



Crafting a Story with SASS

KATHRYN ERSKINE WRITES WITH SASS

Kathryn Erskine, 2010 National Book Award winning author of *Mockingbird*, will be the speaker at the January meeting of the Guam Council of the International Reading Association at the Sheraton Laguna Resort on January 15, 2011, from 8:00 am to 11:00 A.M.

She and her daughter, Fiona, will be traveling from Charlottesville, Virginia, to share her “SASSy” writing tips, how to “S snag your reader, Act your character, Show your story, and Shake your world”. School visits are Tuesday, January 18 to Friday, January, 21. A teacher workshop and a teen writing workshop are also included in the schedule.

Kathryn was born in the Netherlands and grew up in Israel, South Africa, Scotland, and Newfoundland, Canada, before returning home to America where she now lives with her husband, two children, and their dog, Maxine. She attended school in Scotland at a school similar to Hogwarts, with “houses,” prefects, detentions, and earning “extra points” for her house. She finished her education and was a lawyer for 15 years before becoming an accomplished writer of

several novels for young adults. Writing has always been Kathryn’s first love, and growing up in six different countries has given her the perspective and empathy to write “things that people...want to read.”

Mockingbird, her latest novel, tells the story of Caitlin, a young girl who has lost her older brother and is having a difficult time adjusting to life without him. She has Asperger’s Syndrome and had depended upon him to explain “how things work.” Her father is grieving, too, and doesn’t seem to be able to help her much. Now she must depend on her school counselor to help her sort things out. *Mockingbird* is the winner of the 2010 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. Kathryn has also written *Quaking* (2007), *Ibhubesi: The Lion* (2004), and *The Absolute Value of Mike* (June 2011).

Find out more about Kathryn, her books, the workshops, her research on Asperger’s, and the playlist she uses when writing at her website, www.kathrynerskine.com.

Cyndy Pruski

TEACHER WORKSHOP

The workshop for teachers, “Getting Into Character” will be at the Ordot Chalan Pago Elementary School Cafeteria on Monday, January 17, from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M.

(Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a GDOE holiday). The event is an alternate for all taking the USD course this year.

TEEN WRITING WORKSHOP

Teens and Tweens in middle school and high school are invited to attend the workshop, **Writing with SASS**, with Kathryn Erskine, on Saturday, January 22, 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., at the IP Coffee Co, in Mangilao, on University Drive, at the entrance to UOG. A light lunch will be included.

Inside this issue:

Read-A-Thon 2011	2
RAT 2011—Schedule	2
Book Exchange Table	2
Teens Reading Teens	2
International Children’s Digital Library	3
Grants Committee	3
More About Erskine’s Visit	3
Membership News	4
President’s Message	4

Vocabulary List for *Mockingbird*

perspective, empathy,
closure, finesse, friendship.

HOW TO PRONOUNCE “ERSKINE”

Visit the website, www.teachingbooks.net/pronounce.

Enter her name and she will tell you herself.

Erskine rhymes with “her skin.”

You’ll learn a few more facts about her as well.



READ-A-THON 2011 "READ TO SUCCEED"

KICK OFF WILL BE
HELD AT

ORDOT-CHALAN
PAGO ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL
CAFETERIA

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2011

BOOK EXCHANGE TABLE

Remember to bring your books for the Book Exchange Table and pick up something new to read. I hope to see you at the meeting.

MATERIAL FOR NEW TEACHERS

Teachers who are retiring or have retired can give their used but good material to new teachers or those who have changed grade levels and need some different material. This is a good place to share and give away what you will not be using.

New teachers, come and check out what has been given. There are thematic books, bulletin board material, reading books for your students, etc. Also, teachers in the DEED program can pick up things to use.

READ-A-THON 2011, "READ TO SUCCEED"

Happy New Year! The midnight oil has been burning for the Read-A-Thon Committee, with this year's read-a-thon just around the corner. We've been working diligently to ensure this event is memorable.

Every year, we try to change the prize for the Top Teacher from Each School, this year we've not only changed that prize, but also the Top Student Prize. Thus, we'll be having a **Mandatory School Representative Meeting on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at Agana Heights Elementary School Cafeteria from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M.** We hope to see all

school representatives at the meeting! Should you have any concerns, please email me.

We also have our Read-A-Thon 2011 novelties available for you, your friends, or family members at the general membership meeting. The only thing I can tell you is its...affordable...affordable...affordable.

