

# ELA REPORTER



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YOUR PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF BEST PRACTICES

The DOE ELA team worked to create a video library for professional learning; they found this process exciting and enlightening. The filming process involved set up, lighting, camera angles, sound, long mornings, and plenty of stops and starts. This issue gives a sneak peek behind the curtains to see what the ELA staff saw and heard during three weeks of filming. To avoid the testing schedule, they started at the high school level. Film crew and ELA staff arrived at the schools as early as 7 am., and filming usually started around 8am. Following are images from behind the scenes of each classroom.

### From Conversation to Composition

Dr. Zackory Kirk, K-12 ELA Coordinator  
Hampton High School, Grade 11



*Meeting of the minds:* Zack, Amy (GPB producer), and Stephanie discussed the different segments to be filmed.



*Good Morning, Class:* Dr. Kirk talked to the students about what he planned to do to adjust for time.

Filming required a team that listened and guided the process from beginning to end. Each day, teachers, students, and crew prepared for three hours of filming.

Most of the time was spent capturing the *entire* lesson, including starts and stops to get the right camera angles.

Speaking of the right camera angles, the film crew from NightGlass media was skillful in capturing even the trickiest of shots. Kayse Morris's class presented a unique strategy that took some maneuvering to get it captured on camera.

### The Role of Evidence in Writing

Kayse Morris, Coffee Middle School  
Grade 6



*Action:* The camera crew worked to get the right angle for a tricky shot in Mrs. Morris's class.



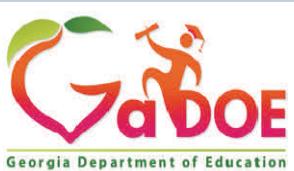
*Lights, Camera:* Kayse sat patiently as the film crew adjusted the lighting.

After filming the lesson, teachers were interviewed to give the context for what will be seen in the video.

Georgia  
Department  
of Education

Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School  
Superintendent

*"Educating Georgia's Future"*



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
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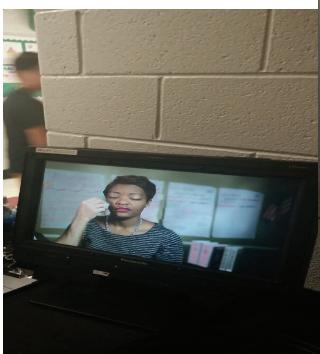
## BEHIND THE SCENES OF BEST PRACTICES, CONTINUED

This process can be nerve wracking for some. Getting tongue tied or forgetting the next word was all part of the fun. The staff laughed as words were fumbled and ideas disappeared into thin air. Depending on the school, interviews were shot in the classroom, the library, or in a conference room. The goal was to provide an authentic academic background unique to each teacher's personality and/or style. Ashley Morris's bubbly personality shined throughout the filming process.

### Intersection of Literacies:

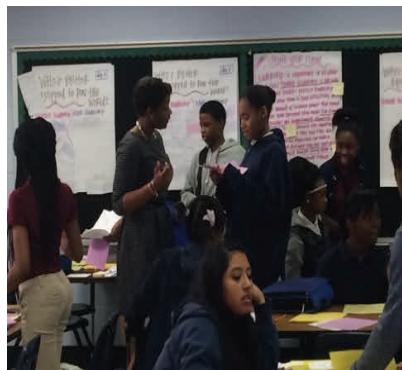
#### Speaking, Reading, Writing

Ashley Morris, Literacy Coach  
Lindley Middle School, Grade 7



*Ready for my close up.* After make-up, Ashley was ready for her on-camera interview.

**Q & A:** Because actual instruction was being filmed, students continued to ask questions and get feedback on their work. As the class prepared for filming, a student asked Ms. Morris for feedback on her writing.



The students also deserve kudos as this could not have happened without them! Many students were enthralled with the process and asked the film crew questions about the camera equipment and the "lingo" they heard being tossed around them. The NightGlass Media film crew was gracious and patient; they answered all of the students' questions and even allowed some of them to direct: "Action!"

Filming in the middle and high schools went smoothly. The staff wondered if the younger students would have the stamina to endure for three hours before getting antsy. Despite the presence of the cameras and the many starts and stops, they proved to be up for the challenge. The younger students worked just as diligently as the older students.

### Self-Assessment and Goal Setting in Writing

Tori Sinco, Avery Elementary School

Grade 5

*Recharge:* Students in Mrs. Sinco's class continued to work on their writing while they waited for a battery change.



Part of the fun was watching the film crew at work. NightGlass Media is a professional media service contracted through GPB for this project. In the image above, Matt (far right corner) directed the production. Chris (microphone), Jamie (standing in front of Chris) and Jim (changing the battery) worked in tandem to provide seamless coverage of classroom instruction and student responses.



*Ready for primetime:* Tori Sinco was a pro at answering questions on camera. She zipped through the question and answer portion.



Also happening behind the scenes was support and coaching from the technical advisor who worked as a facilitator and content editor during actual filming. In addition, the technical advisor asked questions and provided support for the on-camera interview. Because all of the teachers were skilled, they needed very little prompting and coaching. They were professionals.



