

PSA DAY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 22ND, 2021

BCTELA

BC TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

EMBRACING EQUITY IN TEXT: THE POWER OF MODE AND PERSPECTIVE

KEYNOTE:
MONIQUE
GRAY SMITH

Affiliate of the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
and the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)



BCTELA PSA DAY CONFERENCE, OCT 22ND, 2021

The British Columbian Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA) is a provincial specialist association of educators passionate about professional growth. We strive to bring respect, engagement, and inclusion to all of our learning communities. Join fellow K-12 educators as we explore themes of equity in our classrooms, resources, and practice. We welcome you to virtually enjoy workshops created by educators around BC from the comfort of your own home or classroom.

EVENTS AND INFO

Oct 22nd

BCTELA Conference
Hosted Virtually
9:00 - 2:30pm

Oct 22nd

BCTELA Annual General Meeting
2:45pm

Friday, Oct. 22nd

Morning

Acknowledgement & Keynote 9:00 - 10:30 am

Breakout sessions 10:45 - 12:15 pm

Lunch 12:15 - 1:00 pm

Afternoon

Breakout sessions 1:00 - 2:30 pm

BCTELA AGM 2:45 pm

Fee Schedule

BCTF member	\$100
Non BCTF member	\$125
TTOC/Retired BCTF teacher	\$80
Teacher candidate/EA	\$50
Conference presenter	\$35
Conference presenter (non-BCTF member)	\$55
Conference presenter (student/TTOC/retiree)	\$20



Cover Artwork by Shirley Wang,
Alpha Secondary School

* Conference fee includes a membership to BC Teachers of English Language Arts (BCTELA) Provincial Specialist Association (PSA)

Participants can receive a refund of their registration, minus PSA membership fee, until Oct. 15, 2021. After Oct. 15, 2021, there will be an additional \$50 administration fee subtracted from refund.

Conference Registration

To register, go to www.bctela.ca
Registration closes Oct. 21st, 2021

FRIDAY MORNING



Keynote Speaker: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Monique Gray Smith

MONIQUE GRAY SMITH is a proud mom of teenage twins, an award-winning, best-selling author, and sought-after consultant. Monique's first published novel, *Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience*, won the 2014 Burt Award for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Literature. Monique's other works include *Speaking our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation*, *My Heart Fills with Happiness*, *You Hold Me Up*, *Lucy and Lola*, *Tilly and the Crazy Eights*, and most recently released, *When We Are Kind*. Monique uses her stories to share wisdom, knowledge, hope, and the timeless message that love is medicine. Monique is of Cree, Lakota, and Scottish heritage. She is well known for her storytelling, spirit of generosity, and focus on resilience.



Weaving Love and Joy into the Journey of Truth and Reconciliation

In this dynamic and inspiring keynote, Monique will share her personal journey of truth and reconciliation and how that journey has transformed her and her family. She will delve into both truth and reconciliation, share stories, and offer readings from her various books. In our time with Monique, she will explore the importance of story and the integral role love and joy have in the education of the hearts and minds of our young citizens.

A.M. BREAK OUT SESSIONS 10:45 - 12:15 p.m.

A1: Fostering Resiliency with Indigenous Students

Monique Gray Smith
Grades K-12

In this engaging workshop, Monique will share stories of hope and resilience. We will begin with an overview on how stress & trauma may be impacting us and those we work with; including an exploration of what happens in our bodies when we experience trauma. We will explore critical aspects of Canada's history and the continued impacts on Indigenous families. Monique will share her Cultural Resilience model and strategies

for weaving aspects of it into your work. Through our time together, we will explore the integral role love and joy have in our various ways of working and contributing.

Monique bio: see keynote.

A2: Embracing Equity: The Power of Picture Books to Promote Social Justice

Faye Brownlie
Grades K to 7

We are experiencing a wonderful explosion of powerful picture books centred on social justice themes. These books have the potential to expand our learners'

world views and help develop understanding and empathy, while developing their competency and passion as readers and writers. Samples of fabulous books and sequences from BC classrooms will be shared.

