

Information about the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual English Festival is produced by Jeff Buchanan, Angela Messenger, Gary Salvner, and Web and Creative Services. If you have questions, call Nikki Ericksen or Emily Reese at YSU: 330.941.1646 or email [info@ysuenglishfestival.org](mailto:info@ysuenglishfestival.org)

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# 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YSU ENGLISH FESTIVAL

# INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

## YSU ENGLISH FESTIVAL

founded in 1978

# 2025

Featuring  
**Alan Gratz**

THOMAS AND CAROL GAY MEMORIAL LECTURER

**Quartez Harris**

JAMES A. HOUCK MEMORIAL LECTURER

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Wednesday, April 9, 2025

7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Thursday, April 10, 2025 or  
Friday, April 11, 2025

9:00 a.m.-3:45 p.m.  
Kilcawley Center



YOUNGSTOWN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

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THOMAS AND CAROL GAY MEMORIAL LECTURER  
**Alan Gratz**

JAMES A. HOUCK MEMORIAL LECTURER  
**Quartez Harris**



## 2025 English Festival Booklist

### 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grades

***Aru Shah and the End of Time***  
Roshani Chokshi

***The Brooklyn Nine\****  
Alan Gratz

***Refugee\****  
Alan Gratz

***When Stars are Scattered***  
Victoria Jamieson and  
Omar Mohamed

***Freewater***  
Amina Luqman-Dawson

***Louder Than Hunger***  
John Schu

***This Side of Home\****  
Renée Watson

### 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades

***The Brooklyn Nine\****  
Alan Gratz

***Refugee\****  
Alan Gratz

***Every Falling Star***  
Sungju Lee and  
Susan McClelland

***The Grace Year***  
Kim Liggett

***Swarm***  
Jennifer D. Lyle

***Me (Moth)***  
Amber McBride

***This Side of Home\****  
Renée Watson

*\*Indicates a title common to both lists*

# General Information

The following information is to help teachers plan for the 2025 English Festival. Parents, librarians, and others may find the information useful, too.

The Festival Committee has created two brochures specifically for students, one on general information and one on the pre-Festival contests. Please distribute the brochures to your students and direct them to the English Festival web site for more information (<http://www.ysuenglishfestival.org/>).

## Festival Daily Activities

At the Festival, your students will follow a prearranged schedule called a "track." You may ask your students which track they prefer, although some tracks have limited space. Have the students read the descriptions of the various activities. They are included on the "Information for Students" brochure.

Students will hear at least one of the featured author-lecturers and have a break for lunch. In addition to the Awards Ceremony, they will participate in four of the following:

**Visiting Lecturer:** Faculty or administrators from other universities 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:** For this individual writing contest, students are allowed fifty minutes to deal with a topic that is given to them at the beginning of the session. They are limited not only in time but also in how much they can write. They are allowed to write only on the front and back of one sheet of paper. They may not bring notes or paper to the competition.

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

**Writing Games:** In Writing Games, students work in teams on a task that necessitates pooling their understanding of a book or books on the Festival Booklist and responding imaginatively, according to rules given to them 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.

**Journalism Workshop:** Journalism Workshop introduces students to journalistic interviewing techniques by having them 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 them write up the interview for publication.

**Not-So-Trivial Pursuit:** Teams of students compete in an exciting, challenging game that tests their memory and attention to detail by requiring them 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.

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

**Prose Workshops:** Prose Workshops, concerned with generating ideas and using creativity, engage students in exercises that tap into students’ imaginative and critical abilities.

**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.

**Insights:** Insights sessions give students the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about books on the Festival Booklist. Students gain insights into the creative process, background material on the books, and provocative critical approaches to them.

**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 Award 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.

**I ♥ Limericks** is a poetry writing activity where students will work individually and as part of a team. In these sessions, students will learn what makes a poem a limerick and try to write limericks inspired by the Festival books. After writing limericks individually, students will work in teams to create limericks to be judged and evaluated by others. Prizes are distributed immediately, and winners are announced at the Awards Ceremony.

