

# Maine Council for English Language Arts Monthly Newsletter

## *MCELA Matters*

*programs, ideas, connections*



February 2022

February is [Black History Month](#). In what ways will you lift the voices of Black Americans this month and every month of the year?

MCELA is taking part in the [African American Read-In](#), established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English. Will you join us in reading a book by an African author this month? Fill out [this brief form](#) to let us know you are participating. If you are interested in joining the African American Read-In at your school or location, [click on the link](#) to NCTE's information page.

Looking to explore a new author? Check out this [calendar of authors](#) for Black History Month.

Use [this link](#) to subscribe to Anti-Racism Daily's 28 Days of Black History to receive one email each day highlighting one artifact from Black history in the U.S.

*Carrie Barbosa, President*  
*maine.ela@gmail.com*

## *Programming Matters*

Join us for our fifth session of **Teachers Write**  
February 7 from 4:00 - 5:00 via Zoom

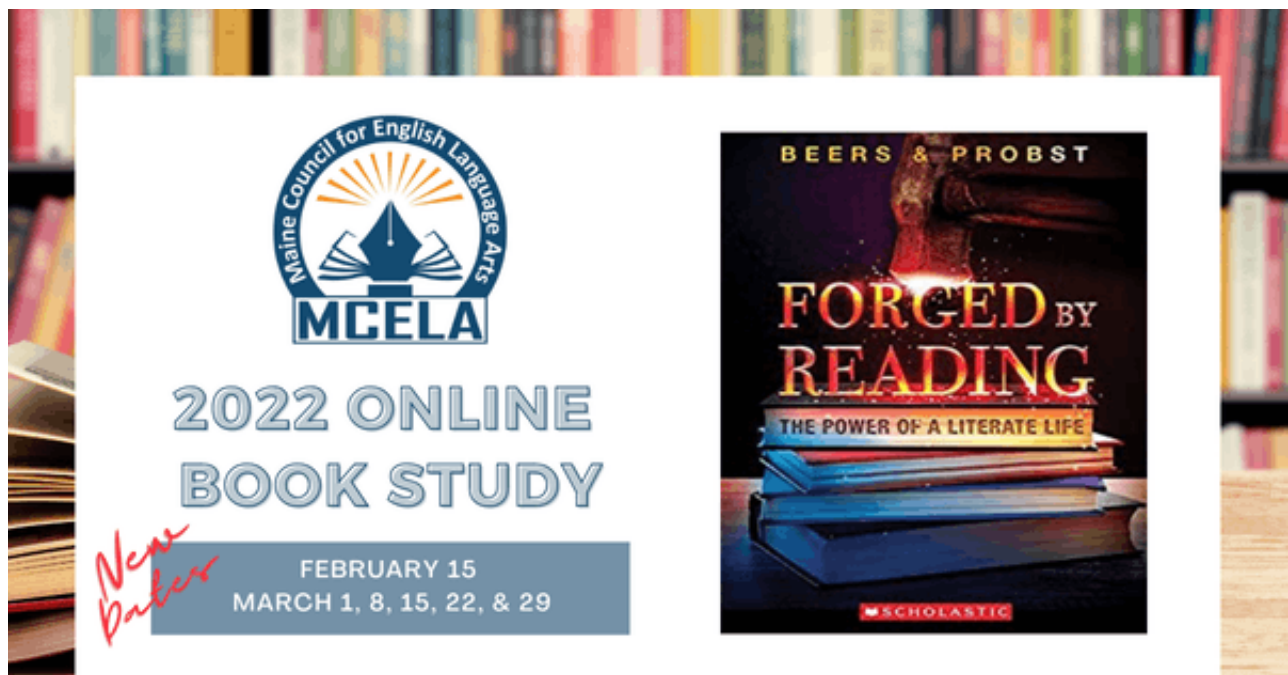




**REGISTER HERE**

Join us for our latest online book study!

***Forged by Reading* by Kyrene Beers & Bob Probst**



**REGISTER HERE**

In today's challenging environment, we would like to provide teachers with the space for discussion and support around how and why we read. Join the Maine

space for discussion and support around how and why we read. Join the Maine Council for English Language Arts to study *Forged by Reading* by Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst.