Faye is a long-time BCTELA member and proud to be so. She is passionate about ALL students developing their voices as writers, becoming readers who read, and belonging in a literate community. Faye believes that collectively we can teach all students. Her most recent book is *Grand Conversations 2nd ed.*

A3: Story Workshop to Inspire & Strengthen Oral Language and Writing, With an Infusion of Core Competency Development

Michelle Miller-Gauthier

Grades K to 7

This session will share a Story Workshop journey that values and strengthens oral storytelling and writing by emphasizing retelling using fun materials, stories by Indigenous authors & connecting to nature. Learn how the activities & strategies can work to build core competency skills like communication, social responsibility and identity while also strengthening self-regulation skills and creating a positive community of learners.

In SD91 as a Literacy & Inquiry Support Teacher, **Michelle** designs curriculum, co-teaches K-8, facilitates assessments and consults with teams of teachers who are interested in enhancing their instructional practices to improve learning for all. She has had a focus on learning to de-colonize, Indigenize and embrace diverse approaches to learning.

A4: Collaboration: Working together to include ALL learners in deep literacy learning

Barb Turney, Antje Von Seydlitz, and Sandra McAulay

Grades 4 to 9

Collaborative lesson study is part of our mentoring of early career teachers. In teams, we co-plan, co-teach, and reflect upon the lesson sequence. Our grade 6/7 sample literacy lesson sequence uses an Indigenous picture book, *The Water Walker*. We will share our lesson study model and our lesson planning framework.

Sandra McAulay is the District Curriculum Resource Teacher in the Bulkley Valley School District. **Barbara Turney** is the Principal of Telkwa Elementary in School District #54. **Antje Von Seydlitz** is a grade 6/7 teacher at Telkwa Elementary School in School District #54. All three educators are passionate about collaboration and student engagement.

A5: Raising Voices with Spoken Word

K.P. Dennis

Grades 4 to 12

Spoken word (or slam) poetry owes its popularity and growing prominence in large part to their success at engaging youth. Youth are drawn to the art form's facility for interrogating, exposing and dismantling systems of oppression. Spoken word poetry provides youth with a platform to not only express themselves, but slam through efforts to silence them!

Raising Voices connects teachers and students across the Vancouver Island region with professional poets. Facilitator **K.P. Dennis** is a Black, queer, multi-disciplinary artist, who was the 2016 Youth Poet Laureate of Victoria. In 2020 they received the Witness Legacy Award for Social Purpose and Responsibility Through Art.



A6: Setting the Tone for an Anti-Racist Classroom

Juliet Brown & Cindy Wong

Grades 8 to 12

We understand the power of having welcoming spaces for students, so how do we see and address our blind spots when we create our classroom spaces? In this workshop, we will explore how our lived experiences impact the learning spaces we create, and will look at actions to set the tone to a more Anti-Racist classroom.

Born to family who emigrated from Hong Kong, China, **Cindy** (she/her) is grateful to work, play, and live on the territories of Coast Salish Peoples. Anti-racist Education has enabled her to teach through a lens that centers her students' lived experiences, which is at the heart of her teaching. **Juliet** (she/her/they/them) has lived as a white queer settler in Coast Salish territories for 16 years. Her work (and life) is raising three little people and teaching secondary English and Socials in Burnaby. She works to root her practice and person in anti-racism and its intersections with other anti-oppressive movements.

A7: Let's Talk Film!

Demetra Loukopoulos

Grades 10 to 12

Film is a captivating form of visual communication. Why not harness its power to teach literacy? This session will explore how film, visual literacy, is used to engage students and to demonstrate how these skills can be transferred to exploring all texts. I will share my methodology around building

thematic units while also using the Socratic Seminar method to link the Spoken Language course with New Media.

Demetra teaches at Alpha Secondary in Burnaby. She loves film and literature and is always looking for ways to further explore how we engage students with text. She has been teaching for 17 years.

A8: A Digital Journalism Approach to New Media

Jonathan Turner
Grades 10 to 12

In this presentation, I will share my approach to New Media: a course in which students become the members of an actual media organization (8forty.ca), pitching, writing, editing, publishing and promoting articles for a general audience online.

Jonathan has been teaching English in the Burnaby School District for 12 years.

A9: A Gradeless Classroom

Amrita Kalsi
Grades 9 to 12

This workshop puts emphasis on motivating and acknowledging deep learning the most. It will explore what a classroom without grades (numbers and letters) looks like and how to do it.

