

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues, and welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

Summer never lasts long enough for my swimming and hiking-loving heart, and I hope that you found time to play and rejuvenate over the summer break. I also hope that start of the school year is going well for you and that you're feeling that excitement. We have a lot happening with the implementation of new standards, so please be sure to stay tuned in and reach out.

Naomi

I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- *You Better Be Lightning* by Andrea Gibson
- *Barbie* the movie



NEW P-12 ELA STANDARDS UPDATE

The Utah State Board of Education approved the P-12 ELA Standards. Educators need to plan and teach students using these new standards starting in the 2023-24 school year. The writing committee spent significant time and discussion on reducing the number of standards. Please note that all standards are considered essential, and therefore, further work to decide on "essential" or "priority" standards is not warranted. Core guides will be released this fall to support educators in teaching these new standards.

One final ELA Standards Overview Workshop will be offered virtually on Tuesday, Aug. 29 and Thursday, Aug. 31 from 3:30-5:30pm. Participants must attend both sessions; they will not be recorded. Registration closes Sunday, Aug. 27.

Additionally, the Creative Writing/Literary Magazine, Professional & Technical Communication, and Humanities Supplemental Standards were approved by the full Board in late Spring 2023. These standards should be used as supplements to the P-12 ELA Standards in these applied/advanced ELA courses.



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2023–2024 STATE SECONDARY ELA DIRECTOR MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All held virtually from 1–3pm

- Tuesday, September 13
- Tuesday, November 14
- Tuesday, January 23
- Tuesday, March 19

message [brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.
utah.gov](mailto:brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov) for an invite



WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY | AUGUST 26

This day marks the ratification of the 19th Amendment -- female citizens were no longer denied U.S. voting rights due to their sex.

- [Utah Women's History](#) from Better Days
- [Women & Girls Lead Resource Center](#) from UEN
- [Primary Resources](#) from National Archives

NOTEWORTHY RESOURCES

- I strongly recommend giving this white paper a read about AI and writing: [MLA-CCCC Joint Task Force on Writing and AI Working Paper: Overview of the Issues, Statement of Principles, and Recommendations](#)
- Another quick look at evidence-based practice: [Adolescent Literacy Resource Menu: A Guide for Instructional Leaders](#)
- If you're looking to deepen your knowledge or that of your content-area colleagues: [Disciplinary Literacy Course Enhancement Module](#)
- Resource with solid suggestions: [Partnerships with Parents are Key to Solving Heightened Political Polarization in Schools](#) from Brookings Institution

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Please note: LEAs have the duty to select instructional materials that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements. (UCA 53G-4-402(1(a))). Posting of these resources by USBE staff curriculum content specialists does not imply the resources have received official endorsement of the State Board. Educators are responsible to ensure use of these materials complies with LEA policies and directives.

UTAH PATHWAYS
& THE CUWP PRESENTS

Think About It:

BUILDING READER'S AND WRITERS TODAY'S

featuring



DEBORAH DEAN
PROFESSOR, EDUCATOR,
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**A VARIETY OF
PRESENTERS &
EDUCATORS**



BRANDON MULL
BEST-SELLING YA AND
MIDDLE GRADE AUTHOR



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COGNITIVE READING AND
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HOW TO APPLY THEM WITH
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WASATCH READING SUMMIT

OCTOBER 26-27 at SLCC Miller Campus

The Wasatch Reading Summit is an educational professional development conference that focuses on the best practices, based on the Science of Reading, for instruction in Utah. With the latest research, educators, professionals, and parents learn methods for helping struggling readers.

REGISTER -- use code BACK2SCHOOL for \$25 off

APPLYING THE SCIENCE OF READING IN YOUR CLASSROOM

HOW TO IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION! TOOLS IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH

WHAT ABOUT WRITING? HOW TO EXPLICITLY TEACH WRITING!

THE IMPORTANCE OF DECODABLE BOOKS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO SOUND OUT WORDS

DYSLEXIA 101, WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR CLASSROOM

THE MAGIC OF MORPHOLOGY IN BUILDING VOCABULARY!

