

DEAR TEACHER...

A CELEBRATION OF LITERACY & RURAL EDUCATION

Time	Block Name	Presenter	Workshop	Description
Thursday, October 10, 2024				
9:00 AM				<i>Registration Opens</i>
9:30 AM				<i>Welcome</i>
10:00-11:00am	Session 1	Workshop A: Cat Biddle	Supporting Student Learning Through Community Partnerships	This is a great workshop for those who want to think about how to build meaningful community connections that support both student learning and rural community vitality. We want to prepare our students to see a future for themselves in rural Maine and as educators, we have an incredible platform to help them do that! There will be lots of opportunities to talk about your own local context and how to build unique learning experiences for your students with them.
		Workshop B: Alex Hinrichs	Picture Books as Bridges, Boats, & Hot Air Balloons	Delve into the many ways that picture books help us connect, explore, and gain new perspectives. This workshop is great for anyone who wants to maximize opportunities and engagement with picture books in their classroom or program. Participants will come away with new activity ideas and a booklist, as well.
		Workshop C: Kevin Hawkes	Just Show Me How to Draw!	Have you ever been asked, "How do you draw a nose?" Or eyes? Or even feet?! Come learn some simple drawing hints for classroom teachers who don't consider themselves artists. In this workshop, you'll draw along with Kevin as you gather surefire basic skills and be ready to pass them on to your students.
		Workshop D: Danielle Soucier	SEL Connections with Literacy	This workshop will explore the role that the read aloud and classroom conversation can play in supporting and expanding the impacts of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students.
		Workshop E: Hazel Stark	Take Any Subject Outside	Do you want to take your students outside, but aren't confident about how to do that well? Teaching outside can easily meet many teacher goals at once and make school more fun for everyone. In this workshop, participants will experience outdoor lesson ideas that can be easily modified to meet any grade or subject area. If we can go outside to experience them, we will! This is ideal for teachers of any age or subject who are intrigued by taking students outside to learn, but unsure about how to do that effectively.
11:10-12:10pm	Session 2	Workshop A: Alex Hinrichs	Picture Books as Bridges, Boats, & Hot Air Balloons	Delve into the many ways that picture books help us connect, explore, and gain new perspectives. This workshop is great for anyone who wants to maximize opportunities and engagement with picture books in their classroom or program. Participants will come away with new activity ideas and a booklist, as well.
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		Workshop C: Chrissy Marie	Movin' & Groovin' Literacy Programs	Tired of using the same songs & rhymes in your literacy programs? Ready to shake things up? Join Ms. Chrissy—dancer, fitness instructor, musician, & children's librarian—to learn ways in which you can move & groove into your next program with new energetic, fun ideas for all ages. This is a great workshop for those who want to incorporate dance, music, movement, and more in their storytimes and literacy programs, but are unsure of where to start. Dance and music background not required!
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12:20-1:20pm				<i>Lunch</i>
1:25-4:25pm	Session 3: Intensive Workshops	Intensive A: Mike Duffy	Art for Every Classroom	Bring opportunities to make art into your classroom without a formal art program or budget! Mike shows us the value in using recycled (upcycled!) materials and inexpensive art supplies to ignite student creativity, show the value of resourcefulness, and model being kind to our planet. In this workshop, we'll create art projects with simple themes using supplies that won't break the bank. Students will love the opportunity to think outside the box and express themselves!
		Intensive B: Gabe O'Brien	Community Cartographers	Pick up your quills and prepare for a collaborative map making adventure! Together we'll play a game about community, difficult choices, and decolonization. As we play, we'll make decisions about the community, and record them on a map that is constantly evolving. Players will work together to create and steer this community—but they also introduce problems and tensions into the game! During play we will pause at different moments to reflect on how to apply this learning in classrooms and with young people.
		Intensive C: Beth Olshansky	Introduction to Picturing Writing	Join us for a hands-on introduction to the foundational Picturing Writing: Time of Day unit. Participants will be guided through sample art and writing lessons using simple crayon resist-based art techniques and quality picture books to teach the art of writing. Learn proven methods for engaging reluctant readers and writers, fostering vocabulary development, and promoting excitement around writing. Learn how to make your paintings come alive through the magic of bringing words and pictures together. Intended for K-8. A teacher's manual of daily lessons & mentor texts will be available for purchase for those wishing to implement this unit in the classroom.
		Intensive D: Lauren Wolk	Encouraging Courage Through Creative Writing	This workshop will focus on creating a classroom culture that celebrates risk-taking, originality, and invention. Participants will engage in exercises that encourage writers (of all ages) to express themselves creatively, present their work with confidence, and provide thoughtful, respectful feedback to others. There will be plenty of opportunities to discuss classroom challenges and ask questions.
4:25-5:00 PM				<i>Social Hour</i>
5:00-6:00 PM				<i>Keynote Speaker Anna Crowley Redding</i>
6:00 PM				<i>Dinner</i>
				Friday, October 11, 2024
8:00 AM				<i>Good Morning Program with Chris Van Dusen & Kevin Hawkes</i>

