

THE WORD ON

Washington State Literacy Association Newsletter

December 2016

A New Year Leads to New Learning

It is hard to believe we are almost to 2017! Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Conference with Lester Laminack and Dan Gemeinhart. Our literacy buckets definitely runneth over and our book bags and shopping carts were pretty full too!

As you can see, we have a myriad of upcoming events and many of them are **free to WaSLA members**. Please see inside for all the details as local councils all over the state are working hard to bring meaningful learning opportunities to you.

In this newsletter, you will also find book recommendations so if you are looking for that perfect book for your classroom or gift, these come highly recommended by some of our favorite librarians from around the state.

Please join us for our next WaSLA meeting on January 28, 2017. All members are welcome to help us grow this organization.

Finally, we wish you a very happy end to your 2016! Take some time to celebrate the season, spend time with family and friends, and snuggle up with a warm beverage and a couple books.



Mark your calendars:

1/7/17 LWLC presents **A Growth Mindset** with Kristine Mraz

1/13/17 **Leading for Differentiation** at Whitworth University

1/14/17 **Curriculum that Fuels Learning** at Whitworth University

1/22/17 SRC presents **Enriching your Literacy Community** with Favorite Librarians

1/26/17 SCRC presents **Jazz Up Your Common Core Vocabulary**

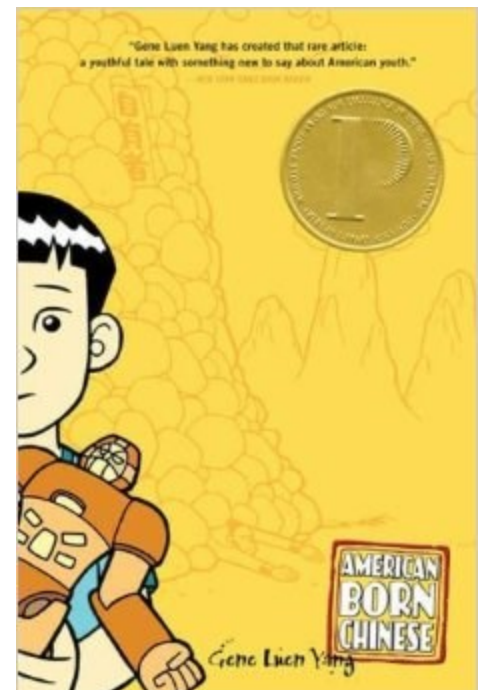
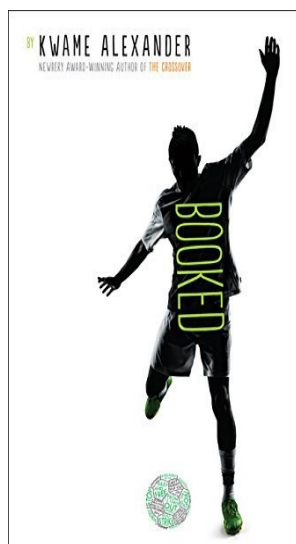
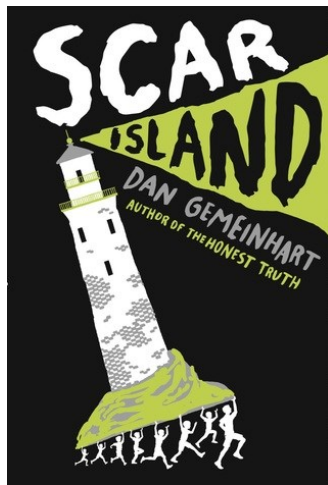
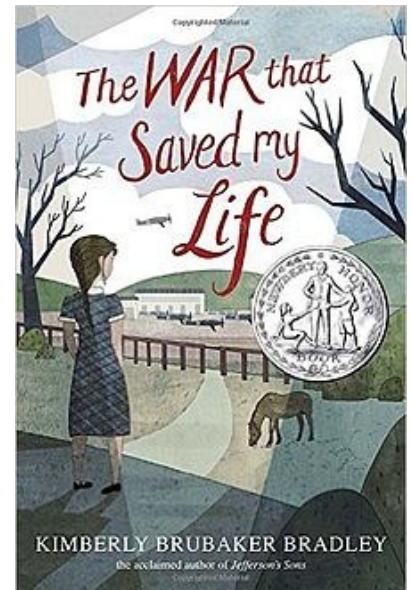
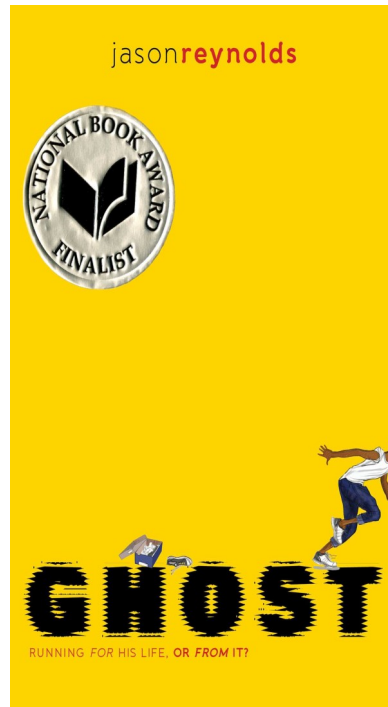
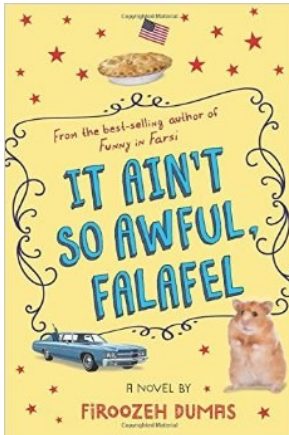
1/28/17 **WaSLA Members Meeting**

