

Inter★STELA

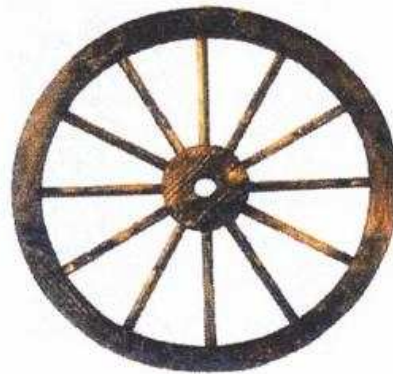


The Online Professional Journal of
the Saskatchewan Teachers of
English Language Arts

Fall/Winter 2009

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"Don't reinvent the wheel; just realign it."

~Anthony J. D'Angelo



Editor's Address

Another year has begun. Novels, anthologies, newspapers, magazines, non-fiction literature, graphic novels, and comics (to name a few) litter your room and end up on the desks of your students. You have attended the in-service for the new ELA curriculum and are using jargon like indicators and outcomes when referring to your course content. You've submitted your year plans, professional growth plans and are planning on how you are going to meet these goals. You are continuing on in PLC's or have joined a new group with a different focus for your PLC. Your school is also requesting that you do PLC internally and now you are implementing new goals as well. Wow!

Now, you are given another resource. Here is the Fall/Winter 2009 edition of Inter*STELA's Online Professional Journal. I know that you may feel overwhelmed, but fear not. Peruse this journal and find something that works for you. There may be one or two things that speak to you out of this issue. If these things work for you—great! Take them, modify them and use them as you see fit. You could also just relax outside of class and take time to read through the submissions in here. This is your professional journal to use as you see fit.

If there is something that you would like to see in the journal to make it more applicable to your practice, please let me know. This journal stays relevant to teachers because it is you that submit to it. To go with this, I need to thank those who submitted. This journal would not be possible without people like you. It is a real professional development opportunity to take work that you have done and let other professionals in the same field use that work. Also, please consider joining the STELA Executive. We have many positions that are available, there is a minimal time commitment and it is a great professional development opportunity as an English teacher.

As we gear up for the rest of this year, remember to breathe. Take time to take things from others. Don't reinvent the wheel. Just change what others have to suit you and your classroom. Also, take time for yourself.

Brandi Rolfe
Inter*STELA Online Journal Editor
msbrandirolfe@hotmail.com

President's Address

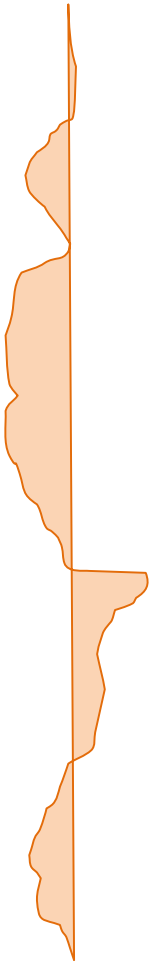
At first this school year had a certain summertime languor, as sun and warmth extended their bare tanned arms well into September. Then overnight the leaves froze on the branches and the tomatoes on the vine. And English Language Arts teachers everywhere turned, bewildered, as they realized that October is upon them and they are already behind schedule.

For us and our students the New Year truly begins with that first day at the end of summer. Fresh faces, high expectations, and brimming hopes mark these early days. It is a wonderful occasion for us to consider the why and how of what we do. There are many models out there. One extreme is marked by Dickens' Thomas Gradgrind, "Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else." The narrator of Hard Times goes on to describe Gradgrind's students as an "inclined plane of little vessels then and there arranged in order, ready to have imperial gallons of facts poured into them until they were full to the brim." Even though Dickens' satire is more than 150 years old, traces of it can still be found today – standardized tests, packaged programs, deficit models, chapter questions—the list is long.

Perhaps as teachers of English Language Arts we should forget about what students don't know and invite them to show us what they do know. Perhaps instead of our deciding in advance for our students what is important in Life of Pi or The Book of Negroes we should trust them to tell us what they think is important. Perhaps we should take that thick binder for ELA30 and put it into the back of the cupboard and try, in the words of those great educators, Monty Python, "something completely different." Who knows, this approach could lead to less anxiety about schedules, a longer lasting New Year sensation, and a richer and more exciting term for everyone.