“It has been said that books change us, and certainly they might, but perhaps it would be better if we thought not that books change us, but that books give us the opportunity to change ourselves. We the readers should remain responsible for who and what we become”- Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst

Attendees will earn 2 contact hours for each meeting.

Cost: Free for members, and \$40 for non-members.  
We ask that participants provide their own copy of the book.

Our virtual book group will take place via Zoom on Tuesdays from 4:00 - 5:15 P.M. EST.

Dates & Topics:

**Meeting 1: February 15** – Morgan Dunton & Patti Forster

Intro/overview & highlight the theme of change

**Meeting 2: March 1** – Patti Forster & Claudette Brassil

Change ch. 1-6

**Meeting 3: March 8** – Bre Allard and Michelle Deblois

Power ch. 7-10

**Meeting 4: March 15** – Bre Allard and Michelle Deblois

Power ch. 11-13

**Meeting 5: March 22** – Courtney McCann and Emily Rumble

Hope ch. 14-18

**Meeting 6: March 29** – Patti Forster & Morgan Dunton

Conclusion/possible author talk!

## *Idea Matters*

### **Introducing the IDEA Collective**

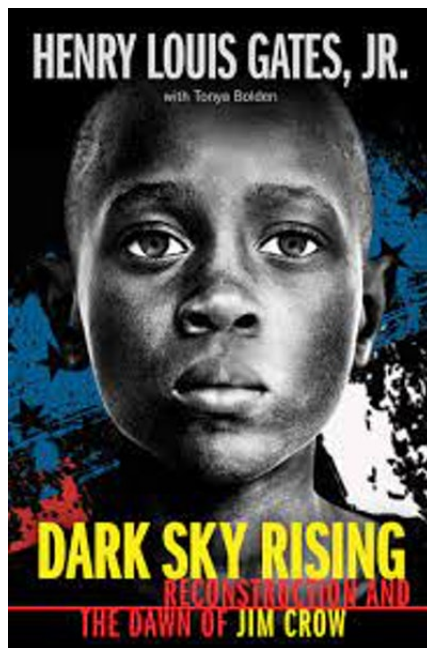
*Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access for Teachers of English Language Arts*

Members of the MCELA Executive Board created this working group to focus on an important goal: Support Maine educators as they explore ways to develop materials and practices for inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. In particular, MCELA invites educators to think about, discuss, and take steps to address issues

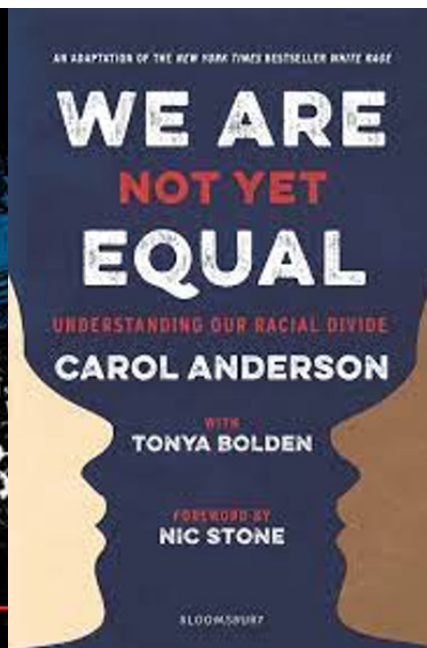
MCELA invites educators to think about, discuss, and take steps to address issues related to racism, income disparity, gender identity, environmental justice, equity, genocide, and indigenous sovereignty.

Each month, the IDEA Collective of MCELA will share a resource for educators to explore and consider using in their practice and with their students. This month, we invite teachers to explore the [Samantha Smith Challenge](#), a program based on Maine artist Robert Shetterly's work in [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#). Not ready to take on a project with students? Consider exploring the materials and resources at [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#) as a way to introduce to students the people from history and in the world today who raise their voices about issues related to justice and equity.