2/23/17 SCRC presents **Book VS Movie?**

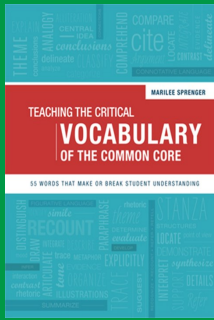
Details on all these events can be found in this newsletter.

Must Read Middle Grade Books

A huge thank you to Dan Gemeinhart for sharing some of his favorite middle grade books from over the past year. He doesn't disappoint when he is talking books and don't forget to order his new book, *Scar Island*, which comes out in January! Here are a few of his suggestions:



Save the date-February 25, 2017



Join Snohomish County
Reading Council in
**Jazzing Up your Com-
mon Core Vocabulary.**

When: Thursday,
January 26, 2017
5:30-7:30 PM

Where: Lakewood Element-
ary (near Smokey Point/
Marysville)

SCRC will also be dig-
ging deeper when using
books vs. movies in
the literacy classroom.

When: Thursday,
February 23, 2017
5:30-7:30 PM

Where: Cathcart Elementary,
Snohomish

**These events are
FREE to WaSLA mem-
bers.**

TO RSVP email **Kristisher-
man@frontier.com**



children's literature conference

14th Annual

Presenters for our 2017 Conference:



LAURIE HALSE
ANDERSON

MATT
PHELAN



CHRISTIAN
ROBINSON



RITA
**WILLIAMS-
GARCIA**



For details visit:
www.uclc.com

A Review of A Mindset for Learning

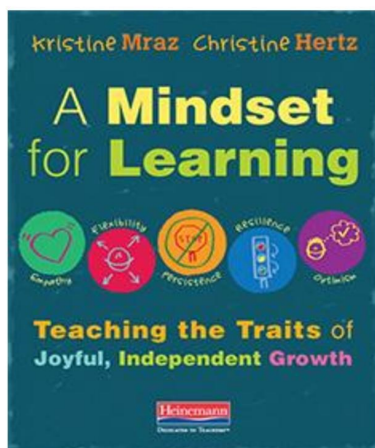
By Megan Goodwin, President, Lake Washington Literacy Council

With so many great professional texts being released each year, it can be hard to know where to invest your time and energy. This past summer, my teammates and I decided to get together to read A Mindset for Learning by Kristine Mraz and Christine Hertz - and I am so glad that we did! There have been few texts that have had as large of an impact on the way that I teach, interact with my students, and build a classroom community.