## Tell Your Students...

Students will need reliable pens or pencils. Generally, they will not need paper since it will be supplied to them when necessary.

They will be asked to put away any books, notes, or dictionaries during the competitions and games.

All entries in Festival competitions (except the art and graphic essay competition) 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.

After students have attended all their scheduled sessions, they will receive an attendance certificate, signed by their school's Festival contact person, usually their English teacher or librarian. We supply the requisite number.

Special certificates, T-shirts, books, and monetary awards are given as prizes for Festival competitions.

All prizes are awarded at a ceremony in Kilcawley Center from 3:15-3:45 p.m. on each day of the Festival. Prize winners will come onto the stage to receive their awards and the congratulations of the author-lecturer(s), the visiting lecturer(s), Board members, and Committee members.

A selection of prize-winning Candace Gay Memorial Awards, Impromptu Writing essays, Journalism Workshop articles, and I ♥ Limericks poems are printed in *A Festival of Writing*, a copy of which is provided to each published contest winner and participating school the following fall.



*Preparing for awards*



**In addition, we ask participants and accompanying adults turn off cell phones during all sessions.**

# Pre-Festival Contests

The Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest, English Festival Art Contest, Graphic Essay Contest, and Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award are pre-Festival competitions for students. Students read the books and write essays, create wonderful art works, or compose stirring musical pieces. These are submitted by the deadline below and judged before the Festival.

**Please encourage all students at your school to enter these contests.**

We recognize the winners at the appropriate day of the Awards Ceremony. Students need not attend the Festival to enter these contests, but you should encourage them to attend. For your convenience, we include instructions for each of these pre-Festival contests below. Students should receive the brochure that explains the contests so they can decide which ones to enter.

**Send ALL entries, postmarked by  
February 18, 2025, to**

**YSU English Festival  
Youngstown State University  
1 Tressel Way  
Youngstown, Ohio 44555**

## Festival Art Contest

All students at schools eligible for this year's English Festival are invited to enter the Festival Art Contest by submitting a two-dimensional work of art. The submission may be no larger than 14 inches X 18 inches. Any submission of a 3-dimensional object will be disqualified. Students may submit only one entry.

The entry must be the student's original work, an artistic response to one of the current Festival books, which could be used by the publisher as a book cover or as promotional art. The student may not submit a piece of art that was created prior to reading the book named as inspiration from the current festival's book list.

Each entry must be an original drawing, painting, or photograph, in any style, and may be vertical or horizontal in format. Any digital art needs to be the student's creation. Entries will be judged on their originality, artistic merit, and appropriateness to the book being illustrated. If the intent is to produce a book cover, the student may preserve the original image by placing the book's title and author's name on an overlay. The entry cannot be copied from other artwork or photographs unless the photograph is one taken by the student (please tape to back of entry).



Entry must be accompanied by a separate sheet attached to the back of the artwork that states the student's name, home address, email address, grade, school, and book being illustrated. Additionally, each student must attach an artist statement of no more than 250 words that explains how the artwork is inspired by (or reflective of) characters, settings, events, situations, themes, and/or moods of a book on this year's English Festival reading list. The statement should explain stylistic intentions, compositional elements, and chosen media.

Multiple prizes will be awarded for 7th-9th grades and for 10th-12th grades. We reserve the right to copy artwork for display on our web page/social media, for displays during the Festival, or in our publications, with credit to the artist.

## **Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award**

The Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award, established by Gary, Kathy, and Matthew Salvner in memory of their late son and brother Jeremy, invites students to create original musical compositions (vocal or instrumental) inspired by books on the current English Festival list.

No professional musicians, including music teachers, may participate in the creation or production of composition, including its musical accompaniment.



**Jeremy Salvner  
(1976-2005)**

Original musical compositions may be submitted by individuals or by groups of no more than five (who will then share in any prize awarded to the group). Compositions may be either vocal or instrumental and must be no more than ten minutes long.

Vocal compositions must be recorded (accompanied by any instrumentation) and submitted with written lyrics of the composition. While notated chord progressions in the lyrics and sheet music are optional, they are useful for the judges who evaluate your work.

