecturer, Board members, and Committee members. The prize-winning Candace Gay Memorial Awards, the prize-winning Impromptu Writing essays, Journalism Workshop articles, and the Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers are printed in *A Festival of Writing*, a copy of which is provided to each participating school the following fall

Festival Art Contest

All students at schools eligible for the 2009 English Festival are invited to enter the Festival Art Contest by submitting two-dimensional artwork. Each entry must be an illustration suitable for the cover of a Festival book and must be the student's original work.

Artwork may be in any medium and in any style. Entries will be judged on their originality, artistic merit, and appropriateness to the book being illustrated.

Entries should be vertical in format and should contain the author and the title of the book, either on the artwork or on an overlay. Entries cannot be copied from other artwork or photographs unless the photograph is one taken by the student (please tape to back of entry).

Every entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet attached to the back of the submission that indicates the student's name, grade, school, English teacher, and the book or poems being illustrated. Students may submit more than one entry, but no student may win more than one prize.

Multiple prizes will be awarded for 7th–9th and for 10th–12th. Winning entries will be displayed on the YSU campus during the week of the 2009 English Festival, after which they may be picked up. All other entries may be picked up after 2:00 p.m. each day of the Festival.

We reserve the right to copy art work for display on our web page or in our publications, with credit to the artist.

Send entries and cover sheets by February 2, 2009, to

Melanie Loew
YSU English Festival Art Contest
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award

The Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards, established by Gary, Kathy, and Matthew Salvner in memory of their late son and brother Jeremy, are awarded to junior and senior high students attending the English Festival for original musical compositions inspired by one or more books on the English Festival list.

Original musical compositions may be submitted by individuals or by groups of no more than five (who will then share in any prize awarded to the group). Compositions may be either vocal or instrumental and must be no more than ten minutes long.

Vocal compositions must be recorded (accompanied by any instrumentation) and submitted on CD, and should be accompanied by written lyrics of the composition. Instrumental compositions must be recorded using solo or ensemble instruments (any instruments are allowed) and submitted on CD.

All entries must be titled, and each submitted CD must be labeled with the musical work's title, names of book(s) that inspired the work, and the names, grades, and schools of composers/performers written onto the CD.

Each entry must also be accompanied by a statement of no more than 250 words that explains how the composition is inspired by (or reflective of) characters, settings, events, situations, themes, and/or moods of a particular book or books on this year's English Festival reading list. This statement must also contain the title of the work and names, grades, and schools of composers/performers.

Entries will be judged by a committee of YSU Dana School of Music faculty, other music professionals, and at least one member of the English Festival Committee. Separate prizes are given at the junior-high and senior-high levels.



Jeremy Salvner
(1976-2005)

Entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

- ❖ Musicality of the composition;
- ❖ Originality of the composition;
- ❖ Effectiveness of the lyrics (in the case of vocal compositions);
- ❖ Effectiveness in capturing events, situations, characters, themes, or moods in a Festival book or books.

Entries to the Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards may not be returned. We reserve the right to use excerpts of winning compositions on our website and in other English Festival publicity, with credit given to the artists.

Send musical entries and accompanying essays by February 2, 2009, to

Melanie Loew

Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards
YSU English Festival
English Department
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44555



Guidelines for the 2009 Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest

Candace Gay Memorial Awards, established in 1978 by Professors Thomas and Carol Gay in memory of their thirteen-year-old daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, are given to junior and senior high school students who exhibit distinctive writing ability in the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest.

More than \$2,500 in prizes is distributed each year in the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest.



**Candace McIntyre
Gay**

*Mike Stoffa. Oil on canvas, 1978,
Rockport, Massachusetts*

Writing Your Essay

Families come in many varieties. Discuss the ways families are important in at least two of this year's Festival books.

You need not register for or attend the Festival to participate in this competition, nor do you have to submit an entry to participate in the Festival (see "Instructions for Teachers" on page 11).

Your entry will be judged by how well you:

- ◆ Establish a purpose for your entry
- ◆ Organize and develop your ideas.
- ◆ Support your discussion with accurate and appropriate details from the books.
- ◆ Use language, including conventional grammar and spelling.