English Department Leader at Tamanawis Secondary in Surrey and President for the Surrey English Teachers' Association, Amrita completed her Masters in

Educational Leadership through Simon Fraser University in 2016 with a focus on gradeless assessment and teacher practice. She has been teaching in a gradeless classroom for 7 years.

A10: All Good Writing is Creative! Teaching Creative Non-Fiction

Kelley Inden
Grades 10 to 12

Creative nonfiction includes a variety of genres, from memoir to TED talks to narrative journalism. Get students writing and revising their work to create pieces that include the writerly moves of creative writing. Go beyond the five-paragraph essay to the real world of writing.

Kelley continues day-by-day to find the best ways to improve her practice and bring students to big ideas and useful skills. She has been teaching the humanities in small rural settings in School District 91 since 1992.

A11: Creative Journals in the English Classroom: Beyond Journaling

Vera Sutton
Grades 8 to 12

Journals are recognized for their social emotional impact, but they have greater power to inspire connections and deeper engagement with Literature and Self. This will be a hands-on session, a time to work with literature used in your teaching. Basic art supplies suggested for participation (paper, scissors, pencil crayons, etc.). Come prepared to create!

Vera is a long time Langley teacher and a sessional instructor and Faculty Mentor at UFV. She is excited to share her passion for and experience with journals. Using Journals in the secondary English classroom is, "The single best practice [she] incorporated into her teaching."

A12: What's Your Story: Writing and Presenting Oral Memoirs

Shannon Daly
Baren Tsui
Grades 9 to 12

Oral memoirs are an engaging way to build community, honour the First Peoples Principles, and consider identity. In this session, participants will explore the components of story and storytelling and consider how these activities lead towards more confident and empathetic students. In part drawing from The Moth Education Program materials, we will look at frameworks for analysis, composition and delivery.

Shannon is a Secondary Humanities Teacher who is currently a Teacher-Consultant in Learning Services. Shannon is most passionate about how literature can impact readers by broadening their perspectives and how critical literacy develops democratic citizenship.

Baren is a Secondary Humanities Teacher who is currently a Teacher-Consultant in Learning Services. Baren is most passionate about teaching for Social Justice and nurturing active citizenship in a classroom that values diverse narratives.

A13: Exploration of Theme-Based Teaching

Drea Lag

Grades 10 to 12

Drea will guide participants through creating theme-based English units using instructional design practices. She will provide examples from her three online

delivered courses, with a focus on New Media 11. She will also discuss how the quarter system changed her courses. Time will be available for participants to work together to create sample lessons/units for their own classes.

Drea has been teaching in Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District

since 2008. She holds undergraduate degrees in English and Education, and a graduate degree in Educational Technology and Design. Her research focus was collaboration and reflection in instructional design processes. Currently she teaches English, IT, and Drama.

P.M. BREAK OUT SESSIONS

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

B1: Middle Mosaic

Faye Brownlie, Leyton Schnellert, and Monique Gray Smith

Grades 4 to 9

This year's conference once again includes the Middle Mosaic! This session follows a popular model used at NCTE's annual conference. It combines the traditional large group and breakout models. Participants will hear three featured speakers for 15–20 minutes each and attend one round tables where presenters share classroom idea examples. Come deepen your practice to build students' capacity to engage with, honour and take up diverse perspectives and literacies, and make a difference in their world. We will explore approaches that nurture students' creative, critical, and reflective thinking, communication, and personal and social awareness and responsibility.

Leyton is known for bridging research and practice. He is a passionate supporter of inclusive classrooms and finds joy enhancing the literate lives of kids and teachers. He has co-authored many books, including *Developing Self-Regulating Learners*, *It's All About*

Thinking: Creating Pathways for All Learners in the Middle Years, and the 3rd edition of *Student Diversity*.

Monique's bio: See keynote
Faye's bio: See A2

B2: The Next Steps: Are We Making a Difference? Transforming Educational Practice for Indigenous Learning

Brad Baker

Grades K to 12

This presentation examines how the NVSD is working within three pathways of students, staff and community to transform educational practices by moving beyond knowing about the colonial past of Canada and moving forward to understanding the impacts of colonialism.