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		Intensive E: Gary Schmidt	That Most Undervalued Craft Element: The Setting	When we think about writing classes and workshops, we often think first about plot lines and character motivations. But these are, of course, hardly the only elements that matter. In this workshop, we'll be looking at ways to teach the uses of setting in a work of fiction or non-fiction, focusing on the ways in which setting can help to intensify or even create the meaning of a text. And what better place to do this than the state of Robert McCloskey?
12:10–1:30pm				Lunch
		Workshop A: Cat Biddle	Supporting Student Learning Through Community Partnerships	This is a great workshop for those who want to think about how to build meaningful community connections that support both student learning and rural community vitality. We want to prepare our students to see a future for themselves in rural Maine and as educators, we have an incredible platform to help them do that! There will be lots of opportunities to talk about your own local context and how to build unique learning experiences for your students with them.
		Workshop B: Russ Cox	Graphic Novels, A Stepping Stone to Reading & Creativity	This workshop is about the importance of graphic novels and comics in the classroom and at home—they're incredible tools to help kids make the leap from picture books to chapter books. Graphic novels and comics can be a stepping stone to reading, and help kids tap into their creative abilities.
		Workshop C: Alexandra Hinrichs	Digital Media in the Classroom	We hear a lot about digital media literacy, but it can feel overwhelming to try and incorporate it into classrooms in meaningful ways. This workshop provides concrete examples of digital media projects that are easy to adapt to your own curriculum. Whether using photography, podcasts, Canva, websites, social media, or other digital tools these ideas will have students eager to participate, evaluate, and create.

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Time	Block Name	Presenter	Workshop	Description
1:40–2:40PM	Session 2	Workshop D: Abdi Iftin	Classroom Voices: Empowering Perspectives	Abdi Iftin's memoir, <i>Call Me American</i> , is a stunning story of resilience, spanning from Abdi's childhood in war-torn Mogadishu to emigrating to the US to become an American citizen, and a resident of Maine. Abdi has visited classrooms and hundreds of Maine kids to talk about his book and his life, and to answer their questions. Was he scared? Does he miss his mom? And What does camel milk actually taste like?! Abdi will talk about his story and why it's important for kids to read stories like his—ones that allow them to reflect on personal struggles, find everyday gratitude, and build empathy. Come to this workshop having read <i>Call Me American</i> (the adult or YA version) and/or having listened to the <i>This American Life</i> podcast episode: "Abdi and the Golden Ticket," and with your questions about bringing challenging texts and topics into classrooms.
		Workshop E: Anna Crowley Redding	Hacks to Make Writing Fun—For Students And Teachers!	Let's turn writing into the life of the party. In this workshop, Anna will take you through some super fun ways to have your students wanting more and more writing. We'll use games, journalism, and new perspectives to liven up writing, eliminate dread and make it something you and your students will look forward to!
2:50–3:50pm	Session 3	Workshop A: Russ Cox	Graphic Novels, A Stepping Stone to Reading & Creativity	This workshop is about the importance of graphic novels and comics in the classroom and at home—they're incredible tools to help kids make the leap from picture books to chapter books. Graphic novels and comics can be a stepping stone to reading, and help kids tap into their creative abilities.
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