



The YSU English Festival

has a long history in the Valley, and we invite you to become part of its ongoing history.

The English Festival is a unique annual program reaching out to approximately 3,000 junior and senior high school students from primarily Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties in Ohio, and Mercer and Lawrence counties in Pennsylvania.

Though the English Festival occurs in the spring, its effects are felt throughout the year. Each fall nearly 200 middle and high schools in the greater Youngstown area receive invitations to bring students to the YSU English Festival. To attend, students read seven books, and teachers monitor their reading progress throughout the year.

*If you decide to attend,
you agree to do some work:*

To be invited (or to be an alternate), you make a commitment to read all the Festival books for your grade level by late February. The list is available on the back of this brochure.

From those who make such a commitment, your teacher will choose up to 35 student participants if you're a 10th–12th grader, or up to 30 student participants if you're a 7th–9th grader, and several alternates.

Registration for each day of the Festival is limited to approximately 1,000 students. There is a non-refundable school registration fee of \$8 per student (\$10 if out of district).

Your teacher will quiz you to be sure that you've read the books. Most Festival activities rely on the books; you have to read them to participate.

When you register, you will be expected to sign a statement that you have read the Festival books, that you will conform to the Festival's policy on acceptable behavior, and that you will attend all your scheduled sessions.

Any infractions of these rules will be reported to your principal.

Festival Activities

At the Festival, you will follow a prearranged schedule called a "track." Please read the descriptions of the various Festival activities. Along with all other participants, you will hear the featured author-lecturer and have a break for lunch.

As you'll see, most of the activities test your knowledge about the books, so it's vital that you read all of them thoroughly and well.

Visiting Lecturers. Faculty or administrators from other universities often lead special sessions at the Festival on topics dealing with concerns about writing or reading or on topics deriving from the Festival Booklist. Some of these sessions are intended for faculty, teachers, librarians, and parents.

Impromptu Writing Contests. These contests are held on the day of the Festival. You are allowed fifty minutes to deal with a topic that is given to you at the beginning of the session.

You are limited not only in time but also in how much you can write. You are allowed to write only on the front and back of one sheet of paper. You may not bring notes or paper to the competition.

Topics may require you to explain, criticize, compare, contrast, or argue points of plot, characterization, theme, setting, etc., in various Festival books, or they may require you to describe situations beyond the stories—for example, to create a conversation between two characters from different Festival books.



Writing Games. In Writing Games, you work with other students on a task that necessitates pooling your understanding of a book or books on the Festival Booklist and responding imaginatively, according to rules given to you at the beginning of the session.

Writing Games reward not only reading and writing skills but also ingenuity and the ability to cooperate. For example, one Writing Game might ask teams to develop promotional campaigns for books they have read. To do that, each team would have to prepare a brief news release to booksellers, describing its book, a marketing slogan, a newspaper ad for it, etc. The results are judged on the basis of how imaginative the projects are and how skillfully the teams followed instructions while working within a strict time limit.

Journalism Workshop. Journalism Workshop introduces you to journalistic interviewing techniques by having you participate in a "press conference" with the Thomas and Carol Gay Memorial Lecturer, the James A. Houck Memorial Lecturer, or another noted guest, and then having you compose the interview for publication. Entries are judged anonymously.

Not-So-Trivial Pursuit. Teams of students compete in an exciting, challenging game that tests your memory and attention to detail by requiring you to answer extremely specific questions about characters, events, locations, names, and who-knows-what in Festival books. Prizes are distributed immediately, and winners are announced at the Awards Ceremony.

Writing Labs. Festival Writing Labs encourage learning about writing through a group activity writing task based on the Festival Booklist. The labs are conducted by university and high school faculty working together and are noncompetitive.

I ♥ Limericks is a poetry writing activity where you will work individually and as part of a team. In these sessions, you will learn what makes a poem a limerick and try to write limericks inspired by the 2018 Festival books. After you practice writing limericks individually, you will work in teams to create limericks to be judged and evaluated by others. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winning teams.

Poetry Workshops. Poetry Workshops encourage creative responses through varied innovative activities.

Prose Workshops. Prose Workshops, concerned with generating ideas and using creativity, engage you in exercises that tap your imaginative and critical abilities.

Insights. Insights sessions give you the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about selected books on the Festival Booklist. Insights into the creative process, background material on the books, and provocative critical approaches to them are some of the things you might gain from these sessions.

Literature into Art. These sessions use selected winners of the Festival Art Contest to explore what makes good art and how books can inspire a variety of artistic forms.

Musical Inspiration from Literature. These sessions use selected winners of the Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards contest to explore what makes good music and how stories can inspire a variety of musical forms.

Performances. Reading poems and plays provides a special enjoyment, but hearing them read or performed by accomplished performers heightens enjoyment. Theatrical and musical performances expand the appreciation of art.

You will need reliable pens or pencils. You will not need paper since it will be supplied to you when necessary. Do not bring any books, notes, or dictionaries.

Expect to shut down and put away your cell phones during sessions.

All entries in Festival competitions **except the art competitions** become the property of YSU. None can be returned. The University reserves the right to publish any of the entries submitted, with credit given to their authors.

If you attend all your scheduled sessions, you will receive an English Festival attendance certificate signed by your teacher.

Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion or veteran/military status in its programs or activities. Please visit www.yсу.edu/ada-accessibility for contact information for persons designated to handle questions about this policy.

THOMAS & CAROL GAY MEMORIAL LECTURERS
Chris Crutcher • Laurie Halse Anderson

JAMES A. HOUCK LECTURER
Kekla Magoon

Booklist

7th–9th Grades

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes
Chris Crutcher

Chains

Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Impossible Knife of Memory**

Laurie Halse Anderson

The Rock and the River

Kekla Magoon

Shadows of Sherwood

Kekla Magoon

The Family Romanov:

*Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia**

Candace Fleming

Orbiting Jupiter

Gary D. Schmidt

10th–12th Grades

Deadline

Chris Crutcher

Whale Talk

Chris Crutcher

*The Impossible Knife of Memory**

Laurie Halse Anderson

Wintergirls

Laurie Halse Anderson

X: A Novel

Ilyasah Shabazz & Kekla Magoon

The Family Romanov:

*Murder, Rebellion, & the Fall of Imperial Russia**

Candace Fleming

Scythe

Neal Shusterman

*indicates a title common to both levels

Questions?

E-mail us at: info@ysuenglishfestival.org
Or check our website at: <http://www.yсуenglishfestival.org>

40th ANNIVERSARY Information for Students

YSU ENGLISH FESTIVAL

founded in 1978 **2018**

Featuring
THOMAS AND CAROL GAY LECTURERS
Chris Crutcher • Laurie Halse Anderson

JAMES A. HOUCK LECTURER
Kekla Magoon

10th–12th Grades
Wednesday, April 18, 2018

7th–9th Grades
Thursday, April 19, 2018, or
Friday, April 20, 2018

9:00 a.m.–3:45 p.m.
Kilcawley Center



YOUNGSTOWN
STATE
UNIVERSITY