Winter 2019  
CAPSTONE CONFERENCE  
Friday, 19 April 2019

9 a.m.—SESSION ONE

Panel A: Seeking Diversity through Multicultural Literature  
Facilitators: Ashley Shannon, Brian White  
Mayra Cuascut-Santini, “The Importance of Children’s Multicultural Literature”  
Kara Helms, “Multicultural Literature in the Classroom: Experiencing Diversity through Books”  
Ashton VanKoevering, “Multicultural Literature and Identity Development: Facilitating Accepting in a Diverse Classroom”

Panel B: Meeting Special Needs  
Facilitators: Lindsay Ellis, Rob Rozema  
Maggie Tisdale, “Strategies for Students with ADD/ADHD”  
Samantha Anderson, “Higher-Functioning Students with Autism in the Language Arts Classroom: Promoting Peer Relationships”  
Kelsey Van’t Zelfde, “Bibliotherapy: The ‘Answer’ for Depression?”

10 a.m.—SESSION TWO

Panel C: Elementary Literature Concerns  
Facilitators: Lindsay Ellis, Sherry Johnson  
Lesley Lobdell, “Censorship in Elementary Schools: Is It Helping or Hurting Students?”  

Panel D: Preschool Practices  
Facilitators: Regis Fox, Amy Masko  
Mary Lehmann, “In Regards to Play”  
Kiera Filbin, “Preschool: A Selective System”

11 a.m.—SESSION THREE

Panel E: Music & Rhyme  
Facilitators: Dawn Evans, Christy Pearson  
Olivia VanderStel, “How to Teach Reading Effectively: Understanding the Theory of Rhyme and Connecting the Theory to the Application of Rhyme in the Classroom”  
Alexis Elizade, “Integrated Music Curriculum: An Effective Approach to Teaching Intermediate Literacy”  
Claire Amat, “Music & Phonological Awareness: A Powerful Combination for Reading Acquisition”

Panel F: Everyone’s Wild About Harry  
Facilitators: Corinna McLeod, Brian White  
Jannelle Brawner, “The Use of Pseudo Races in Harry Potter to Address Institutionalized Racism with the Muggle World”  
Madelaine White, “The Other Orphans in Rowling’s Harry Potter Series”  
Panel G: At Play with Gender & Ethnicity  
Facilitators: Jim Persoon, Ashley Shannon  
Teague Suitor, “Prick Love for Pricking': How Heterosexual Love Changes the Genre of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*"  
Joel Kibbe, “Diversifying the Narrative: Representation and Humanization in Mainstream Comics”

**12 p.m.—SESSION FOUR**

Panel H: Encounters with African American English  
Facilitators: Sherry Johnson, Amy Masko  
Hannah Arnold, “The Need for Black English in the Classroom”  
Abigail Tuttle, “Code-Meshing, Not Code-Switching, in AAVE”  

Panel I: Digital Domain  
Facilitators: Rachel Anderson, Rob Rozema  
Haley Hulan, “I’m Blackety-Black, Y'all – Conventions of the Superhero in *Black Lightning*”  
John DeBruyn, “Reality Bytes: *Ready Player One*, Toxic Gaming Culture, and Internet and Gaming Addiction”  
Hannah Gallon, “*Bandersnatch*: A Work of Metafiction, Electronic Literature and a Multiple-Ending Narrative”

Panel J: Unusual Approaches with Secondary Literature  
Facilitators: David Alvarez, Jo Miller  
Afton Walker, “Dog Tags on a Dog-Eared Page”  
Ashley Munger Kippes, “Hip-Hop as a Form of Literature in Secondary Education English Classrooms”  
Cassandra McCraney, “Education: How Children’s Literature Combined with Film Adaptation has both Relevancy & Applicability in All Classrooms”

**1 p.m.—SESSION FIVE**

Panel K: Deciphering the 20th-Century Novel  
Facilitators: Kurt Bullock, Mike Webster  
Tara Charboneau, “Southern Otherness: A Look at Flannery O’Connor’s Freaks”  
Craig Schalk, “A 21st-Century Return to Kerouac: *On the Road* to Nowhere Meaningful”  
Brandon Skwier, “Postmodern Genius: Exploring the Seriousness within the Zany Works of Tom Robbins”

Panel L: Classroom Curriculum Concerns  
Facilitators: Rachel Anderson, Dan Brown  
Francesca Vitale, “Censorship: The Overlooked Lessons of Censored Texts”  
Jessica Witt, “Phone Usage in English Classrooms: How Educators Can Close the Achievement Gap One Txt at a Time”  
Hannah Gurney, “Faults & Flaws in the Common Core Curriculum”

Panel M: Issues in Children’s Literature  
Facilitators: Pat Bloem, Dawn Evans  
Abbey Vandekerkhoff, “The Impact of Violence in Children’s Literature”  
Lauren Walsh, “Uniting a Society: Using LGBTQ-themed Children’s Literature in Elementary Classrooms”  
2 p.m.—SESSION SIX

Panel N: Elementary Reading & Literacy Projects
Facilitators: Pat Bloem, Dawn Evans
Cyrena Johnson, “Free Voluntary Reading as a Homework Program for Elementary Students”
Sabrina Hochhuth, “Using Personalized Technology to Target Early Elementary Readers”
Wendy Hoekstra, “Michigan’s Read by Grade Three Law: Will Many of Michigan’s Third Graders be Retained Next Year?”

Panel O: Destabilizing Feminine Boundaries
Facilitators: Brian Deyo, Rob Franciosi
Wren Bianchi, “Ladies Overboard: The Gender Implications of Traditional Mermaid Lore”
Marta Norkus, “The Gilda Stories is the Antithesis of Twilight: How Twilight Reinforces Traditional Gender and Sexuality Norms, while The Gilda Stories Disregards These Conventions”
Courtney Van Horn, “Violence Against Women and the Feminine: The Romanticization of the Spectacle of Trauma and Its Representation in the Media”

Panel P: Poetry, Then & Now
Facilitators: Karen Pezzetti, Mike Webster
Kyle O’Connor, “Creating Distinctions: Haiku and Its English Translations”
Collin Hubbard, “How Hip-Hop Helps Us Overcome the Postmodern Condition”

3 p.m.—SESSION SEVEN

Panel Q: Diverse Learners, Diverse Methods
Facilitators: Dan Brown, Dawn Evans
Taylor Stowe, “The Leading Causes of Retention for Diverse Students: An Alternative”
Gillian Eisenbraun, “Fostering Language Acquisition in Diverse Classrooms: Representing Multilingual Students”
Emily Weissenborn, “A Resurgence from the Past and a Propulsion into the Future: A Look at the Use of Extensive Reading for Pleasure in the Modern English as a Second-Language Adult Classroom”

Panel R: Canning the Canon in the Secondary Classroom
Facilitators: Rachel Anderson, Regis Fox
Elinore DeBrule, “The Positive Influence of Contemporary Literature in Secondary English Classrooms”
Aimee Ash, “Re-engaging Students with Reading: Replacing the Classics with Young-Adult Literature”
Dominique George, “Beyond the Canon: Why Multicultural Literature is Beneficial for All Students”

Panel S: All About Words
Facilitators: Kathleen Blumreich, Shinian Wu
Sophie Rickey, “(A)I Want to Be Just Like You: The Future of Artificial Intelligence and Linguistics”
Jessica Sylvester, “Influential Words: Mass Media and Politics of Anti-Blackness”
Alex Licata, “Code-Meshing Practice in Racially Minoritized Secondary Classrooms”