Your entry will not be considered unless you

- ◆ Submit only one paper.
- ◆ Type or print your paper, double-spaced on unlined white paper, or hand-write your paper in ink on only one side of lined 8 1/2 x 11" white paper.
- ◆ Leave 1" margins on all sides, and number the pages.
- ◆ Write your paper with no help from your teacher, parents, or anyone else. Use only your own ideas about the books, and put those ideas in your own words.
- ◆ Enclose all direct quotations in quotation marks and cite page numbers in your text for those quotations.
- ◆ Limit your entry to 750-1000 words. (Papers that are significantly shorter or longer are disqualified).
- ◆ Create a title page that includes the following information (Do not provide any of this information anywhere else in your essay):
 - The title of your entry
 - Your name (no nicknames or shortened forms of first names)
 - Your full address
 - Your age and grade
 - Your teacher's first and last name
 - Your principal's first and last name
 - The full name of your school

**Submitting
Your Entry**



English Festival Information — 2009

- ◆ At the bottom of the title page, write the following statement and sign your name beneath it:

I have received no direct help on this paper from my teachers, parents, or anyone else.

- ◆ Below the statement printed above on your title page write the following statement and have your teacher sign his/her name beneath that.

This essay was not written as a class assignment, and I have not directly helped the student with this essay in any way.

- ◆ Postmark your entry by February 2, 2009 and address it as follows:

Melanie Loew

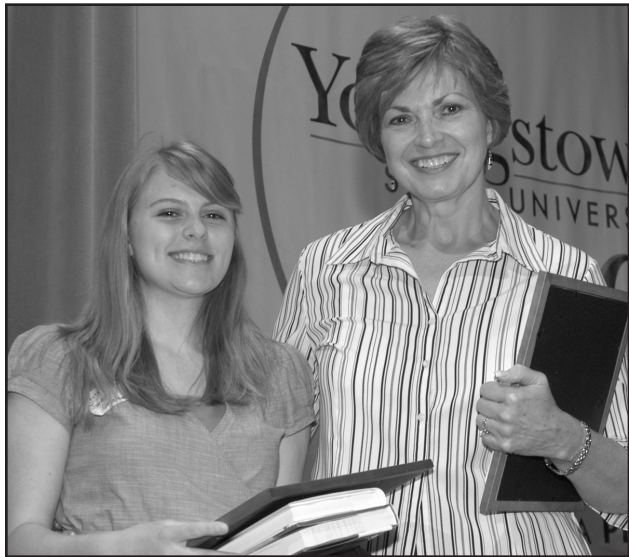
The Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest
Department of English
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44555

Entries cannot be returned. All entries become the property of YSU. The University reserves the right to publish any of the entries submitted, with credit given to authors.

Important: Although no social security number is required on the cover sheet, winners will be given a voucher that will require a social security number in accordance with university regulations.

First, second, and third prize-winners must also submit an electronic copy of their essays no later than May 1, 2009.

The latter should be emailed as an attachment to info@ysuenglishfestival.org.



Instructions for Teachers

General Instructions

- ◆ Please invite **all** your students, **not only your best students**, to attend the English Festival since it is designed to encourage reading among all students as well as to reward superior reading, writing, and thinking.
- ◆ Please give preference to those who have never attended the Festival and to those who have never won a major Festival prize. We would like as many students as possible to have the opportunity to participate in the Festival.
- ◆ When you share the Festival Booklist with your students, explain that the books are selected with an emphasis on readability and breadth of interest.
- ◆ Do not prepare your students for the Festival by teaching the literary qualities of the books. Coaching undermines the purpose and effectiveness of the Festival and suggests to the students that winning is more important than their reading and writing abilities.

You may, however, encourage students by talking to them and arranging for them to talk to one another about the impact the books have had on them and on the significance of this literature to their lives.

- ◆ Encourage your students to submit entries to the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest by the deadline. Do not help them write or revise the essay, and do not grade it.