### **Instrumental Compositions:**

Instrumental works may be either live-produced or electronic (DAW-based) compositions. For live-produced compositions, provide a recording as well as a notated score or a chord progression sheet. You may use live musicians, electronic instruments, or a piece recorded into a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation).

For electronic compositions, provide a recording and a written commentary describing the parameters used for each instrumental voicing track (e.g., bass track used an EQ to remove 150 Hz and added a distortion pedal with 30% fuzz). This commentary should explain, for example, if your composition was created from your own melodies or sounds or whether they were manipulations of parameters from a VST.

1. Submit your composition as an mp3, ACC, or WAV/AIFF audio file. (Noteflight or



Make Music score files are not allowed.)

2. Include a title for your composition, the book(s) that inspired it, and the names, grades, email addresses, and schools of composers/performers, as well as their home mailing addresses (for possible prize distribution).

3. Also include a statement of no more than 250 words that explains how the composition is inspired by (or reflective of) characters, settings, events, situations, themes, and/or moods of a particular book or books on this year's English Festival reading list.

Entries will be judged by a committee of YSU Dana School of Music faculty, other music professionals, and at least one member of the English Festival Committee. Separate prizes are given at the junior-high and senior-high levels.

Entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

- ◆ Musicality of the composition
- ◆ Originality of the composition
- ◆ Effectiveness of the lyrics (in the case of vocal compositions)
- ◆ Clarity of the commentary explaining your work's link to a Festival book or books.
- ◆ Effectiveness in capturing events, situations, characters, themes, or moods in a Festival book or books.

**Please visit <http://ysuenglishfestival.org> for online submission.**

**For samples of Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Award entries, visit the YSU English Festival channel on YouTube.**

Entries to the Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards will not be returned. We reserve the right to use excerpts of winning compositions on our web site and in other English Festival publications, with credit given to the artists.

## Graphic Essay Contest

**Prompt:** *This year's YSU English Festival books include harrowing events. In a graphic essay, illustrate and narrate either your survival or a character's survival of an outbreak, invasion, or other challenging scenario.*

Entries should contain panels (in comic book style), which may further be arranged into tiers (rows of panels like a page from a graphic novel) and may contain both "dialogue or thought bubbles" and captions (commentary by a narrator or other non-dialogue text). Use up to sixteen pages no larger than 8 ½ x 11 inches.

- Use original art in your entry, either hand drawn or computer generated.
- Use writing that complements the art and expresses the idea you are trying to convey.
- Students may collaborate (e.g., if one student is a writer and one student is an illustrator); however, any monetary prizes will be split among the collaborators.

Your entry will be judged by the following criteria:

- ◆ Originality of idea expressed
- ◆ Effectiveness of writing and illustrations
- ◆ Ability to express an idea pertaining to the topic

Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet indicating the student's name (or any other student collaborators), grade, home address, student email address and school.

We reserve the right to reproduce entries for display on our web page and in our publications with credit to the creator(s).

# Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest

Candace Gay Memorial Awards, established in 1978 by Professors Thomas and Carol Gay in memory of their thirteen-year-old daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, are given to junior and senior high school students who exhibit distinctive writing ability in the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest.

More than \$2,000 in prizes is distributed each year in the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest. Below is the prompt to which students should respond and general instructions for submitting their essays. Students need not register for or attend the Festival to participate in this competition, nor do they have to submit an entry to participate in the Festival.



**Candace McIntyre Gay**  
Mike Stoffa. Oil on canvas, 1978.  
Rockport, Massachusetts

**2025 Prompt:** In 750-1000 total words, respond to the following:

**In many literary works, characters who are perceived as different often face isolation and exclusion. In an essay, analyze how the theme of being left behind due to perceived differences is portrayed in at least two of the 2025 English Festival books.**

**Students' entries will be judged by how well they:**

- ◆ Establish a purpose for their entry.
- ◆ Organize and develop their ideas.
- ◆ Support the discussion with accurate and appropriate details from the book.
- ◆ Use language, including conventional grammar and spelling.