Kristine and Christine begin A Mindset for Learning by revisiting a topic that's been buzzing around the educational community for several years now: the power of growth mindset. They remind us of the difference between a fixed mindset ("I'm so smart!") vs. a growth mindset ("Who knows how far I can go if I keep trying!"). Next, they delve into the concept of what they call "a constellation of stances," – five key attitudes and ideas that can shape the way we think about ourselves as learners: optimism, empathy, persistence, resilience, and flexibility. As they unpack each stance, Kristine and Christine give readers a window into how these ideas could actually look in a classroom. Through classroom vignettes, mentor text lists, and simple tips, they make a big idea tangible and accessible.

Reading this book helped me to reset the way that I teach kids to think about learning and about themselves. My team started our year together with this book at the center of our conversations. As we launched a new school year with a new group of students, we spent the first several weeks of the year focusing on each of the stances. Modeling our instruction on the suggestions in A Mindset for Learning, we began by reading picture books, watching videos, telling stories, and having conversations about examples of the stances, then naming them and asking students to reflect on when they've experienced these ideas in their own lives. As we continue our year together, we're keeping the conversation going – and, more excitingly, so are the kids! One of the best moments of my year so far was during an art lesson when one of my students started to get frustrated with how his project was coming together. Another student chimed in, "It's ok, you just need to be *optimism* – believe it will all work out in the end!" We're still working on the grammar, but the concepts are hitting home and we couldn't be more proud.

If you want to learn more about this book and fostering a growth mindset from one of the authors herself, please join Lake Washington Literacy Council as we welcome Kristine Mraz as our guest speaker! She'll be at Lake Washington High School in Kirkland on Saturday, January 7th. For more information or to register, go to www.kristinemrazlwlc.zapevent.com.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2017 A DAY WITH KRISTINE MRAZ

Author, Educational Consultant, and Teacher

Come for an interactive day to deepen your understanding of ways to help students to approach learning with a growth mindset. Learn how to teach and support a mindset for academic and lifetime success by focusing on five research-driven attitudes: **optimism, persistence, flexibility, resilience, and empathy.**

Event Hosted by
Lake Washington Literacy Council



**Lake Washington
High School**

Kirkland, WA

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:15

**LWLC/WaSLA Members:
\$60**

Early Bird Registration:
Members only- register by December 1st
\$50

**Non-Members:
\$100**

Registration fee includes espresso cart coffee and a boxed lunch from Jimmy John's.

6 Clock hours available
Bring \$12 cash or check

Books available for purchase

A Mindset for Learning pairs research – psychological, neurological, and pedagogical – with practical classroom help, including instructional language, charts, and visuals, teaching tips, classroom vignettes, and more. “Rigor is about who we are as much as what we know...”

(Mraz and Hertz, Heinemann, 2015)

Register now!
www.kristinemrazlwlc.zapevent.com



Enriching Your Literacy Community with Favorite Librarians

**Librarians will share great books that inspire literacy learning.
YES! By popular demand, we will start our time together with
classroom visitations!**

**January 22, 2017– 5:00pm-8:00pm
at Van Asselt Elementary 8311 Beacon Ave S. Seattle 98118**

[Click here to register!](#)



Creating and Leading a Differentiated Classroom

Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 2-5PM

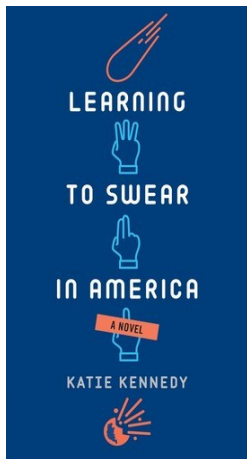
Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 9AM-3:30PM

More information and online registration at whitworth.edu/institutes



Teen Book Picks from B & B

At the beginning of the month, WaSLA partnered with the Washington Library Association to bring Jerene Battisti and Angelina Benedetti who are librarians in the King County Library system. They brilliantly whizzed through 50 secondary lit books in less than two hours and everyone found something they wanted to read or incorporate into their own classroom libraries. Here are a few titles straight from their bibliography with their synopsis and grade level suggestions.