Do not make the writing of the Candace Gay Essay Contest a class assignment or a requirement for Festival attendance.

As you know, the best way to help students prepare for Festival competitions is to give them regular writing assignments. The more students write, the more proficient they become at writing and the more at ease they feel when called upon to write.

- ◆ Consider entering the Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers competition so that you can tell your students that you, too, are writing.
- ◆ Explain that the success and benefits of the Festival depend on the cooperation and enthusiasm of those attending. Tell them that each year many students who wish to participate are turned away because all places have been filled.

- ◆ Ensure that your students attend the sessions for which they are scheduled. Names of those who fail to attend their scheduled sessions will be reported to your principal.

Important Dates

October: You will receive the 2009 booklist and other information. Each school chooses a teacher to serve as its Festival contact person. This individual receives all further materials and coordinates Festival arrangements within the school.

When you receive the Festival Booklist, tell your students about the Festival. Make sure that any students who want to attend clearly understand that they are making a commitment to read all the books for their grade level by late February. To help them make up their minds about this year's Festival, share the material in the "Information for Students" at the beginning of this booklet.



Joan Bauer, one of the featured authors at 2008 Festival

November 3 - November 18: The Festival contact person for your school completes School Registration and contact information **online**. For details, see the English Festival web site: <http://www.yсуenglishfestival.org>.

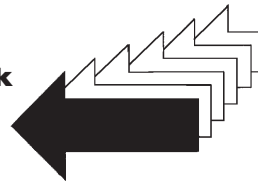
November 12-19: **After registering**, the contact person or an authorized school representative picks up Information Booklets for your school's teachers and students, bookmarks, and the directions for completing a Judges/Monitors Registration form **online**. The representative should bring a non-refundable check for the full amount to the YSU English Department, DeBartolo 202. **Dropoffs can be made on November 12-19 between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. DO NOT** plan to pick up materials on the same day you complete online registration. Parking in the Lincoln Deck costs \$5.00.

- ✓ In **November**, decide which of your interested students will be invited to attend the Festival and which will be alternates. If possible, keep a list of enough alternates to substitute for students who fail to read all the books or

who cannot attend the Festival for some other reason.

- ✓ **By the end of November.** decide which four of the seven books you are going to test the students on first, and announce this decision to those who will be attending so that they can start reading.
- ✓ **Before Christmas vacation,** tell your students about the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest, which is an invaluable writing and learning experience that lends prestige both to the recipients of the awards and to their schools, and the art and music contests. Entries must be postmarked or hand-delivered by February 2, 2009. Students entering this competition **need not** be Festival registrants.
- ✓ **After Christmas vacation,** give your invited students and their alternates a quiz on the four Festival books to determine if they have read them. The quiz should ***not*** be an examination of how well they comprehend or appreciate the books but simply a means to verify their reading.
Replace those who fail the quiz with alternates who have passed. Any student who has not read the required four books by this time is not eligible to attend the Festival.
- ✓ **Before the February 2nd deadline** for reporting your final count of students who will be attending the Festival, give the remaining students a quiz on the other three books to determine whether they have read them. Again, replace those who are disqualified with qualified alternates. Anyone who comes to the Festival must have passed **both** quizzes. **Bring only those students to the Festival who have read the required books.**

February 2: is the **deadline** for submitting artwork for the Festival Art Contest, Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Contest, essays for the Candace Gay Memorial Awards, and essays for the Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers. Judges'/Monitors' Registration forms and the Final Count of Student Registration form are also due.



March 25 or 26: If you are serving as a judge or monitor, you must attend a training session on **March 25 or March 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** in the Kilcawley Ohio Room, even if you have attended training sessions for past Festivals. Judges and monitors must remain for the entire session even if they have attended training sessions in the past.

Schools that fail to send the appropriate number of judges or monitors to those sessions will not be allowed to attend the Festival the following year. See pages 21–22 for further information about judges and monitors.

Pick up Student Registration forms for your school, Festival programs, name tags for students, attendance certificates and detailed instructions at the Judges' Training Sessions. We will not mail this material.