**Students must comply with these guidelines, or their submissions will be ruled ineligible:**

- ◆ No student can submit more than one entry.
- ◆ Students must type their papers, double-spaced on unlined white paper. They may handwrite the paper in ink on only one side of lined 8 ½ x 11" white paper.
- ◆ They must leave 1" margins on all sides, and number the pages.
- ◆ They must write their own paper with no help from teachers, parents, or

anyone else. They must use only their own ideas about the book selected, and put those ideas in their own words. The use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is prohibited.

- ◆ They must enclose all direct quotations in quotation marks and cite page numbers in their text for those quotations.
- ◆ Each entry must be 750-1000 words. (Papers that are significantly shorter or longer are disqualified).
- ◆ Each student must create a title page that includes the following information. (Remind them not to provide this information anywhere else in their essay):
  - The title of the entry. Title may also appear on essay.
  - Student's full name (no nicknames or shortened forms of first names)
  - Their full address
  - Their email address
  - Their age and grade
  - Their teacher's first and last name
  - Their principal's first and last name
  - The full name of their school

- ◆ At the bottom of the title page, each student must write the following statement and sign his/her name beneath it:

***I have received no direct help on this paper from my teachers, parents, or anyone else.***

- ◆ Below the statement printed above on their title page, they must write the following statement and have their teacher sign his/her name beneath that.  
***This essay was not written as a class assignment, and I have not directly helped the student with this essay in any way.***

Entries cannot be returned, and all entries become the property of YSU. We reserve the right to publish the entries with credit given to authors.

## **Why We Need Prize-Winners' Social Security Numbers**

Students or teachers who win monetary prizes at the Festival will be given a voucher (a letter with a tear-off) that requests their **social security numbers** and mailing information.

Regulations require that it be the students' social security numbers, not their parents' or teachers'.

No social security numbers are required on submission; only monetary prize winners will be asked to supply the information.

Please assure parents that the social security numbers will be handled with discretion and in complete compliance with the law. The University requires social security numbers for all checks, even those written to prize winners in Festival contests.

If students or their parents wish to withhold the social security numbers, they forfeit the monetary prize, but it will not affect the students' prize-winning status.

# The English Festival Writing Award for Teachers

The English Festival Writing Award for Teachers was established to reward teachers for excellence in writing about and in response to the YSU English Festival. The submission may be centered on a Festival book, Festival author, and/or Festival experience. The entry may be personal, reflective, and/or critical in purpose. It may utilize experiences of the Festival, the reactions and responses of students, and/or outside critical or popular sources. You might want to keep a log/journal of impressions and observations during the entire English Festival experience to draw on.

Submissions should be at least four pages in length. Your name, mailing address, email address, and school must appear only on the cover sheet.

Deadline for submission is August 15, 2025. Mail to YSU English Festival, Youngstown State University, 1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, OH 44555.

If you are a prize winner, you will be asked to submit an electronic copy of your essay. The winner will be announced in the fall, published in the 2025 Festival of Writing, and recognized at the next English Festival.

## Pre-Festival Instructions

Nearly 1,000 students register for the Festival each of the three days. Because of the popularity of the Festival, no more than **thirty-five** 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders or **thirty** 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders from any school on any one day can be accommodated.

- ◆ Please invite **all** your students, not only your best students, to attend the English Festival. It is designed to encourage reading among all students, as well as to reward superior reading, writing, and thinking.
- ◆ Please give preference to those who have never attended the Festival and to those who have never won a major Festival prize. We would like as many students as possible to have the opportunity to participate in the Festival.
- ◆ When you share the Festival Booklist with your students, explain that the books are selected with an emphasis on readability and breadth of interest.
- ◆ Do not prepare your students for the Festival by teaching the literary qualities of the books. Coaching undermines the purpose and effectiveness of the Festival and suggests to the students that winning is more important than their reading and writing abilities.
- ◆ You may, however, encourage students by talking to them and arranging for them to talk to one another about the impact the books had on them and on the significance of this literature to their lives.
- ◆ Encourage your students to submit entries to the Candace Gay Memorial

Essay Contest by the deadline. Do not help them write or revise the essay, and do not grade it.

