Keynote Speaker: Angela Stockman

I’m a former Christa McAuliffe fellow, a current New York State Educator Voice fellow, and the founder of the WNY Young Writers’ Studio: a community of writers and teachers of writing. I’ve spent the last twelve years consulting, coaching, and designing curriculum and assessments beside K-12 teachers in over sixty different schools. I’ve taught at the graduate level, supervised student teachers, and led curriculum and assessment design initiatives inside of different university departments. I also work with business and nonprofit leaders who are eager to craft and share meaningful narratives about the organizations they serve.

Featured Author: Frank Murphy

Frank Murphy is a PAWLP fellow, local teacher, and an author. Read the summary for one of his books, A Boy Like You, below:

There's more to being a boy than sports, feats of daring, and keeping a stiff upper lip. A Boy Like You encourages every boy to embrace all the things that make him unique, to be brave and ask for help, to tell his own story and listen to the stories of those around him. In an age when boys are expected to fit into a particular mold, this book celebrates all the wonderful ways to be a boy.
Breakout Sessions

Making Meaning through Zines, with Emily R. Aguiló-Pérez (7-12)
A zine is a homemade “magazine” that is about anything the maker is interested in. Children can make personal zines to explore what is happening in their life but also to make sense of what is happening in a text they read. In this session, learn how to implement the creation of zines to respond to texts and the rationale behind this implementation. The connections students can make with the texts in their zines allow them to explore their own identities as readers, writers, and makers. While geared to grades 7-12, the session will also offer suggestions for adapting the activity to other grade levels. You’ll get to create your own little zine!

Teaching Literary Devices through Graphic Novels, with Kelly Saladik (3-5)
In this session, learn how to teach a multitude of literary devices through analyzing and writing graphic novels. The appeal of graphic novels to young readers is nothing new, but the acceptance and widespread use of the genre in literacy classrooms has certainly changed in recent years. We will explore the depth and unique characteristics of graphic novels as mentor texts and experiment with literary devices as authors of graphic novels. The session will be geared toward upper elementary grades 3-5 but will offer adaptations to other grade levels.

Writer’s Notebooks as Mentor Texts, with Dana Kramaroff (K-5)
Join us for an interactive session on how our personal Writer’s Notebooks can be the mentor texts our students need! We will explore how color, texture, and 3-dimensional elements enhance our own experience as writers and that of our students, too! All you need to bring is your personal notebook! The session is open to educators of all levels K-12.

Making it Lit: Responding to Literature through Making, with Jason Vanfosson (7-12)
Learn how to implement effective responses to literature using makerspace principles that helps students think critically about text and context. We will consider different methods and mediums for making in the literature classroom, including making with words, images, things, sound, and social media. While this presentation focuses on making literary responses for upper grades, the texts are from lower grades and easily adaptable for different audiences. Come prepared to make your own responses!

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