District Principal in NVSD and a member of the Squamish Nation. Passion for Truth before Reconciliation for students, educators and community. Recipient of Indspire Award for Indigenous Leadership. Past member of Governor General of Canada's Leadership Committee.

B3: Better Practices for Integrating Indigenous Knowledge & Teaching Methods into Elementary Classrooms: A Settler's Perspective

Naomi Smedbol

Ben Gehrels

Grades K to 7

The TRC's Calls to Action, many of which highlight educational reform, are both empowering and potentially paralyzing: our presentation supports settler educators looking to decolonize their classrooms and communities by unpacking a range of better practices through examples and discussion.

Naomi and **Ben** are both elementary educators and Indigenous Support Teachers in the Arrow Lakes District from secondary English backgrounds. They're passionate about decolonizing and indigenizing education through meaningfully incorporating the FPPL and specific local Indigenous teachings into daily practice.



B4: Utilizing Existing Mainstream Literature to Promote Anti-Racism Ideologies

Michael Musherure

Grades 8 to 12

This presentation will focus on identifying racist undertones in literature and using them to promote anti-racism ideologies. It will focus on *Lord of the Flies*, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, *Animal Farm*, *In the Heat of the Night*, and *Of Mice and Men* and how these texts can be used as resources to promote anti-racism ideologies.

Michael is an educator who is passionate about social justice. He holds a Masters degree in Education and currently teaches at Earl Marriot Secondary School in Surrey. Twitter: @musherure1

B5: The Element of Surprise

Bryan Gidinski

Grades 4 to 7

Through inquiry into how stories are constructed and what makes a surprise ending satisfying, Bryan will share strategies and resources to enhance diverse representations of character identities while avoiding “tokenizing or “othering” marginalized identities.

Bryan is a Burnaby teacher who currently serves as the District's SOGI Support Teacher for Elementary Schools. He has a passion for writing and ensuring that marginalized students see themselves reflected in curriculum. (www.lostboysconsulting.ca)



B6: Poetry: Living While Alive

Gurjot Kaur Bains

Grades 8 to 12

How does poetry end up becoming my students' favourite unit, time after time? How is poetry a vehicle for healing, empowerment, and transformation? Come walk with me through this easy to do, and easy to mark, unit. Bring that passion for writing and a hard copy of your favourite poem.

Gurjot grew up in beautiful Victoria, BC. She has a background in English, Media, Yoga, and Creative Writing. She loves empowering students to expand beyond limits and experience the true power that is them. She currently teaches English at Burnaby Central Secondary School.

B7: Cashing in on the Currency of a Knowledge Economy

Holly Jezovit

Grades 6 to 12

In an oversaturated knowledge market, how do educators best value, qualify, and imbue knowledge to students? Learners need to develop the ability to navigate the information marketplace by making sound investments in the skills needed to create continued and sustainable wealth with the plethora of options, engagements, and understandings available to them.

Holly is an educator living in Lillooet, BC. She has taught in Australia, Ontario, the NWT and BC. Her passion for inclusive and skills-based education has guided her development of middle years interdisciplinary, inquiry-based instruction with deep connections to land, culture, and language.

B8: Anti-Racism, Decolonization, and Film

Katie Coughlin

Grades 8 to 12

Film adds context, texture, and meaning to our world. With some attention and intention, the world of film can offer students deeper access to a literary world that they are already immersed in. This workshop will offer strategies, lesson ideas, and activities to include film into your teaching practice in authentic, meaningful ways.

Katie is an Alternative Education and Indigenous Education teacher in Burnaby. Parallel to her teaching career, Katie has worked in the film world for nearly a decade directing, writing, and producing for many independent films. She is passionate about integrating film - both creation and analysis - into contemporary curriculums.

B9: Investigating Identity: Creating & Exploring Podcasts in Secondary English

Alison Atkinson

Grades 8 to 12

Many teachers have recognized how powerful podcasts are as texts in English classes. In this workshop, we'll discuss how you can use podcasts as teaching texts (specifically the podcast *Finding Cleo*), and support students in creating their own personal, meaningful, and carefully crafted investigative podcast.

Alison is an English teacher and department head in Burnaby. She is passionate about inviting learners to bring their whole selves to English and explore their identities.

