

# Maine Council for English Language Arts Monthly Newsletter

## *MCELA Matters*

*programs, ideas, connections*



### November 2021

November is [Native American Heritage Month](#). Here are some resources for you to explore for your classroom this month:

★ The [Abbe Museum](#), celebrating the Wabanaki people of Maine, provides tours of the museum, classroom programs, and lesson plans in their [Educator Hub](#).

★ Listen to the WERU Community Radio archives of their radio programs [Wabanaki Windows](#), [Indigenous Voices](#), and [Dawnland Signals](#).

★ Read about [Theresa Secord](#), traditional Penobscot basket maker, her art form, and her advocacy work in her essay for the "What Maine Craft Means to Me" series from the Maine Crafts Association.

★ The University of Maine's Resource page on [Native American Programs](#) includes Native American information, Wabanaki studies, and a few other resources.

★ The Maine DOE has a rich collection of resources on their [Maine Native Studies Resources](#) page.

★ The [National Museum of the American Indian](#) provides student webinars, virtual field trips, lessons, and resources through its [Native Knowledge 360° Education Initiative](#).

★ The [Wisdom of the Elders](#) website hosts multimedia resources, curriculum, events, and environmental and other projects to promote Native American cultural sustainability.

★ The [First People](#) website has a collection of nearly 1400 [Native American Legends](#).

★ NCTE's Read Write Think resource provides a database of searchable lessons for teachers, such as [Making Connections to Myth and Folktale: \*The Many Ways to Rainy Mountain\*](#).

★ [PBS Learning Media](#) has a vast amount of videos on the topic of Native Americans.

★ Annenberg Learner provides free resources for K-12 educators, including the [Native Voices](#) section of the American Passages series.

*Carrie Barbosa, President*

## *Book Matters - Native Voices*



Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural

New York Times best-selling author Cynthia Leitich Smith turns to realistic fiction with the thoughtful story of a Native teen navigating the complicated, confusing waters of high school — and first love.

Eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. She dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after

North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

her fragile mother.

## *Programming Matters - Native Maine*

The image is a promotional poster for the documentary film 'Dawnland'. The central focus is the movie poster itself, which features a serene sunset over a body of water with mountains in the foreground. The title 'DAWNLAND' is prominently displayed in white, with the subtitle 'A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CULTURAL SURVIVAL AND STOLEN CHILDREN' below it. To the left of the poster are logos for 'MCELA' (Maine Council for English Language Arts) and 'UPSTANDER PROJECT'. To the right are several award logos, including 'EMMY AWARD WINNER', 'CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION', 'WOODS HOLE 2018 Best Documentary Feature', 'Official Selection Seattle International Film Festival 2018', and 'IFFBOSTON'. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'screening and discussion' is written in large, bold, orange letters, followed by 'Wednesday, November 17 from 6:00 - 7:30' in white on an orange background.

**November 17 - Register Here**

The DAWNLAND Screening/Discussion is **FREE** for all ELA educators!

**Watch the Dawnland trailer below**







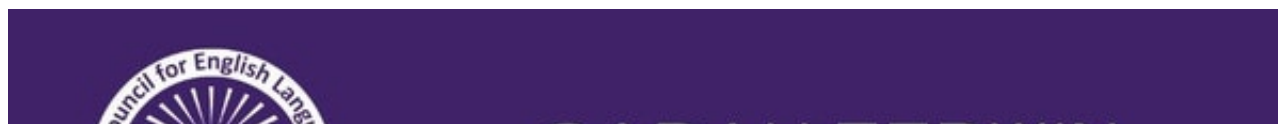
## *Programming Matters - other November offerings*

**Teachers Write**

Join facilitators *Carrie Barbosa, South Portland High School, and Todd McKinley, Leonard Middle School* to start and/or develop your writing in a safe and supportive community of teacher writers.

1st Monday of each month, except Dec.–  
10/4, 11/1, 12/6, 1/10, 2/7, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2  
Join one, join some, join all.  
No pressure writing!

**November 1 - Register Here**





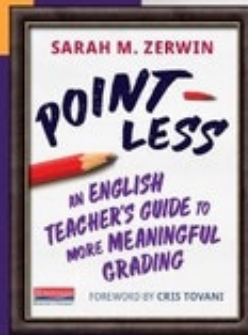
SARAH ZERWIN

# AUTHOR EVENT!

Via Zoom  
11/9/21, 4-5:15 EST

- Learn more of what Zerwin is thinking/doing this year.
- Hear answers to questions developed by book study participants.
- Q & A at end.

Registration is  
open now



November 9 - [Register Here](#)

## Student Reflection & Learning Goals

What's Working Wednesday  
November 17, 2021



**BETH CARLSON, M.ED., C.A.S**  
English Teacher & Department Head  
Kennebunk High School



November 17 - Register Here

## *Membership Matters - become a member!*

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.

\*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.

[DONATE HERE](#)

stay tuned via social media