- ◆ Do not make the writing of the Candace Gay Essay Contest a class assignment or a requirement for Festival attendance.
- ◆ As you know, the best way to help students prepare for Festival competitions is to give them regular writing assignments. The more students write, the more proficient they become at writing and the more at ease they feel when called upon to write.
- ◆ Explain that the success and benefits of the Festival depend on the cooperation and enthusiasm of those attending. Each year many students who wish to participate are turned away because all places have been filled.
- ◆ Ensure that your students attend the sessions for which they are scheduled. Those who fail to attend their scheduled sessions will be reported.

## Festival Timetable

- ◆ **September 2024:** You will receive the 2025 booklist and other information. Each school chooses a teacher to serve as its Festival contact person. This individual receives all further materials and coordinates Festival arrangements within the school.  
When you receive the Festival Booklist, tell your students about the Festival. Make sure that any students who want to attend clearly understand that they are making a commitment to read all the books for their grade level by late February. To help them make up their minds about this year's Festival, share the material in the "Information for Students" pamphlet. Judges can also be chosen now to give them time to prepare by reading the list for the day they are attending.
- ◆ **October 1, 2024:** New Contact Online Training - Request recording
- ◆ **November 1-15, 2024:** The Festival contact person for your school completes School Registration and contact information **online**.  
<http://www.yсуenglishfestival.org/reg/>
- ◆ **November 21, November 25, or December 6, 2024 – 2:30-5pm:** DeBartolo Hall, Second Floor: Payment/Pickup. A non-refundable School Registration fee of \$10.00 per student, payable by check made out to **YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY** (not to the English Festival) is due. Bring the check and your invoice printed from the online registration. Do NOT try to pick up materials without first registering online. Campus parking costs \$5.00. There is also metered parking on Armed Forces Blvd. This registration payment deadline also applies to out-of-district schools (\$10.00/student).
- ◆ **In November,** decide which of your interested students will be invited to attend the Festival and which will be alternates. If possible, keep a list of

enough alternates to substitute for students who fail to read all the books or who cannot attend the Festival for some other reason.

- ◆ **By the end of November**, decide which four of the seven books you are going to test the students on first, and announce this decision to those who will be attending so that they can start reading.
- ◆ **Before winter break**, tell your students about the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest, which is an invaluable writing and learning experience that lends prestige both to the recipients of the awards and to their schools, as well as the art, graphic essay, and music contests. Entries must be postmarked or hand-delivered by February 18, 2025. Students entering this competition need not be Festival registrants.
- ◆ **After winter break**, give your invited students and their alternates a quiz on the four Festival books to determine if they have read them. The quiz should not be an examination of how well they comprehend or appreciate the books but simply a means to verify their reading. Replace those who fail the quiz with alternates who have passed. Any student who has not read the required four books by this time is not eligible to attend the Festival.
- ◆ **Before the February 18 deadline** to report your final count of students who will be attending the Festival, give the remaining students a quiz on the other three books to determine whether they have read them. Again, replace those who are disqualified with qualified alternates. Anyone who comes to the Festival must have passed both quizzes.

**Bring only those students to the Festival who have read the required books.**

- ◆ **February 18, 2025:** deadline for submitting artwork for the Festival Art Contest, music for the Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Contest, essays for the Candace Gay Memorial Awards and Graphic Essay Contest. Judge/Monitor Registration and the Final Count of Student Registration (to the best of your knowledge at this time) are also due ONLINE <http://www.ysuenglishfestival.org/reg/>
- ◆ **April 2 or 3, 2025 – 4-6pm:** If you are serving as a judge or monitor, you must attend a training session in the Atty. Daniel L. Rossi Seminar Room (formerly the Ohio Room) in Kilcawley Center, even if you attended training sessions for past Festivals. Judges and monitors must remain for the entire session even if they attended training sessions in the past. Out-of-district schools are also expected to provide judges and monitors with a synchronous, online option.  
**Schools that fail to send the appropriate number of judges or monitors to those sessions jeopardize their school's participation in the following English Festival.**

Information about completing the **online** Student Registration Form is distributed at the Judges' Training Sessions. In filling out this form at <http://www.ysuenglishfestival.org/reg/>, teachers assign each student to a particular "track" or prearranged schedule. No two students from the same school are likely to follow exactly the same schedule. Festival programs, blank name tags, and attendance certificates are also distributed at the training sessions for judges.