- ✓ **Before you come to the Festival**, fill in your school's Student Registration form(s) online, the name tags for your students (be sure to include the student's track), and the participation certificates according to the instructions provided.

April 1, 2 or 3 — 2009 English Festival:

Give each student a name tag to wear; make sure all students have their name tags conspicuously displayed to facilitate attendance-taking; bring emergency information about each of your students. Take the Student Registration form(s) and your personal schedule for the Festival day to the Festival Information Desk outside the Kilcawley Chestnut Room before 9:00 a.m. on the day your school attends the Festival. Enjoy the morning, and remember to attend the judging or monitoring that you've signed up for. We need you!

- ✓ After the Festival, verify that your students attended their scheduled activities, and give those who did a signed certificate.

Due Dates in Brief

October: Schools receive 2009 booklist and School Registration forms.

November 3 - 18: Schools register online.

November 12 - 19: After registering, schools make payments, receive Information booklets, Festival of Writing books, and directions for completing the online judge/monitor forms.

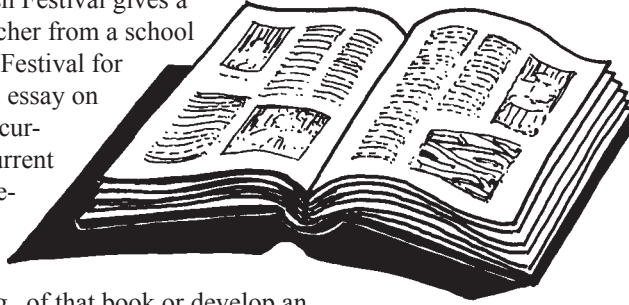
February 2: Deadline for submitting entries for Festival Art Competition, Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Contest, Candace Gay Memorial Award, Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers, judge/monitor forms, and final count forms.

March 25 or 26: Judges and monitors attend one of two training sessions (required).

April 1, 2 or 3: English Festival 2009

The Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers

Each year, the English Festival gives a cash award to a teacher from a school participating in the Festival for submitting the best critical essay on any Festival book, past or current, or any book by the current Thomas and Carol Gay Memorial Lecturer.



The essay should deepen our understanding of that book or develop an interesting pedagogical approach to it. Since your audience is fellow teachers, helpful models for your essay may be found in publications such as *The ALAN Review*, *English Journal*, or *Ohio Journal of the English Language Arts*.

Essays must be no shorter than six and no longer than twelve typewritten pages and must follow current Modern Language Association format. Your name, social security number, mailing address, and school must appear only on the cover sheet. If you are a prize winner, you will be asked to submit an electronic copy of your essay.

Essays must be postmarked (or hand-delivered) by February 2, 2009, and addressed as follows:

Melanie Loew
YSU English Festival Committee
Department of English
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, Ohio 44555

If you want your manuscript returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you are a winner, you will be asked to supply an electronic copy of your manuscript.

If you want your manuscript returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you are a winner, you will be asked to supply an electronic copy of your manuscript.

General Information

Description of the Festival

The YSU English Festival is a unique annual program reaching out to approximately 3,000 junior and senior high school students from Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties in Ohio, and Mercer and Lawrence counties in Pennsylvania, their teachers and parents, area librarians, and other members of the community who are interested in promoting and cultivating reading and writing.

Though the English Festival occurs in the spring, its effects are felt throughout the year. Each fall nearly 200 middle and high schools in the greater Youngstown area receive invitations to bring students to the YSU English Festival. To attend, students must read seven books, and teachers monitor their reading progress throughout the year.

As the Festival approaches, several hundred students will write essays for the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest. Others will prepare original artwork for the Festival Art Contest. Thousands of students will read the seven books for their age group. Meanwhile, the teachers prepare for their jobs as writing judges or session leaders.

The week before the Festival, over 200 teachers, parents, and librarians will come to campus to receive final Festival materials and to be trained in holistic and analytic trait methods for assessing writing (used to judge students' writing efforts) or to be oriented to their jobs as session leaders or monitors. And then Festival week will begin.