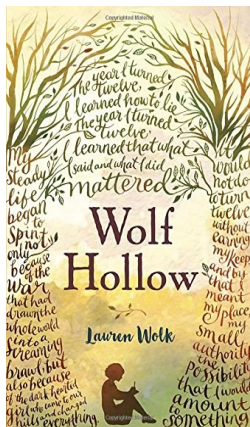
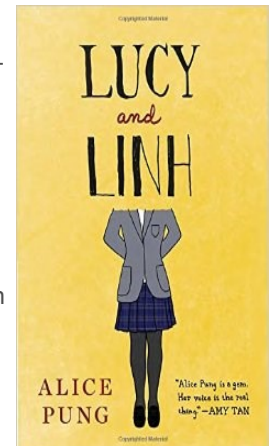


A large asteroid with potential to destroy the West Coast is hurtling through space and Yuri Strelnikov—age 17 with a PhD in physics—is brought from Russia to work with the best minds at NASA to prevent disaster.

Recommended grades: 9th and up

Lucy wins the first scholarship to the prestigious Laurinda Academy, where she tries to find a balance between her Chinese immigrant family and the privileged mean girls.

Recommended grades: 8th and up

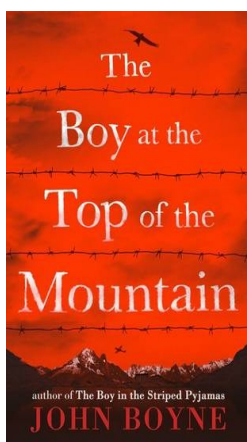
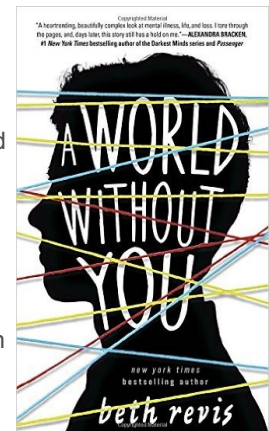


WWII home front. Annabella wishes bully Betty Glengarry had never come to town. When a shell-shocked WWI veteran comes to her rescue, he befriends Annabella's family and is later accused of a crime she is sure he didn't commit.

Recommended grades: 5th and up

Seventeen-year-old Bo believes he can time travel and save his girlfriend Sofia. In reality, he is confined to a mental institution and cannot accept the reality that Sofia committed suicide.

Recommended grades: 8th and up

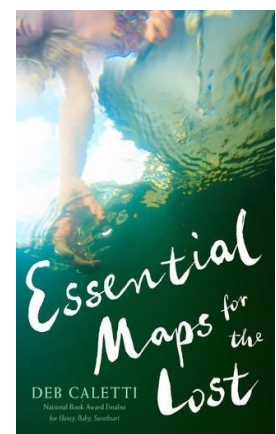


Pierrot Fischer is orphaned in Paris during WWII, and is sent to live with his aunt at Berghof, Hitler's mountain retreat, where he becomes enamored with Nazi zealotry, with tragic results.

Recommended grades: 8th and up

Two teens are drawn together after one discovers the body in Lake Union.

Recommended grades: 9th and up



Get involved with WaSLA and your local council! All members are welcome.

Our next board meeting is Saturday, January 28
10:15am-2:45pm at Hawthorne Suites in Kent.

Shelley O'Dell from OSPI will be sharing the latest news on the ELA Smarter Balanced Test.



Michele Bacon will be sharing her work as a local author.

Lunch is provided. Please RSVP at waslaliteracy@gmail.com.

Lester Laminack's Quote Corner from our Fall Conference

"Don't forget in an effort to raise a test score, that our whole profession is about raising humans."

"Children need to be able to linger with literature."

"The first time you read a book should be a gift."

"Read to your students and let THEM ask the questions because the person who is asks the questions is the one who's doing the thinking."

"Writers intend, readers interpret."

This issue's contributing authors are:

Alysia White

Megan Goodwin

If you have something you would like to contribute to our next newsletter, please send us an email. We would love to include you!

Contact Us

waslaliteracy@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.washingtonliteracy.org