- ◆ **Before you come to the Festival**, fill in your school's Student Registration form(s) online, the name tags for your students (be sure to include the student's track), and the participation certificates according to the instructions provided. Please notify our coordinators if there are **any** accommodation needs ahead of time so we are able to fulfill them.
- ◆ **April 9-11, 2025**: Tenth-twelfth graders attend the Festival Wednesday. Seventh-ninth graders attend the Festival Thursday or Friday. Give each student a name tag to wear; make sure all students have their name tags conspicuously displayed to facilitate attendance-taking; bring emergency information about each of your students. The completed Student Registration form is due at the Festival Information Desk outside the Kilcawley Center Chestnut Room when each school arrives on campus on the morning of the Festival, before 9:00 a.m.

**Students must attend the sessions for which they are scheduled; no changes are permitted.**

Remember to attend the judging or monitoring that you've signed up for. We need you!

- ◆ **After the Festival**, verify that your students attended their scheduled activities, and give those who did a signed certificate.
- ◆ **August 15, 2025**: deadline for submitting the English Festival Writing Award for Teachers.



*DeBartolo Hall on the campus of Youngstown State University*



# Why We Need You to Judge

Judging of all Festival competitions is done by members of the YSU English Department, area teachers, substitutes, librarians, administrators, retired teachers, and qualified parents.

The Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest is judged by the Festival Committee and the English Festival Writing Award for Teachers by a specially selected committee.

Before the Festival, judges read the Festival books for the grade level they will be judging and participate in a training session at YSU on holistic and trait analysis scoring methods, systems of assessment perfected and used for numerous state and national writing tests. At the Festival, judges first evaluate papers holistically.

The best papers are re-read, using trait scoring methods, and evaluated according to ideas, style, mechanics, and use of specific evidence from the books. Papers with the highest scores are declared the winners.

Judges and monitors must attend a training session each year, regardless of the number of training sessions they have attended in the past, since each year's judging is based on different scoring models. The training sessions for 2025 are April 2 or 3, 2025, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Atty. Daniel L. Rossi Seminar Room (formerly the Ohio Room) at Kilcawley Center. Judges and monitors must remain for the entire session.

Each school **must** provide judges for each day the school attends, according to the following formula:

- ◆ 1-18 students attending—you need one judge.
- ◆ 19 or more students attending—you need two judges.

Also, participating schools **must** provide one Festival monitor for each day the school attends. Any adult who attends a training session at 4:00 p.m. on April 2 or 3, 2025, may serve as a monitor.

The number of judges and monitors a school is obligated to supply is not affected by the number of teachers from that school who volunteer to run sessions at the Festival, such as Insights or Not-So-Trivial Pursuit.

**Schools that fail to send the appropriate number of judges or monitors to those sessions jeopardize their school's participation in the following English Festival.**

# Checklist

## **Nov. 1-15, 2024:**

Online Registration of schools

## **Nov. 21, Nov. 25, or Dec. 6, 2024:**

Payment/pick up of registration material after online registration of school

## **Feb. 18, 2025:**

ALL contest deadlines. Final judge, monitor information, and student counts submitted online

## **April 2 or 3, 2025:**

MANDATORY Festival judge and monitor training sessions

## **April 9-11, 2025:**

YSU English Festival

## **August 15, 2025:**

Deadline for English Festival Writing Award for Teachers



*Join your colleagues Thursday night of the Festival for the WROTE dinner.*

# Donating to the Festival

Though the University makes a significant contribution in terms of the services and space it provides to our program, and the school registration fee generates part of the money needed to meet the operating expenses that such a large undertaking entails, the Festival depends upon the generosity of the many firms, institutions, and individuals who help us with those expenses and who provide the prizes that are an important incentive to its continuing success.