The YSU English Festival is so large that it takes three days to complete. Separate groups of nearly 1,000 students (10th–12th graders on one day, 7th–9th graders on two others) attend on each day, filling every available room in the University's student center and several campus auditoriums. They will listen to a noted author or authors of some of the books they have read, write impromptu essays, collaborate on writing games and workshop activities, attend dramatic or artistic performances, participate in "insight" book discussions, and try their skills at language games and "not-so-trivial pursuit" competitions.

Attending teachers, too, will be busy. They will hear the featured author and other speakers (including national and international experts on young adult literature or English teaching), assist with or lead student sessions, and then, about noon, gather to evaluate the many student compositions written that morning.

By 3:15 p.m. all of the nearly fifty separate daily sessions will be finished, about 750 student writings will have been evaluated (the best having been read by at least four different judges), and everyone will gather for a final awards ceremony, just managing to pack into the largest room in the University's student center.

In keeping with the English Festival's aim to encourage and reward reading and writing among many students rather than just a select few outstanding ones, each day's awards ceremony recognizes more than 200 worthy prizewinners, almost all of whom will come to the stage to shake the hand of Festival authors and committee members and to receive certificates and prizes such as books, Festival T-shirts, gift certificates, savings bonds, and cash awards. Over each year's three-day Festival, more than \$18,000 in prizes is given away.

The Festival originated in the fall of 1978, when Professor Thomas Gay and Dr. Carol Gay of YSU's Department of English established a memorial fund in memory of their daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, who died of cancer in 1977 when she was thirteen.

Because of their involvement in the teaching of writing and literature and because of their longtime interest in furthering fruitful communication between area schools and the University, they decided to set up awards for area junior and senior high school students to reward distinctive writing based upon careful reading and to present the awards on a special day at the University.

The idea was endorsed by the English Department, and a committee was formed, consisting of the Gays, and Professors James Houck, Janet Knapp, and Gary Salvner, to establish the competition and an awards ceremony.

Before long, an entire program of activities was conceived, an advisory board of area educators and community leaders was formed, and an English Festival day was scheduled for the spring of 1979.

The response was so overwhelming that, within three years, the one-day program was expanded to three days. But even in three days, the Festival has not been able to



Christopher Paul Curtis, one of the featured authors at the 2008 Festival

meet the demand of interested students, and each year, many are turned away. At the same time, the Festival has received wide-ranging national attention in a number of ways.

A 1982 notice in the *English Journal* evoked responses from all over the country and Canada. Since then, English Festivals modeled on YSU's have been started

History of the Festival

in many other states and in the Philippines. Scholarly articles about the YSU English Festival have been published in journals such as *Children's Literature in Education*, *The ALAN Review*, *Focus*, the *Ohio Journal of the English Language Arts*, and the *Kentucky English Bulletin*.

The Festival has also been discussed in various books about school-college cooperative programs, including *School-College Collaborative Programs* (ed. Ron Fortune), published by the Modern Language Association in 1986. In addition, Festival Committee members have delivered numerous presentations about the YSU English Festival at state and national conferences.

To celebrate the Festival's twentieth anniversary (1998), the Festival Committee members, with the help of the advisory board, organized a conference entitled "Challenges in Young Adult Literature: The First 20 Years Are the Hardest." Participants from all over the world attended to hear nationally prominent panelists and the five featured authors: Sue Ellen Bridgers, Bruce Brooks, Robert Cormier, Chris Crutcher, and M. E. Kerr.

In 2004, the English Festival received the prestigious Intellectual Freedom Award from the National Council of Teachers of English for its efforts to encourage a broad range of reading experiences for young people.

Aims of the Festival

The English Festival Committee strongly believes that

- ◆ reading and writing are activities that, in themselves, provide pleasure and satisfaction for young people.
- ◆ reading and writing can help young people discover themselves and the world.
- ◆ reading and writing are language activities for everyone, and that all students—not just the very best—should be encouraged to develop them.
- ◆ reading and writing, while both intensely personal, are effectively learned in social contexts, in the interaction of student with student and student with teacher.