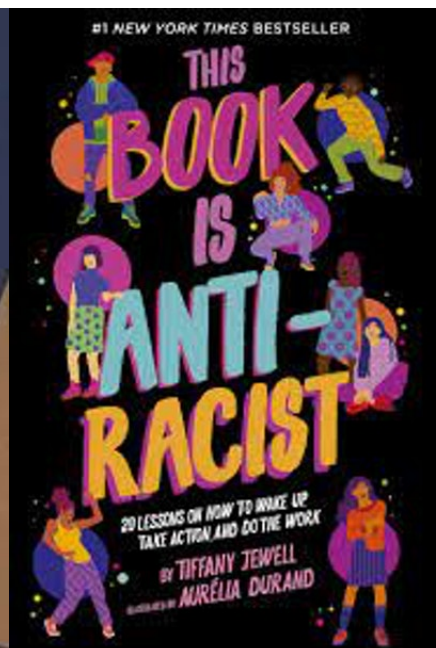
## *Book Matters*



Henry Louis Gates, Jr. presents a journey through America's past and our nation's attempts at renewal in this look at the Civil War's conclusion, Reconstruction, and the rise of Jim Crow segregation.



History texts often teach that the United States has made a straight line of progress toward Black equality. The reality is more complex: milestones like the end of slavery, school integration, and equal voting rights have



Who are you? What is racism? Where does it come from? Why does it exist? What can you do to disrupt it? Learn about social identities, the history of racism and resistance against it, and how you can use your anti-racist lens and voice

This is a story about America during and after Reconstruction, one of history's most pivotal and misunderstood chapters.

In a stirring account of emancipation, the struggle for citizenship and national reunion, and the advent of racial segregation, the renowned Harvard scholar delivers a book that is illuminating and timely. Real-life accounts drive the narrative, spanning the half century between the Civil War and *Birth of a Nation*.

Here, you will come face-to-face with the people and events of Reconstruction's noble democratic experiment, its tragic undermining, and the drawing of a new "color line" in the long Jim Crow era that followed. In introducing young readers to them, and to the resiliency of the African American people at times of progress and betrayal, Professor Gates shares a history that remains vitally relevant today.

all been met with racist legal and political maneuverings meant to limit that progress. *We Are Not Yet Equal* examines five of these moments: The end of the Civil War and Reconstruction was greeted with Jim Crow laws; the promise of new opportunities in the North during the Great Migration was limited when blacks were physically blocked from moving away from the South; the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision was met with the shutting down of public schools throughout the South; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 led to laws that disenfranchised millions of African American voters and a War on Drugs that disproportionately targeted blacks; and the election of President Obama led to an outburst of violence including the death of Black teen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri as well as the election of Donald Trump.

to move the world toward equity and liberation.

Gain a deeper understanding of your anti-racist self as you progress through 20 chapters that spark introspection, reveal the origins of racism that we are still experiencing, and give you the courage and power to undo it. Each chapter builds on the previous one as you learn more about yourself and racial oppression. 20 activities get you thinking and help you grow with the knowledge. All you need is a pen and paper.

Author Tiffany Jewell, an anti-bias, anti-racist educator and activist, builds solidarity beginning with the language she chooses--using gender neutral words to honor everyone who reads the book. Illustrator Aurélia Durand brings the stories and characters to life with kaleidoscopic vibrancy.

***"In a racist society, it's not enough to be non-racist--we must be ANTI-RACIST." --  
Angela Davis***





**INTELLECTUAL  
freedom Matters**  
for ALL MAINE STUDENTS

**We stand with Maine educators and librarians in ensuring and protecting students' rights to intellectual freedom.**

Get the resources &  
talking points:  
[bit.ly/FReadomME](https://bit.ly/FReadomME)



## *Membership Matters*

The pandemic has forced us to change our membership structure since membership has been tied to our annual conference in the past. We are excited to announce a new membership structure that is an annual fee and covers all of our programming\*

For an annual membership, we are asking for a donation of \$30.

Did you know you can put the cost of membership for your entire English department into your district budget? When it's time to request funds from your district for next year's budget, consider adding a line for membership for MCELA for all ELA teachers in your school. Membership is just \$30 a person and will bring a year's worth of PD and a discounted rate for the annual

**MCELA conference.**

**\*We will be offering an exclusive author talk in the spring that will come with an additional charge.**

### **ALREADY A MEMBER?**

Use your membership number to access **MEMBERS-ONLY CONTENT** on the MCELA website, including recordings of past webinars.

**DONATE HERE**

**stay tuned via social media**