B10: Deep Dive into New Media Pedagogy as a Site for Exploring Critical Digital Literacy

Robyn Ilten-Gee, James Francom & Mark McLean
Grades 8 to 12

New media courses in BC present an opportunity to foster young peoples' critical consciousness. We share lesson plans and a framework for aligning new media goals with a framework of critical digital literacy (Mirra et al., 2018). During the second half of this session, we will provide time for workshoping lessons in small groups and discussing new media ideas and frameworks. Bring your questions, lesson plans, half-baked ideas for your conversations with colleagues!

Robyn is an assistant professor of education at Simon Fraser University. **James** is English and ELL Dept Head at Vancouver Technical Secondary. Also, VSB District Resource Teacher (curriculum and assessment). **Mark** is an ELA and New Media teacher at Kitsilano Secondary School in Vancouver.

B11: Shaking Up the Summative: Creative & Accessible Options for Assessing Student Learning

Kristie Ward
Grades 6 to 12

Join me to learn ways to leverage creativity, choice, and student engagement to create assessments that are accessible to and fun for all (even for you to mark!). We'll look at examples, and talk about the design and assessment process.

Kristie teaches English 8-12 at Pitt Meadows Secondary. She is passionate about inclusion, reaching all learners, and leveraging student creativity to inspire students to love English and see it as more than just essays. Twitter: @MissWard19

B12: Teaching for Climate Change: Toward New Stories

Anita Chapman
Grades K to 12

Several writers have argued that we need new stories in the age of climate change. Teachers understand the power of story and make thoughtful choices about classroom materials. Can we use those choices to help our students navigate a precarious world?

Anita is an educational consultant working in BC and abroad. She is a former teacher (elementary, secondary Science and English, and school counselor) and a former BCTF staff person whose voracious reading habits have been influenced by climate change.

B13: I'm Not Making This Up: How to Incorporate Non-Fiction Texts into Your ELA Classroom

Kyla Hadden
Grades 8 to 12

With all of the amazing literature out there, sometimes it is hard to weave nonfiction texts into our practice. In this workshop, we will explore a number of different sources and activities for incorporating more nonfiction texts into your ELA classrooms.

Kyla has taught in the North Okanagan-Shuswap for over fifteen years. She started her career teaching upper intermediate and has taught a variety of English and History courses at the Secondary level for over thirteen years. Kyla is the co-author of *Powerful Readers: Thinking Strategies to Guide Literacy Instruction in Secondary Schools*.

B14: Why Shakespeare? Why now? And how?

Bard on the Beach
Mary Hartman, Kate Johnstone, and Melanie Hiepler
Grades 4 to 12

Join the Education team from Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival as we re-consider Shakespeare's place in today's classrooms, challenge his legacy as cultural icon, and share our inquiry-based, participant-first approach to exploring and interpreting the plays and poems.

Bard on the Beach is Western Canada's largest professional Shakespeare Festival. Bard Education provides programming for people of all ages and levels of experience, and is committed to inspiring community through dynamic, engaging experiences of Shakespeare that celebrate individual identity while nurturing compassion and collaboration.

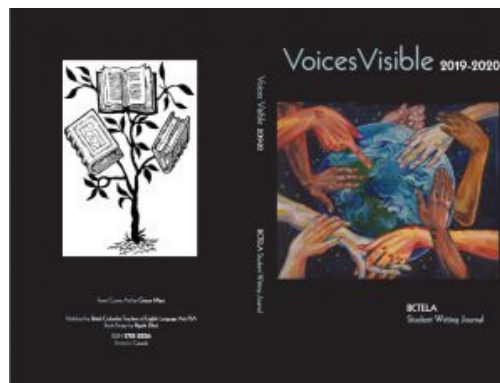




Come take part in our annual general meeting! This is your chance to get involved or see how your PSA works. Everyone is welcome; we would be thrilled to see you. Join us for the AGM immediately following the afternoon sessions.

WATCH OUT FOR...

Look for information online at bctela.ca on how to submit your students' work for a chance to be included in the *Voices Visible* student publication.



Find BCTELA's award-winning peer-reviewed journal *English Practice* at bctela.ca. Look for information on how to contribute your writing online.

