

# GRANT WOOD AEA YOUNG WRITERS' CONFERENCE

To: Elementary Principals & Teachers  
From: Susie Green, Student Programs Specialist

Grant Wood AEA is pleased to announce that on Friday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Writers' Conference will be held for area 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. This event will be a special day for anyone who enjoys sharing and celebrating the creative writing of students. The conference will take place at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, and is limited to the first 180 students. Below are the details. We look forward to your participation!

## **General Information**

Purpose: To celebrate creative writing and share student writing  
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023  
Location: Coe College, Cedar Rapids  
Audience: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students (see *Selection Recommendations* below)  
Time: 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (check-in 9:10-9:30 a.m.)  
Cost: \$15/student  
Guest Presenter: Sarah Prineas, Author  
What to bring: Each student should bring a sack lunch and a story/writing sample to share (2 copies)

## **Selection Recommendations**

The Young Writers' Conference is designed to honor student authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers. These are students who have written, edited, illustrated and "published" (or are in the process of) a piece of creative writing within your classroom or school. When selecting students for this event, schools are urged to give consideration to students from all ability levels (and to consider avid readers, too).

## **Format**

We are very excited to welcome guest author Sarah Prineas back to the Young Writers' Conference for our opening welcome! Students will participate in three (3) workshop sessions again this year rotating with the other students from their school. Workshops will be provided by Coe College education students. Lunch will be held on the Coe lawn (weather permitting) during which students will be paired up to share their personal writing piece for feedback. Following lunch all students will engage in a group mixer activity (more information to follow). The day will end with a closing self-guided activity. Tentative schedule below:

9:10-9:30	Check-in
9:30-10:20	Opening & Guest Presentation
10:30-11:15	Workshop Rotation 1
11:15-11:45	Lunch with a Sharing Partner
11:45-12:05	Group Mixer Activity
12:15-12:55	Workshop Rotation 2
1:05-1:50	Workshop Rotation 3
1:50-2:00	Self-Guided Reflection Activity

**Registration instructions on the next page...**

## Registration Instructions 2023

Please review and follow the instructions below. Registrations are accepted on a first come, first served basis until **April 1**, space permitting. If you have questions, contact Susie Green (319)399-6775, [sgreen@gwaea.org](mailto:sgreen@gwaea.org).

### Directions

1. Identify students and teachers to attend the conference. See *Selection Recommendations* on the previous page. A maximum of 12 students per school may register. (*As you select your students this year, I encourage you to look for young authors of color. This year's group of Coe College students is beautifully diverse and would serve as great role models for younger students.*)
2. Distribute *Student Registration Forms* to identified students (or email to parents).
  - ✓ Forms should be completed and returned with payment attached (**payable to your school**).
  - ✓ Limited financial assistance is available. Email Susie Green to request funds.
3. Collect registration forms and payments.
4. Complete the School Registration Form.
5. Submit the following to Grant Wood AEA via email or van mail by April 1<sup>st</sup>:
  - School Registration Form*
  - Individual Student Registration Forms*
  - Note: Payment may be sent later (see step 6)
6. Submit individual payments to your school secretary and request a Purchase Order or one check from your school payable to Grant Wood AEA to cover the registration fees.

### Preparing Students for Sharing

In order that students may be prepared and gain the most from the Sharing\* portion of the day, teachers are asked to work with each student in the weeks leading up to the conference to:

1. prepare an original piece of writing (story, poem, etc.); and
2. practice reading his/her writing aloud (3 minutes max)

Students have the option to:

1. bring a completed piece of original writing to share for comments, *or*
2. bring an unfinished piece for input and future development (Students who elect to bring an unfinished piece should also come with 2 or 3 questions to ask their sharing partner for gathering input on the development of their story - setting, descriptions, character development, etc.)

### Preparing Students for our Guest Presenters

Prior to the conference, we also ask teachers/students become familiar with our guest author, Sarah Prineas. Sarah's website is [www.sarah-prineas.com](http://www.sarah-prineas.com). We anticipate students will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of Sarah's presentation.

### School Expectations

In the interest of safety and communication Grant Wood AEA requires schools to provide at least one teacher to accompany students to the conference. The teacher must remain on the Coe College campus during the conference and will be responsible for checking students in; alerting the conference staff of student absences; and, supporting his/her students as necessary while on campus (including serving as emergency contact).