

English Language Arts County-Wide Institute Day
Wheaton North High School
Friday, March 2, 2018

CELEBRATING LANGUAGE ARTS: INSPIRING CREATIVITY

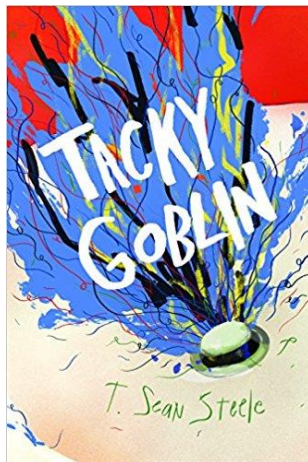
For information and registration, go to: <https://www.cusd200.org/domain/83>

We are very pleased to announce our Wheaton North alumni keynote speakers:

Ruth Graham, freelance journalist for *Slate* magazine, *The New York Times* magazine, *Al Jazeera America*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Politico* Magazine, the Poetry Foundation, the *Awl*, *Marie Claire*, and many others.



T. Sean Steele,
novelist and short story writer



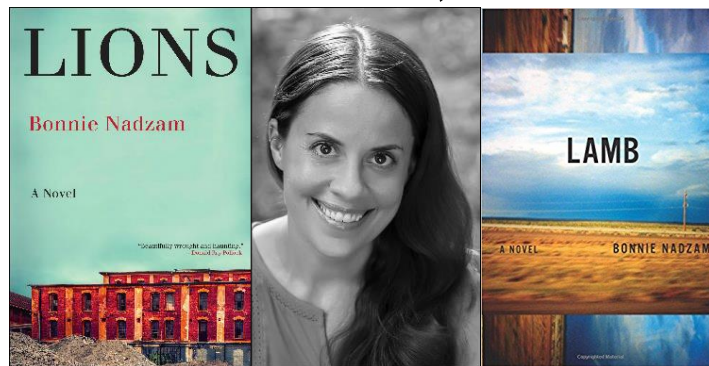
James Langlas,
Poet, writer, professor



Aaron Sitze,
author and teacher



Bonnie Nadzam, author and essayist



Wheaton North High School will host the 12th Annual “Celebrating Language Arts” Institute Day on Friday, March 2, 2018. We have taken this year’s theme from a BBC Active webpage (<http://www.bbcactive.com/BBCActiveIdeasandResources/InspiringCreativityinUniversityStudents.aspx>):

Is it possible to cultivate creativity? Current thinking and research by educationalists and cognitive scientists says it is, and that creativity is in fact essential in order to prepare young people for the difficulties and challenges that will face them as they navigate their path through our fast-paced and fast-changing world.

To understand its importance, we first need to understand what we mean by creativity. Far from being something that is solely associated with and expressed via the arts in subjects such as dance, drama and music, creativity has a place in subjects right across the curriculum, according to noted educationalist Guy Claxton. He believes that creativity is a frame of mind and a set of attitudes that people apply when they encounter difficulties. Scientists, technicians and engineers who design websites, build bridges and fix machines, he argues, are every bit as creative as writers, actors and anyone involved in the arts. The truth of this is hard to deny.

Claxton’s definition of creativity is “a way to meet challenges and dissatisfactions with:

- openness, humour and a sense of possibility
- practical intelligence to turn ideas into reality
- energy and focus to see it through”

Creativity is what allows us to see fresh possibilities and alternatives; it teaches us not to fear difficulty and change. Without the ability to think creatively, we tend to close our minds and become entrenched

in familiar ways of thinking. In a world fraught with uncertainty, creative thinking skills are vital. So, if the role of education is to prepare young people for the world and allow them to flourish in it, teachers need to find ways to encourage and develop creativity in university students and younger schoolchildren alike, even if that means re-evaluating and changing their own habits.

So how to we educate young people in creativity? The creative mind is curious and wondering; it is patient and determined and will not be satisfied until it works out solutions to the challenges presented to it; it's imaginative and it is crafty in the sense that it likes to tinker and experiment. Are these qualities which can be taught and developed? Actually, they are attributes which all young children possess, but which they begin to lose as the ability to be rational and logical starts to assume greater importance, usually around age 9. Claxton, however, believes that we can and should cultivate and prolong that natural childhood creativity. . . .

Our program will offer sessions in the complete language arts field—novels, short fiction, nonfiction, film, reading skills, vocabulary building, memoir work and journaling, creative writing, journalism, speech programs, Advanced Placement courses, incorporating technology, and more.

Day's Agenda:

7:00 – 7:50	Registration, Coffee/Rolls and Bagels	10:30 – 11:20	Session D
7:45 – 8:35	Session A	11:25 – 11:55	Lunch + Networking
8:40 – 9:30	Session B	12:00 – 1:00	Keynote Address: Rick Bass
9:35 – 10:25	Session C		

Cost: \$35

For more information, contact Debby VanGetson: Debra.Vangetson@cusd200.org
or Nicole Blazier: Nicole.Blazier@cusd200.org