



# Annual Conference 2018

“The Stories of Our Lives”

October 19 & 20, 2018

## The Stories of Our Lives

Mission: In writing and telling the stories of our lives we find our own voices as students, teachers, and communities, allowing us to explore and define our culture, history, beliefs, and values. We bring to a conscious level our personal identities as readers and writers. Stories act as both windows and mirrors, challenging us to look within ourselves and beyond ourselves to find common ground.

Through our writing as teachers and students, we can share what we do together at school - our successes and failures, in order to make visible the work we do and to collaborate for change.

- How do we use literacy to make the life we want to live?
- How do we use literacy to evolve as lifelong learners?
- How do we use literacy to plan and build a life?
- How does literacy help us value our culture and beliefs - not only our past but also our future?
- How do reading and writing work together to help us envision positive changes for ourselves and for others?

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



Ruth  
Ayres



A. S.  
King



Kelly  
Starling Lyons



Shawna  
Coppola



Katie Egan  
Cunningham

**Plan on joining us in Harrisburg in October 2018!**  
**Best Western Premier the Central Hotel and Conference Center, 800 E. Park Drive**

Watch [www.pctela.org](http://www.pctela.org) and [@PCTELANews](https://twitter.com/PCTELANews) on Twitter and PCTELA - The Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts on Facebook for more information about the **PCTELA 2018 Annual Conference!**

## Friday

**Ruth Ayres** As a full time writing coach for Wawasee School District in northern Indiana, Ruth spends her days helping students find meaning in their stories and encouraging teachers to reflect and refine the art of teaching. "I love documenting ordinary stories from everyday life," Ruth says. She has taught seventh grade language arts for four years and is currently the district's writing coach. Ruth says that she wanted to become a teacher because she wanted to have a positive impact on the lives of middle schoolers. "I like helping students see the power of their everyday stories and to learn how their words can make the world a better place. I consider myself among the most fortunate because I spend my days with children and adolescents, teaching them how to make sense of the world through reading and to impact the world with their voice through writing." Ruth has written three books with Stenhouse including the following: *Day By Day* with Stacey Shubitz, *Celebrating Writers* with Christi Overman, and her newest project, *Enticing Hard-to-Reach Writers* (October 2017).



**A. S. King** has been called "One of the best Y.A. writers working today" by the *New York Times Book Review*. King is the author of highly-acclaimed novels including her 2016 release *Still Life with Tornado*, 2015's surrealist *Crawl Through It*, *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*, *Reality Boy*, the 2012 Los Angeles Times Book Prize winner *Ask the Passengers*, *Everybody Sees the Ants*, 2011 Michael L. Printz Honor Book *Please Ignore Vera Dietz* among others. Her first YA novel, *THE DUST OF 100 DOGS*, was an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, an Indie Next pick and a Cybil award finalist. Her short fiction for adults has been widely published and was nominated for *Best New American Voices 2010*. Her short fiction collection, *MONICA NEVER SHUTS UP*, is available in paperback and all ebook formats. King is a faculty member of the Writing for Children and Young Adults MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts and spends many months of the year traveling the country speaking to high school and university students.



## Saturday

**Shawna Coppola** has been teaching for over sixteen years, most recently as a K-6 literacy specialist at Rollinsford Grade School in Rollinsford, NH. She has also taught courses through the NH Literacy Institutes as well as University of New Hampshire's Professional Development & Training program. Shawna is a frequent contributor to a variety of blogs, including those of The Nerdy Book Club and The Educator Collaborative. Her debut book from Stenhouse Publishers, titled *Renew! Become a Better--and More Authentic--Writing Teacher*, was released in late spring of 2017. She is a firm believer in the power and wisdom of children of all ages and is grateful for the lessons they teach her on a daily basis.



**Kate Egan Cunningham** Katie's book from Stenhouse Publishers, *Story: Still the Heart of Literacy Learning* reminds us that stories found in literature, poetry, music, art and illustration, multimedia, and throughout all aspects of our lives serve to move us, inform us, and call us to action. What's more, these narratives provide an invaluable teaching resource to attract young readers and writers and, subsequently, to deepen their understanding of the world. Katie is a veteran classroom teacher, a literacy consultant, and an associate professor at Manhattanville College. She is coauthor of the popular blog The Classroom Bookshelf and coauthor of *Literacy Leadership in Changing Schools* (Teachers College Press, 2015). She lives with her husband and two sons where hilarious, heartfelt stories happen each day."



**Kelly Starling Lyons** is a writer and children's book author. She is also one of the founding members of the blog The Brown Bookshelf, which is aimed at young African-American readers and features book reviews and author and illustrator interviews. *One Million Men and Me* (Just Us Books, 2007), illustrated by Peter Ambush, emerged from memories of attending the Million Man March. She has three picture books with G.P. Putnam's Sons that celebrate freedom and family and explore the themes of hope, love and faith. *Ellen's Broom*, illustrated by Daniel Minter, was inspired by a document she saw while researching family history in Rockingham County, NC and Henry County, VA. *Tea Cakes for Tosh*, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, was inspired by her relationship with her grandma. *Hope's Gift*, illustrated by Don Tate, ties in with the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation. Kelly is a children's book author whose mission is to transform moments, memories and history into stories of discovery.