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF BEST PRACTICES, CONTINUED

The last stop on this project was most refreshing. The second graders in Ms. Luz Montanez's class were adorable little writers.

### Building Student Capacity

Luz Montanez, Greens Acres Elementary School  
Grade 2



*Rituals & Routines:* Students asked if they would have their morning meeting before filming started. Ms. Montanez and co-teacher Mrs. Cox made sure students had their time together.



*"You are so smart!"*: After filming the lesson, Luz Montanez prepped for her on-camera interview. Her passion for learning was evident; she was often heard encouraging her students to "Kiss your brain."



### Man of the hour:

The students in Ms. Montanez's class got a chance to go behind the camera. They waited patiently for their turn as Chris (sound man) placed the microphone over their heads.

At the end of each day, The teachers and students were thankful for being a part of this experience. As the staff watched students file out of class and their teachers directed them to their next destination, they imagined that this would be an experience many of the students will never forget.

### And "Scene!"

Carolyn Waters, ELA Program Manager, looked on with a smile as the crew wrapped up another day's work of filming. The film crew went about the meticulous work of packing up their gear. The ELA team completed this project eagerly anticipating post production to see the finished product.



As the ELA staff toured the state of Georgia in search of teachers who were demonstrating effective practices in their classrooms, they met teachers whose enthusiasm and dedication was evident throughout the process. While this project only allowed for five teachers, the DOE staff is well aware that there are hundreds more teachers who are ready and willing to share their expertise. The hope is to continue this project of sharing teachers' work with fellow teachers across the state of Georgia.

**NightGlass Media Group** A big thank you goes out to NightGlass Media Group. The men (and women) who helped us make this project a success were a pleasure to work with.



Left to right, Jim (camera man), Chris (sound man), Kayse (teacher), Darren (camera man), Joe (assistant director), and Jamie (camera man).



*Aspiring directors?* Matt Gore, director and CEO of NightGlass Media Group, always made time for curious students to learn about the world of film-making. Here, he gave students a moment to see what he sees through the lens of the camera.

Teachers can expect the professional learning videos ready for viewing in late July.

~Stephanie Sanders

# 2015 Winners: Young Georgia Authors

Congratulations to the state winners of the Young Georgia Authors competition!



Listed by grade are the student winners, their school and school system and title of the winning literary piece.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Student Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>School System</b>	<b>Title of Work</b>
K	Haley Harlow	Manning Oaks Elementary	Fulton County	"Animal Friends"
1	Charlie Beckler	Westwood Elementary	Dalton Public Schools	"Animals"
2	Jada Smith	Austin Road Elementary	Henry County	"The Worst Day"
3	Callie Viktora	Adairsville Elementary	Bartow County	"Why the Beaver Has a Flat Tail"
4	Summer Statham	Jackson Elementary	Butts County	"How the Rain Came to Be in the Sky"
5	Jessie Hutcheson	Eastside Elementary	Coffee County	"The Dinglehopper Mystery"
6	Lawson W. Brinkley	Scholars Academy	Thomasville City Schools	"The Journey of a Sea Turtle"
7	JaNoy Sumner	Waycross Middle	Ware County	"The Devil's Favorite Fragrance"
8	Seung-Toon Baek	Lee Middle	Coweta County	"A Slightly Sinister Faction"
9	Gillian O'Bryant	White County 9th Grade Academy	White County	"Memoir"
10	Lauren Howell	Columbus High School	Muscogee County	"The Lesson of Love"
11	Rowen Quisenberry	Eagle's Landing High School	Henry County	"Paper Birds"
12	Sarah Cordero	Northwest High School	Whitfield County	"Writing"



## Young Georgia Authors Competition

**GCTE announces the state winners of the Young Georgia Authors 2015 Contest**

**Thanks to the  
Georgia Council  
of Teachers of  
English (GCTE)  
for making this  
year's  
competition a  
success.**

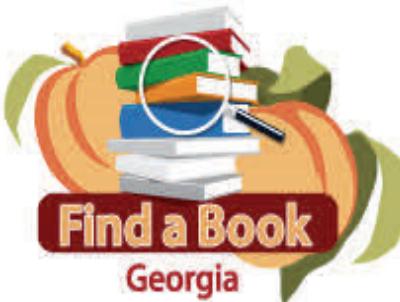
Please join the GaDOE ELA team in Curriculum and Instruction to celebrate the power of writing for our student authors across the state of Georgia. As you all know, Georgia has nurtured many famous American authors, and the tradition continues. Last year teachers were asked to encourage their students to submit their best writing to this annual competition now sponsored by the Georgia Council for Teachers of English. There were thousands of entries from grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. These aspiring writers had to face steep competition to become the selected winners from their own buildings; then their pieces were judged against their district's winners to move on to the RESA level winners. All sixteen RESA Districts submitted entries. That means that these finalists were selected from all the best entries from across the entire state of Georgia! What a testament to the power of the written word! Congratulations, young Georgia Authors! Teachers, please continue to encourage students to write!

Carolyn Waters





## 2015 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE AND FREE READING RESOURCES



When students don't read during the summer months, they lose educational ground – a phenomenon that lowers achievement potential and widens the achievement gap. Research shows that students can lose up to three months of reading ability over the summer.

