



Virtual Professional Development Opportunity

Teaching LGBTQIA* Literature in Secondary School

New Jersey public schools are now legally responsible for providing a LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum and teaching middle and high school students about the political, economic, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. As a result, New Jersey teachers have a unique opportunity to explore gender and sexuality not only in history classes, but across the curriculum.

This seminar will examine how teachers might invest secondary English classrooms with LGBTQ literature as well as methods for teaching it. Seminar participants will read one middle grade novel with LGBTQ content, Kacen Callender's *King and the Dragonflies*, as well as excerpts from other texts (fiction and nonfiction) written for children and teens. Using seminal concepts from gender and queer theory as close-reading lenses, participants will investigate how theory is experienced – as embodied, lived, and real – in the lives of the characters in these books. Participants will also explore how to make these concepts accessible to secondary students by examining models of curriculum with LGBTQ content currently in place in local schools. Approaches relevant to whole-class novel, book club, or reading/writing workshop models of instruction will be discussed.

Session Information:

Two 2-hour Zoom sessions, 2:00-4:00 pm Tuesday, March 23 & Friday, March 26

Provided Text - Callender, Kacen. (2020). *King and the Dragonflies*. 978-1338129335

Instructor: Emily S. Meixner, PhD. Emily is an associate professor of English and the coordinator of the secondary English education program at TCNJ. She regularly teaches undergraduate courses on English Language Arts reading and writing pedagogy as well as graduate and undergraduate courses on children's and young adult literature. Learn more at: <https://english.tcnj.edu/faculty-staff/emily-meixner/>

Application Information: Submit this application to your PDSN Liaison by **2/24/21**. Please provide all of the requested information. Incomplete registration forms cannot be processed and will be returned.

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

PDSN DISTRICT _____ GRADE LEVEL/CONTENT AREA _____

Mail reading materials to the following address:

SCHOOL NAME/MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIPCODE _____

Contact Carla Woodward for questions: step@tcnj.edu Confirmation information, materials will be emailed/mailed to the registrant.

PDSN Representatives: By March 1, 2021, please send Carla Woodward your districts attendee information.

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