Therefore, the Committee's purpose each year is to

- ◆ provide an exciting and stimulating setting for enjoyable and worthwhile reading and writing activities.
- ◆ support teachers who emphasize reading and writing in the classroom.
- ◆ offer models for effective classroom activities.
- ◆ involve the whole community in fostering good reading and writing skills.
- ◆ recognize and reward distinctive writing.
- ◆ introduce students to a wide variety of superior books of broad interest.
- ◆ encourage parents to help their children obtain Festival books, to read the books, and to discuss them with the children.
- ◆ bring to the community authors who can help teachers, librarians, and parents stimulate children's interest in reading and writing.

- ◆ build through the Festival Booklists a common body of shared reading experiences.
- ◆ help students become lifelong readers.

Nearly 1,000 students register for the Festival each of the three days. Because of the popularity of the Festival, no more than thirty-five 10th–12th graders or thirty 7th–9th graders from any school on any one day can be accommodated.

A **non-refundable** School Registration fee of \$8.00 per student, payable by check made out to Youngstown State University, is due on Festival pick-up days in November.

The Student Registration form is distributed at the Judges’ Training Sessions on April 9 or 10. In filling out this form, teachers assign each student to a particular “track” or prearranged schedule. No two students from the same school are likely to follow exactly the same schedule.

Festival programs, blank name tags, and attendance certificates are also distributed at the training sessions for judges.

The completed Student Registration form is due at the Festival Information Desk outside the Kilcawley Chestnut Room when each school arrives on campus on the morning of the Festival, before 9:00 a.m.

Students must attend the sessions for which they are scheduled; no changes are permitted.

In its three days the Festival comprises 144 sessions, sequential and concurrent, involving the following activities:

Visiting Lecturers	Journalism Workshops
Impromptu Writing Contests	Writing Labs
Writing Games	Insights
Artistic Performances	Not-So-Trivial Pursuit Contests
Poetry Workshops	Prose Workshops

For a detailed description of these activities, refer to the earlier section entitled “Information for Students,” pages 3–7.

Judging of all Festival competitions, except the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest and the Barbara Brothers Writing Award for Teachers, is done by members of the YSU English Department, area teachers, substitutes, librarians, administrators, retired teachers, and qualified parents. The Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest is judged by the Festival Committee itself, the Barbara Brothers competition by a specially selected committee.

Before the Festival, judges read the Festival books for the grade level they will be judging and participate in a training session at YSU on holistic and trait analysis

**Registration
and
Attendance**

**Festival
Activities**

**Judging and
Monitoring**

scoring methods, systems of assessment perfected and used for numerous state and national writing tests. At the Festival, judges first evaluate papers holistically.

The best papers are re-read, using trait scoring methods, and evaluated according to ideas, style, mechanics, and use of specific evidence from the books. Papers with the highest scores are declared the winners.

Judges and monitors MUST attend a training session each year, regardless of the number of training sessions they have attended in the past, since each year's judging is based on different scoring models. The training sessions for 2009 are March 25 or 26 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Ohio Room at Kilcawley Center. Judges and monitors must remain for the entire session.

Number of Judges and Monitors

Each school **must** provide judges for each day the school attends, according to the following formula:

- ◆ 1–18 students attending— you need one judge.
- ◆ 19 or more students attending—you need two judges.

Participating schools **must** provide one Festival monitor for each day the school attends. Any adult who attends a training session at 4:00 p.m. on March 25 or 26 may serve as a monitor. Parents are urged to volunteer their services.

The number of judges and monitors a school is obligated to supply is not affected by the number of teachers from that school who volunteer to run sessions at the Festival, such as Insights or Not-So-Trivial Pursuit.

Book-Selection Policy

As teachers and librarians have long recognized, students who enjoy what they read will read more. And the more they read, the better they read; they develop larger vocabularies, a greater sensitivity to language, and a keener sense of form, all qualities that result in greater effectiveness in writing.