Since this year's theme, "Read To Succeed," recognizes all professions and there are just too many professions to mention. We've highlighted some special events in January instead: Appreciate a Dragon Day, Australia Day, Belly LaughDay, Chess for

Kids Day, Chinese New Year, International Creativity Month, Martin Luther King Day, National Clean Off Your Desk Day, National Eye Care Month, National Get Organized Month, National Puzzle Day, National Soup Month, Poetry Break Day, Save the Eagles Day, Squirrel Appreciation Day, Universal Letter-Writing Week, and Word Nerd Day.

What's your resolution for this year? Well, one of my resolutions is to promote reading, reading, and reading! So, help me accomplish my goal by supporting this year's Read-A-Thon!

Adios,

Nel

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 15, 2011, Saturday

Pick Up Parent/Guardian Permission Forms explaining purpose and procedures at the Sheraton Hotel from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M.

January 17, 2011, Monday

Distribute Parent Permission Forms to students.

January 18, 2011, Tuesday

Review and return signed Permission Form to teacher.

January 22, 2011, Saturday

Attend Mandatory Orientation of

Procedures and pick-up materials for Read-A-Thon at Agana Heights Elementary School from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. Submit list of teachers and students participating.

January 24, 2011, Monday

Conduct an Orientation of Procedures for teachers and distribute materials provided by the council.

January 28 – 31, 2011, Fri - Mon

Print all required information on pledge cards clearly.

January 31, 2011, Monday

Distribute pledge cards to students

(DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEFORE MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011).

January 31 – February 16, 2011 Monday - Wednesday

SOLICIT and COLLECT PLEDGE MONEY.

February 5, 2011, Saturday

Read-A-Thon 2011 Kick-Off at Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary Cafeteria from 8:00 – 11:00 A.M.

Teens Reading Teens by Roberta Abaday, JFKHS grant

Teenagers will read what teenagers write. That is the premise of the grant "Teens Reading Teens" which provides the students with copies of the magazine TEEN INK every month.

In Fall 2010, the students in the classroom were able to read two of the issues of the magazines which were delivered to the school.

TEEN INK includes student poetry, essays, art work, and photos. One of the magazines even published a cover view from a JFKHS student! That is our second cover in 10 years! The second issue focused on college and provided statistics for the students on college costs.

Students are able to submit

their work via the internet and regular mail. However, it will take a few more months before we may see some published.

If you want your teenagers to read – get them material written by teenagers. IRA encouraged reading through the support of the purchase of the TEEN INK magazines. Thank you IRA.

The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL)

If you attended the Language Arts Conference in November, you heard the keynote speaker, Dr. Junko Yokota, Professor of Reading at National-Louis University, Chicago, challenge the educators of Guam to use www.childrenslibrary.com to teach their students about the literature and folklore of other countries.

The tutorial program on the website gives teachers information about the library, ideas to use with your students and the Blackline Masters to imple-

ment your lessons. There are lesson plans and adaptations for grades 1-5. You can search the site for books and authors from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas.

This is also the place to share legends and stories about our island so that children in other parts of the world can read about Guam. We can "put Guam on the world map" by uploading stories or poems that you and your students write about the history, culture, or other things Guam.

The International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) has thousands of stories from hundreds of countries in digital format. The ICDL mission is to inspire children to become members of the global community, to understand other cultures and be tolerant of other cultural viewpoints. The ICDL makes the best of children's literature available to all. If you have a computer, you can use the site. No password is needed.

Cyndy Pruski



SCHOOL VISIT SCHEDULE

Tues, Jan. 18

George Washington
J F Kennedy

Wed, Jan 19

Agueda Johnston
Benavente

Thurs, Jan. 20

Southern
Oceanview
Notre Dame

Fri, Jan 21

Simon Sanchez
F.B. Leon Guerrero
Okkodo

Grant Committee Awards Seven Grants

The Grants Committee awarded a total of 7 grants for the Fall 2010 Grant Cycle amounting to a total of \$3,283.28.

Congratulations to the following grant recipients:

Martha Sudo

(Reading About Guam and learning About Earth Science);

Jennifer Woodard *(Guess the Genre);*

Monique Storie

(Picture Yourself in a Book);

Mark Kempen

(New & Desirable);

Doreen Blas

(Sharing Stories from Japan, Part II);

Martina San Nicolas

(Book Lovers' Club); and,

Marilyn Jackson

(Interactive Homework: How Parents and Teachers can help Young Children Develop Emerging Literacy Skills with the Innovative

Felt Board Story Book Model).

Good luck and we look forward to you sharing your literacy project to our IRA members.

REMINDER: The Spring Grant applications are due March 12, 2011 by 11 A.M. to the Grants Committee. For an application, you may visit our website at www.iraguam.blogspot.com or give us a call.

Grant evaluation reports for Spring 2010 is past due and Fall 2010 will be due to the Grants table during the May 21, 2011 meeting. Failure to submit an evaluation of your project and receipts will result in the loss of consideration for future

grants.