2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



LISA KLEIN,
M. ED.
WEAVING THE
WRITING ROPE THROUGH
CONTENT AREAS: AN
OVERVIEW

Klein is Vice President of Keys to Literacy, a literacy-focused professional development organization based in Massachusetts that trains educators across the country. An experienced educator with a passion for literacy and learning, she began teaching in 1995 at the Landmark School, a school renowned for their work with children and adolescents with language-based learning disabilities. Throughout her career in education, Lisa enjoyed being a classroom teacher, a special educator, and a reading specialist, in both urban and suburban schools. As a Keys to Literacy trainer for eight years, she was passionate about her work with students, teachers, and administrators from schools across the United States. In her current role, Lisa appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with district and school leadership to customize professional development plans which bring consistent literacy routines to students across all grade levels and subject areas.



<https://decodingdyslexiautah.org/ddut-events/wasatch-reading-summit/>



DR. JULIA B. LINDSEY
PUTTING THE SCIENCE OF READING INTO PRACTICE: 10 SWAPS TO REINVENT READING INSTRUCTION

Julia B. Lindsey, Ph.D., is a foundational literacy expert. She is the author of the best-selling book for teachers, *Reading Above the Fray: Research-based Routines for Developing Decoding Skills*. Julia is also the creator of knowledge-rich decodable texts used by tens of thousands of educators around the globe. Julia's work focuses on ensuring all teachers have the knowledge and materials they need to use research-based practices in their classroom. Julia holds a BS in Psychology from Davidson College, a MAT from Relay Graduate School of Education, and a Ph.D. in Educational Studies from the University of Michigan. She is a proud former elementary school teacher.



DR. KAUSALAI (KAY) WIJEKUMAR
TRANSFORMING READING FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN

Dr. Kay Wijekumar is a dedicated parent, teacher, and researcher who focuses all her energies on transforming reading comprehension and writing for every child. Her work includes the development of web-based intelligent tutoring systems in English and Spanish for both reading and writing. She has pioneered the free ACE podcast (in English and Spanish) so that families can support academic language development with children at home. She also delivers practice-based professional development to English language arts and special education teachers. Her work has garnered over 80 million dollars in funding from the US Department of Education and philanthropic organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Her team has achieved unprecedented success in achieving 100% pass rates for children including special education students. She is an avid gardener and accomplished musician.

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ARTSRAGEOUS ONLINE

ARTrageous Online! supports core curriculum learning for 7-12th grade students by introducing students to passionate and accomplished "thought leaders" in our community. They are artists, scientists, authors, activists, mathematicians, engineers, teachers, and creatives who have ideas and experience worth sharing. Vibrant video presentations, activities, and lesson plans support arts integration in English, Science, and Social Studies.



ANNUAL NCTE CONVENTION

November 16-19 in Columbus, Ohio

The NCTE Annual Convention is the premier annual event for English language arts and literacy educators. Learn from experts and participate in various sessions on a range of topics that will inspire your teaching. Meet educators from around the country and enjoy social and cultural events, including a book fair and awards ceremony. Share your challenges and victories with a community of English language professionals who will support your work into the future. Don't miss this chance to communicate, collaborate, and create with fellow English language arts teachers and educators at the NCTE Annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

ANNUAL CEL CONVENTION

November 19-21 in Columbus, Ohio

The Conference on English Leadership (CEL) offers a collaborative, dynamic, discussion-based forum for literacy leaders to explore current and emerging issues. Since 1970, CEL has assisted language arts leaders in sharing mutual problems and insights, exchanging resources, seeking the advice of successful leaders, and investigating issues of greatest concern to leaders.

myShakespeare™
Love to learn it.

myShakespeare provides media-rich, full-text editions of Shakespeare's plays for free. Some key features:

- Interviews with the characters illuminate themes and ignite discussion
- Performances of key scenes bring Shakespeare's language to life
- Animated videos explore the plays and their contexts
- Complete audio recordings emphasize clarity and comprehension.

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THE NEWS LITERACY PROJECT RESOURCES

The [News Literacy Project](#), a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides programs and resources to help people of all ages become smart, active information consumers and equal and engaged participants in a democracy. The misinformation crisis requires a bold response, and NLP is meeting the moment by transforming its mission into a national movement to advance news literacy. Founded in 2008, NLP is the leading provider of news literacy education through its signature free e-learning platform [Checkology](#)® virtual classroom and other resources. NLP works with thousands of educators in all 50 states and more than 100 other countries.