The Festival committee, therefore, selects books that have not only high literary quality but also an appeal for junior- and senior-high school students—books that represent the best in young adult literature. The committee's aim in selecting its booklist and in planning all Festival activities is neither to have the students accumulate a particular body of knowledge (as they might, for example, by reading the Great Books series), nor to have them study the standard classics of English or American literature, which are ordinarily a part of the regular school curriculum.

The aims are to encourage students to read more, thereby improving all of their communication skills; to enhance their interest and enjoyment in reading, thereby building pleasurable and positive associations with reading as an activity; to indicate

an integral part of their lives; to introduce students to authors and works of sufficient calibre to lead students to a recognition of and respect for writing of high quality; and to develop a lifelong taste for works of superior literary quality.

To achieve these aims, the Committee chooses contemporary works or seldom-taught “classics” of earlier periods that will ordinarily not be encountered in school classrooms.

The preponderance of contemporary works is partly dictated by the practical consideration of the availability of inexpensive paperback editions, partly by the desire to impress upon students that “literature” is not composed merely of works from the past but is being created now.

In choosing works that will fulfill the aims of the reading list, the Festival Committee draws upon such standard sources as the Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association and the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English and on recommendations made by YSU faculty, area teachers, and students.

Every spring, the English Festival Book Selection Subcommittee recommends a list of 18–20 books to be read by the English Festival Committee for the following year’s Festival.

This list includes works by the guest author and by other noted authors in the field of young-adult literature. Factors considered in book selection include literary quality, cultural diversity, gender of authors and protagonists, historical period, genre, reading level, and cost.

English Festival Advisory Board Members are invited to read the books during the summer and to suggest which ones are both valuable and appropriate for young readers.

The final selection is made in early September by the Festival committee. The Booklist is made up of seven books for 7th–9th graders and seven for 10th–12th graders, with some duplication of titles.



The committee informs local bookstores and area libraries of the Festival Booklist. The Youngstown and Warren public libraries have each year purchased extra copies of the Festival books, as have many school libraries.

Donating to the Festival

Though the University makes a significant contribution in terms of the services and space it provides to our program, and the school registration fee generates part of the money needed to meet the operating expenses that such a large undertaking entails, the Festival depends upon the generosity of the many firms, institutions, and individuals who help us with those expenses and who provide the prizes that are an important incentive to its continuing success.

The Festival Committee is grateful to those supporters and solicits the support of others who appreciate the Festival's impact upon our community. You are invited to contribute to any or all of the following funds, each of which directly benefits the Festival:

- ◆ **The English Festival Fund:** Contributions to this fund are used to provide cash and other prizes, and to pay for normal costs of the Festival, including printing, mailing, travel, and staffing. This fund is the general operating budget for each year's Festival.
- ◆ **The Thomas and Carol Gay Memorial English Festival Lecturer Fund:** Created upon the death of Dr. Carol Gay on December 18, 1985, the Carol Gay Memorial Lecturer Fund was established by her husband, Professor Thomas Gay. Upon the retirement of Professor Thomas Gay from YSU in 1994, the fund was renamed the Thomas and Carol Gay English Festival Lecturer Fund. The Festival Committee added "Memorial" upon the death of Prof. Gay on July 7, 2000. Thomas and Carol Gay were the founders of the English Festival and served as its first two chairs.

Each year the fund sponsors the Festival's featured author-lecturer, a prominent writer of books for young people, who is invited to talk to students, teachers, librarians, and parents in sessions throughout the day and who is identified as the Thomas and Carol Gay Lecturer.
- ◆ **The Candace Gay Memorial Awards Fund:** Established in 1978 by Professors Thomas and Carol Gay in memory of their thirteen-year-old daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, this Fund supports the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest. The winners of this contest exhibit distinctive writing ability. More than \$2,500 in prizes is distributed each year.
- ◆ **The James A. Houck Memorial English Festival Endowment Fund:** The English Festival Committee created this fund in memory of Professor James A. Houck, a founding member of the English Festival committee. This fund supports special Festival events and activities that are unique from year to year., but in most cases, the fund sponsors a "James Houck Lecturer" who delivers presentations to students and adults at the Festival



All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Checks should be made out to **Youngstown State University** and designated for the **YSU English Festival**.