Fortunately, this summer reading loss is preventable. Research shows that children who read during the summer do not have to suffer reading loss, and may even show some growth in their reading ability. To ensure that Georgia's students don't fall behind while school is out of session, the Georgia Department of Education is working alongside the Get Georgia Reading Campaign, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, and other partners to encourage summer reading.

All students are challenged to read every day this summer, for a minimum of 15 to 30 minutes, and the GaDOE and partners are offering a variety of free resources to make that easier:

[Find a Book Georgia](http://thefutureinreading.myon.com/GetGAREADING) generates a personalized reading list tailored to a student's interests and reading level [myON Reader](#) provides free access to a library of more than 8,000 enhanced digital books with multimedia supports. Visit <http://thefutureinreading.myon.com/GetGAREADING>; enter school name: *Get Georgia Reading* and username and password: *read*.

The [Georgia Public Library Service](http://gapines.org/eg/kpac/home) offers a searchable catalog of books for kids by specific subject: <http://gapines.org/eg/kpac/home>

"Literacy and reading ability are absolutely essential – they're the building blocks on which all other educational attainment is built," State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. "Escaping to other worlds through books is a fun, positive way to spend the summer hours, and it keeps students on track academically at the same time. I hope all of Georgia's students will fall in love with reading this summer, and I encourage students and parents to take advantage of these excellent, free resources to help achieve that goal."

Suggested summer reading goals for students based on grade levels are:

K-2 students: 10 books

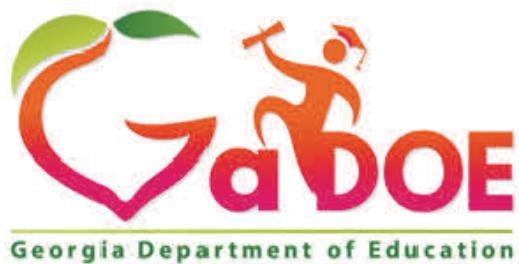
3-5 students: 8 chapter books

6-12 students: 5 fiction books and 5 non-fiction books

Research shows that reading loss occurs for most children when they are not in a formal learning environment or engaged in any form of educational activities. But that loss is preventable – Harvard University Professor Dr. James S. Kim, for example, has demonstrated that when students read a minimum of eight high-interest, ability-appropriate books over the summer, their reading skills grow as much as students who attend summer school.

Learn more about summer reading loss at the [Lexile Summer Reading webpage](#) and the [National Summer Learning Association webpage](#).

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Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"

## Resource

**What if**  
 you could get a  
 group of your  
**COLLEAGUES**  
 in the building  
 engaged in  
**LEARNING**  
 and improving  
**TOGETHER ?**



Have you ever wished everyone in your school building had access to the experiences you have as an NCTE member? Now they can. Starting this fall, NCTE will launch a new School Membership Program designed to help educators improve literacy—as a team. There's no limit to the number of participants as long as you're

all working from the same school building or campus. You can bring your coworkers together around a year's worth of great content, specially selected for relevance to educators in all disciplines because we believe literacy is everyone's job. For \$750 per school building, all participants will receive:

- Green (all electronic) membership to NCTE and a green subscription to an NCTE journal (depending on grade level)
- All the benefits that come with NCTE membership, including our weekly INBOX newsletter, opportunities to connect through the Connected Community, and access to NCTE's digital journal archive
- A monthly e-newsletter, just for school members, with a selection of resources and materials curated around relevant topics. The content of these newsletters is ideal for collaborative professional learning across your school.
- Group access to an e-book title of your group's choosing and an accompanying discussion guide. Perfect for a summer book club.

As NCTE members, everyone involved in the school membership gets access to discounts on registration to our Annual Convention registration (held in Minneapolis, MN, this November 19–22), books, and other journal subscriptions. More important than the incredible value of the content available through this offer, your school will get a chance to connect and grow professionally together.

To talk further about this program, contact Lori Cooper, NCTE Membership Development Specialist at [LCooper@ncte.org](mailto:LCooper@ncte.org) or 877-369-6283, ext. 3606.

## Join Our ListServ

One of the best ways to stay connected for information specific to your grade band is through our listserv (email list).

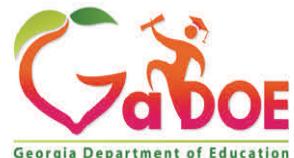
No username or password required

ELA K-5	<a href="mailto:Join-ela-k-5@list.doe.k12.ga.us">Join-ela-k-5@list.doe.k12.ga.us</a>
ELA 6-8	<a href="mailto:Join-ela-6-8@list.doe.k12.ga.us">Join-ela-6-8@list.doe.k12.ga.us</a>
ELA 9-12	<a href="mailto:Join-ela-9-12@list.doe.k12.ga.us">Join-ela-9-12@list.doe.k12.ga.us</a>
ELA District Support	<a href="mailto:Join-ela-districtsupport@list.doe.k12.ga.us">Join-ela-districtsupport@list.doe.k12.ga.us</a>
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