Once again, thank you to all the contributors to this edition of Inter*STELA; and on behalf of STELA, I offer a special thanks to editor Brandi Rolfe, without whom our journal would not have been published.

Michael McGarity
President of STELA



The STELA Executive positions are as follows:

- PRESIDENT- Michael McGarity
- VICE-PRESIDENT- **OPEN**
- SECRETARY- **OPEN**
- Treasurer- Chris Beingessner
- MEMBERSHIP CHAIR- **OPEN**
- PAST-PRESIDENT- Carmen Holota
- Inter*STELA- Brandi Rolfe
- ON THE HORIZON- **OPEN**
- U of S LIAISON- Geraldine Balzer
- U of R LIAISON- Val Mulholland
- NCTE LIAISON- Val Mulholland
- CCTELA LIAISON- Brandi Rolfe

STELA Positions to be **FILLED**

There are some positions that are **OPEN** and to be filled for the STELA Executive. If you are interested in any of the following openings, please contact Brandi Rolfe at msbrandirolfe@hotmail.com.

Consider joining by taking one of the following positions:

VICE-PRESIDENT

- Attending STELA meetings (4 in a year-reimbursed travel or conference calls)
- Serve on the Conference Committee as a STELA contact
- Expectation of taking on the Presidency after 2-year term

SECRETARY

- Attending STELA meetings (4 in a year-reimbursed travel or conference calls)
- Take minutes of the STELA meetings and distribute to Executive

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

- Maintaining accurate membership records in an Excel spreadsheet and to give information to Executive at each meeting (4 in a year-reimbursed travel or conference calls)
- Maintaining an email list and sending out emails as needed by the executive
- Doing a mail out in March to members reminding them to renew membership in April and follow-up to those who do not renew
- Sending a membership report to the STF by June 1st of each year for grant purposes

ON THE HORIZON

- Can be a one person or shared job between teachers or couple
- Formatting and combining entries into a readable and presentable format
- Work with others to have judging done for student submissions
- Publishing of document
- Attending STELA meetings (4 in a year- reimbursed travel or conference calls)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (Group of Teachers, School with School Division or Board)

- STELA and its members are looking to hold a conference, however, we would like to have our members help make the conference a possibility
- This would be a great PLC or PD goal for you and your school and school division (with positive effects for you as a teacher, the school and the school division)
- We would like to have a conference in the Fall of 2010 or the Spring of 2011, so think about hosting this amazing PD event in your area!

STELA Membership

Membership runs from April 1st of each year to March 31 of the following year. As members you will receive:

- ★ Access to the fall and spring copies of the newsletter- InterSTELA
- ★ The annual "On the Horizon" students writing publication text
- ★ Notices of annual conferences
- ★ Access to attend the annual general meeting- held at annual conference
- ★ Access to run for office and put your name forward as regional representatives

To get membership with STELA, please fill in the form below and send the completed form and payment to the following address:

Michael McGarity
S.T.E.L.A. Membership Chair
10 Albany Crescent
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1J3

S.T.E.L.A. Membership Application/Renewal Form

The following information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out journals, and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information.

Part I: MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Last Name, First Name: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Fax: _____

Home Email: _____

School: _____

Teaching Certificate Number: _____

(To verify STF Membership for grant calculations)

Part II: TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Includes CCTELA (Canadian Council for Teachers of English Language Arts) and NCTE (National Council for Teachers of English) affiliation.

___ Regular (\$20) ___ Superannuate (\$5) ___ Student (\$5) ___ Institutional (\$50)

I am enclosing _____ for membership fees.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make your cheque payable to S.T.E.L.A.
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CCTELA Membership

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS IN CCTELA!