Send checks to the following address:

University Development Office

219 Tod Hall
Youngstown State University
One University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44555

Contributors are categorized as follows, with contributions to the Thomas and Carol Gay English Festival Lecturer Fund, the Candace Gay Memorial Awards Fund, and the James A. Houck English Festival Endowment Fund included in the total:

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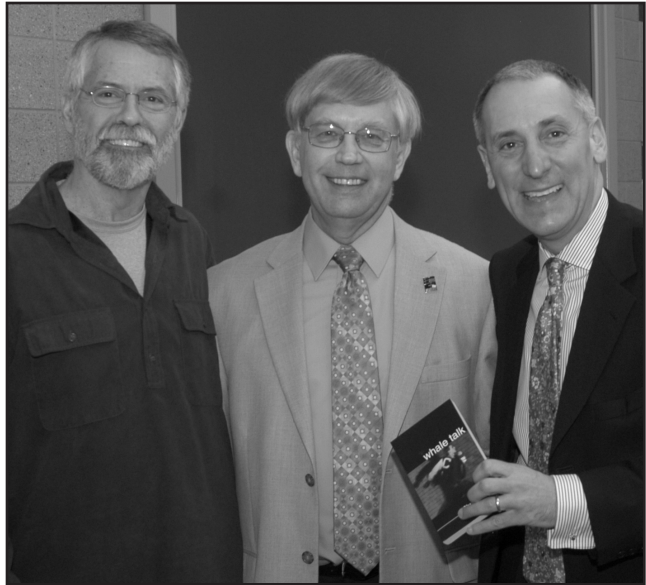
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Chris Crutcher, one of the 2008 featured authors; Gary Salvner, co-chair Festival Committee; and Eric Fingerhut, Chancellor of Ohio System of Colleges and Universities

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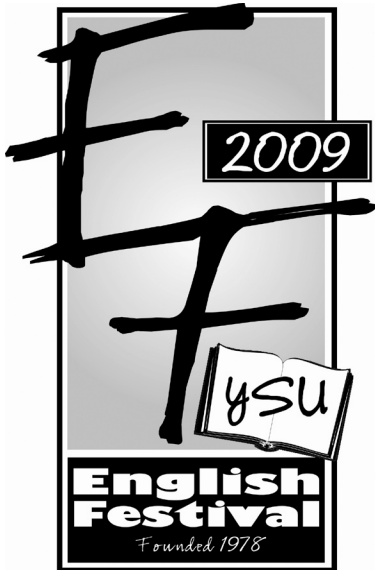
Robert Newton Peck, 1982
Joan W. Blos, 1983
William Sleator, 1984
M. E. Kerr, 1985, 1998
Paul Janeczko, 2002
Tim Wendel, 2002

Past Carol Gay Memorial Lecturers

Richard Peck, 1986
Ouida Sebestyen, 1987
Robert Cormier, 1988, 1998
Rosa Guy, 1989
Cynthia Voigt, 1990
Sue Ellen Bridgers, 1991, 1998
Chris Crutcher, 1992, 1998, 2008
Paul Zindel, 1993
Bruce Brooks, 1994, 1998

Past Thomas and Carol Gay English Festival Lecturers

Kathryn Lasky, 1995
Will Hobbs, 1996, 2006
Harry Mazer, 1997
Sue Ellen Bridgers, 1998, 2003
Bruce Brooks, 1998
Robert Cormier, 1998
Chris Crutcher, 1998, 2003, 2008
M. E. Kerr, 1998
Christopher Paul Curtis, 1999, 2008
Suzanne Fisher Staples, 2000
Tim Wynne-Jones 2001
Virginia Euwer Wolff 2002
Sharon Dennis Wyeth, 2003
Norma Fox Mazer, 2003
Joan Bauer, 2004, 2008
Jacqueline Woodson, 2005
Joseph Bruchac, 2007
Naomi Shihab Nye, 2008



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Professor of English

(October 30, 1933–December 18, 1985)

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