[Checkology](#), NLP's industry leading, browser-based platform, includes nearly 20 lessons plus dozens of additional exercises and challenges that help students learn how to navigate today's challenging information landscape. NLP's [Checkology](#) lessons are aligned to Common Core literacy standards, social studies standards, NGSS, ISTE student standards and the C3 Framework. They gain the skills to identify credible information, seek out reliable sources, recognize misinformation and help stop its spread. The middle and high school cross-curricular lessons also provide an understanding of the role of the free press and the first Amendment in our democracy. [Checkology](#) features a directory of vetted journalists in the Newsroom to Classroom program who can speak with students, virtually or in-person. And its Check Center allows students to detect and debunk misinformation as they encounter it.



The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a hunger for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers, and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy. Teachers who apply for a Book Love Foundation grant must demonstrate that they are already committed to the support of readers through current classroom practices such as maintaining access to a range of books, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' changing needs, and sharing their own contagious passion for reading inside and outside of their classroom. Read about the requirements for a grant, and then apply for either a classroom library or book clubs.

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GREAT SALT LAKE COLLABORATIVE

The Great Salt Lake is one of the dominant topics of discussion at the 2023 Legislature because the lake has shrunk to the lowest levels ever recorded — which affects our air quality, snowpack and ecosystem.

Here are potential ways you can incorporate what is happening to the lake — and what policy makers are doing about it — in your classrooms.

This website —greatsaltlakenews.org— collects all of the latest news about Great Salt Lake. There are no paywalls or advertisements. It is run by the Great Salt Lake Collaborative, which combines the resources and reach of Utah's top newsrooms that have put aside traditional competition to work together to cover Great Salt Lake.

The site includes 250 and counting articles about the lake, covering topics including agriculture, air quality, bird migration and water conservation. You can find:

- A time lapse of the lake shrinking
- A video library of lake experts talking about what is happening at the lake and potential solutions
- A handy Q/A section
- A project called "Lake Effect" that collects audio stories about the lake.

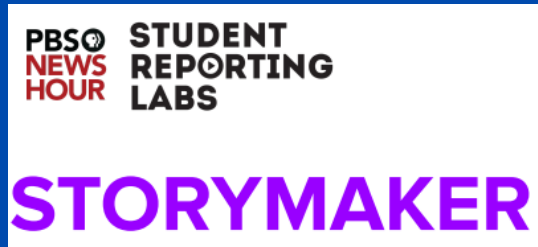
The Collaborative also has a YouTube channel with recordings of panel discussions with experts and advocates about the lake.

For more information, contact Project Manager Heather May at info@greatsaltlakenews.org



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ABOUT

StoryMaker is a free learning platform powered by PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs. It's your one-stop shop for projects, tutorials, and lesson plans connected to media making, digital journalism, and public broadcasting. Features include:

- a personalized dashboard to save your favorite resources,
- an educator directory to connect to like-minded educators and mentors, and
- a robust library chock full of activities, videos, and worksheets.

Our standards-based curriculum develops communication skills, critical thinking, and teamwork, and provides a strong foundation of storytelling skills to help students discover their place in the world.

BEGIN YOUR STORYTELLING JOURNEY

Youth media empowers students to use their voice, engage with people outside of school walls, discover new ideas and tell important stories. StoryMaker provides not only the resources, but pathways to do through a variety of tracks:

- Teach Media Literacy Skills
- Increase Civic Engagement
- Explore Science Journalism + STEM
- Experiment with Storytelling Formats
- Activate + Amplify Student Voice
- Motivate with Culturally Responsive Projects
- Start a Broadcast Curriculum

For more info visit: <https://story-maker.org/getting-started>

2022-23 PROMPTS, LESSONS, PROJECTS & CHALLENGES

SRL releases new projects, prompts, lessons and rapid responses as current events unfold. Check StoryMaker regularly as additional prompts will be published, including connections to Ken Burns' U.S. + The Holocaust and Making Black America. For more info visit: <https://story-maker.org/library>