*Sue Connor, English Festival volunteer*

The Festival Committee is grateful to those supporters and solicits the support of others who appreciate the Festival's impact upon our community. You are invited to contribute to any or all of the following funds, each of which directly benefits the Festival:

◆ **YSU English Festival Restricted Gifts:** Contributions to this fund are used to provide monetary and other prizes, and to pay for normal costs of the Festival, including printing, mailing, travel, and staffing. This fund is the general operating budget for each year's Festival.

◆ **YSU Thomas and Carol Gay Memorial English Festival Lecturer Endowment:** Created upon the death of Dr. Carol Gay on December 18, 1985, the Carol Gay Memorial Lecturer Fund was established by her husband, Professor Thomas Gay. Upon the retirement of Professor Thomas Gay from YSU in 1994, the fund was renamed the Thomas and Carol Gay English Festival Lecturer Fund. The Festival Committee added "Memorial" upon the death of Prof. Gay on July 7, 2000. Thomas and Carol Gay were the founders of the English Festival and served as its first two chairs.

Each year the fund sponsors the Festival's featured author-lecturer, a prominent writer of books for young people, who is invited to talk to students, teachers, librarians, and parents in sessions throughout the day and who is identified as the Thomas and Carol Gay Lecturer.

◆ **YSU Candace Gay Memorial Awards Endowment:** Established in 1978 by Professors Thomas and Carol Gay in memory of their thirteen-year-old daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, this fund supports the Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest. The winners of this contest exhibit distinctive writing ability. More than \$2,000 in prizes is distributed each year.

◆ **YSU James A. Houck Memorial English Festival**

**Endowment:** The English Festival Committee created this fund in memory of Professor James A. Houck, a founding member of the English Festival committee. This fund supports special Festival events and activities that are unique from year to year, but in most cases, the fund sponsors a “James Houck Lecturer,” who delivers presentations to students and adults at the Festival.

◆ **YSU Jeremy Salvner Memorial Music Awards Endowment:**

The family of Jeremy Salvner created this fund in his memory upon his death in 2005. This fund supports prizes for the Jeremy Salvner Music Contest, in which students compose original music based on one of the English Festival books.

◆ **YSU English Festival Endowment:** The Youngstown State University English Festival has welcomed over 100,000 students. We continue to mark the occasion with a \$100,000 fund-raising campaign.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Checks should be made out to **Youngstown State University** and designated for the **YSU English Festival**.

**Send checks to the following address:**

**The YSU Foundation**  
655 Wick Avenue  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown, OH 44502

Contributors are categorized as follows, with contributions to the English Festival Fund and all endowment funds included in the total:

<b>Grand Benefactor</b>	<b>\$1000 &amp; Over</b>
<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$750-999</b>
<b>Grand Patron</b>	<b>\$500-749</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$300-499</b>
<b>Sustainer</b>	<b>\$200-299</b>
<b>Donor</b>	<b>\$100-199</b>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$50 - 99</b>
<b>Supporter</b>	<b>\$25 - 49</b>

# English Festival Committee



## Co-Chairs

### Jeff Buchanan

Chair of Department of English  
and World Languages

### Angela Messenger

Writing Center Director

### Gary Salvner

Professor Emeritus of English

### Carol Gay

**Chair, 1978-1985**  
**Professor of English**

*(October 30, 1933-December 18,  
1985)*

### Thomas Gay

**Chair, 1985-1994**  
**Professor of English**

*(August 12, 1929-July 7, 2000)*

## Committee Members

### Kevin Ball

Associate Provost

### Chris Barzack

Professor, Department of  
English and World Languages

### Terry Benton

Instructor of English

### Nikki Ericksen

English Festival  
Co-coordinator

### Emily Reese

English Festival  
Co-coordinator

### Amy Gordon

Director, University Testing  
Center

### Jackie Mercer

Senior Lecturer,  
Department of English and  
World Languages

### Sarah Valingo

Instructor of English

## English Festival Advisory Board Members

**Cindy Beach**

Public Library of Youngstown  
and Mahoning County

**Michelle Best**

Austintown Middle School

**Lori Faust**

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Sharon High School

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LOSS Community Services

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