This would make a great graduation, teacher candidate appreciation, birthday, holiday or end of year thank you gift! If you purchase a gift membership for a colleague, student, relative or friend, a beautiful gift card will be mailed to the new member on your behalf. To order a gift membership, please complete the form below and mail it along with your cheque or money order to:

CCTELA
10-730 River Road
Winnipeg, MB R2M 5A4

GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN CCTELA

Please complete this quick and easy form and mail it directly to the Executive Director along with your cheque (payable to CCTELA in Canadian funds). Unfortunately, CCTELA is unable to accept payment by credit card or to use our website for payment purposes.

Yes, I would like to send a gift membership in CCTELA to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province / State: _____ Postal / Zip Code: _____

My address is:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province / State: _____ Postal / Zip Code: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- Regular Membership.....\$50.00
- Affiliate Status (Member of BCTELA, IFTE, ELAN, STELA, MATE, or ATEQ).....\$40.00
- Undergraduate Student (Include photocopied proof of status).....\$25.00

For further information, contact the Executive Director, Linda Ferguson

E-mail: cctela@mts.net Fax: 1-204-253-2562 Telephone: 1-204-255-1676

On the Horizon Creative Writing

Sponsored by
SASKATCHEWAN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Categories:

Middle Years Poetry, Prose Narratives, Short Expository Essay, Humour, Quotation*

High School Senior Poetry**, Short Story**, Personal Essay, Short Expository Essay, Humour, Quotation*
(Short stories should be fewer than 1,000 words; other prose 500 words.)

*The 'Quotation' category includes short comments about the importance of writing in the lives of students and/or comment about the writing process.

**All high school senior poetry and short story submissions are automatically entered into competition for a cash prize: either \$50 for Best Senior Short Story or \$50 for Best Senior Poem.

Rules:

- SUBMITTING TEACHERS MUST BE MEMBERS OF STELA.
- Teacher or individual students may submit entries.
- Class sets will not be judged. Judges are volunteers. Please submit the best from class sets to be fair to our judges.
- Teachers may make suggestions for the revision of the writing and should see that works are edited for spelling, punctuation and typographical errors.
- Illustrations and black and white photographs are welcome and may be used in the anthology. No membership required. We recommend that you scan the original and email the file. The entry form should be attached to a photocopy of the artwork.
- *On the Horizon* is the ONLY student writing publication sponsored by the Saskatchewan Teachers' of English Language Arts.
- Who receives a copy of *On the Horizon*? Students with work included in *On the Horizon*, school libraries of all students who submitted work to *On the Horizon*, and teacher members of STELA.

CLOSING DATE is: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

The entry form MUST be firmly attached to the entry. All entries become the property of the Saskatchewan Teachers' of English Language Arts and will not be returned.

Whenever possible, students should also email a copy of the writing to onthorizon@sasktel.net. In the body of the email include the student's name, title grade, category, teacher name and school name.

Send entries to: Brandi Rolfe
Box 425
Neilburg, SK S0M 2C0

OR onthorizon@sasktel.net

***On the Horizon* ENTRY FORM (ONE FORM PER ENTRY)**

Student's Name _____
(Please Print)

School _____
(Please Print Full Name of School)

Teacher (member of STELA) _____
(Please Print)

Title of Entry (one form per entry) _____

	Middle Years					High School Years		
Grade (circle)	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Category (Check)	<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry <u>Prose</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative <input type="checkbox"/> Short Expository Essay <input type="checkbox"/> Humour <input type="checkbox"/> Quotation <input type="checkbox"/> Art/Photograph					<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry* <u>Prose</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Short Story* <input type="checkbox"/> Short Expository Essay <input type="checkbox"/> Humour <input type="checkbox"/> Quotation <input type="checkbox"/> Art/Photograph		

I emailed a copy to onthehorizon@sasktel.net on _____
(Date)

Declaration of Originality _____
(Student's Signature)

Permission for Publication _____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Permission for Online Publication** _____
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

Date _____

*All high school poetry and short story submissions are automatically entered into competition for a cash prize: either \$50 for Best Senior Short Story or \$50 for Best Senior Poem.

**Short-listed high school entries which are not published in the book may be published on www.stela.ca provided that we have permission for online publication. School information will not be provided online.

Information provided by the student and teacher will be used only for the publication and distribution of "On the Horizon" and for any STELA business.

Closing Date: Monday, February 1, 2010