Contact Information

Tina Buendicho

Ph. 482-7788;

Email:

hoo-ray4read-ing@yahoo.com

Evelyn Topasna

Ph. 689-9455;

Email

edptguam@yahoo.com



IRA donates books to the Guam Public Library. I-r Nel Limtiaco, Frank Aflague, GPLS coordinator, Kenn Nesbitt, and Cyndy Pruski.



P.O. Box 21733
Barrigada, GU 96923

www.iraguam.blogspot.com
E-mail: iraguam1@gmail.com

One book can make a difference.

THIS YEAR'S MONTHLY THEMES

Readings in Many Languages:
Convention Highlights—
September 11.

Enriching Poetry with Kenn
Nesbitt—**October 16.**

Cultivating Professional
Learning with the Language
Arts Conference—
November 6.

You, Me, and the Community
Book Fair—**December 11.**

Crafting a Story with SASS--
January 15.

Launching Read-A-Thon
2011 "Read to Succeed"—
February 5.

Instilling Literacy Through our
Cultures—**March 12.**

Nurturing our Students with
Resources. "Spend it All,
Spend it Now"—**April 9**
(OCPEs).

Gathering Together for the
Year in Review—**May 21.**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

JANUARY MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS!

JANUARY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO JOIN IRA AND QUALIFY TO WIN AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO THE INTERNATIONAL READING CONVENTION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA.

1. FILL OUT ENTRY FORMS AT EACH IRA MEETING
 2. BE OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE
 3. ATTEND **THREE** MEETINGS (Be sure to sign in).
 4. **MUST BE PRESENT** AT THE **MARCH** MEETING TO WIN
 5. **AGREE TO (HONOR, ACCEPT)** THE TERMS OF ACCEPTANCE
- GIVE A PRESENTATION AT AN IRA MEETING
 - SERVE ON AN IRA COMMITTEE THE FOLLOWING YEAR
 - BE A RESIDENT OF GUAM THE FOLLOWING YEAR

300—256
44
**MEMBERS NEEDED TO
REACH OUR GOAL!**

SPECIAL DOOR PRIZE DRAWING FOR PARENTS, RETIREES, BUSINESS AND STUDENT MEMBERS!

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST - Carmen Paulino and Fumiko Harada-Zeimer, please pick up your chits.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Buenas yan Hafa Adai,

Crafting a Story with SASS..... with the award winning author of Mockingbird, the 2010 National Book Award for Young People, Kathryn Erskine. Kathryn and her daughter, Fiona, will SASSing their way to the following schools... George Washington High, John F. Kennedy High, Agueda Johnston Middle, Vicente S. Benavente Middle, Southern High, Oceanview Middle, Notre Dame High, Simon Sanchez High, F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle, and Okkodo High.

Get your writing utensils ready and mark your calendars as Kathryn will host a Teacher Workshop on Monday, January 17, 2011 at Ordot-Chalan Pago Elementary from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. and a Teen Writing Workshop on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the IP Coffee Co. in Mangilao from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. I encourage all to attend and be ready to experience the SASS of writing.

Read to Succeed: Read-A-Thon 2011 is just around the corner. Neldie Limtiaco, Read-A-Thon 2011 chairperson, will be distributing the parent/guardian permission forms on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at Sheraton Laguna Guam Ballroom from 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. to authorized Read-A-Thon School Representatives. Hope to see all school representatives there.

We are looking for a diversity of career presentations for our February meeting. If you or someone you know would like to present on February 5, 2011, please email Neldie Limtiaco at readathon2011@gmail.com.

A special thank you to our Partners in Literacy: ACEI, Agana Shopping Center, Anne Doi, Atkins Kroll, Inc., Bank of Guam, Coca-Cola, Continental Airlines, Copy Express, Fast Copy, Fiesta Resort Guam, Fish Eye Marine Park, Froots, Guam Marriot Resort, IRA Board Members, Island Tinting, Jamaican Grill Restaurant, King's Restaurant, Margarita's Burritos & BBQ, Maria Elena Blas, McDonald's of Guam, Notre Dame Honor Society, Onward Agana Beach Resort, Outrigger Guam Resort, PBS Guam, Pizza Hut Restaurant, Proa Restaurant, Sheraton Laguna Guam, Southern Crafts, Sweet Relief Pastry Shop, Taco Bell Restaurant, Talofofa Falls Resort Park, Tango Inc., Tony Roma's Restaurant, Town House Furniture, Unity Development Corporation, and Westin Resort Guam in making our "You, Me and the Community" Book Fair a SUCCESS.