

Shirley

From: <paula.clements@polk-fl.net>
To: <Undisclosed recipients:>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 9:31 AM
Subject: FCTE Newsbox

Letters from the White House: A National PreK-12 Creative Writing Contest

Introduce young readers and writers to one of the most personal and meaningful ways to communicate with Letters from the White House, a national creative writing contest from the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, Reading Rockets, and AdLit.org. To enter the contest, students write letters and journal entries that explore the history of America and tap into their own creativity when they imagine and write about the experience of living or working in the Executive Mansion. Students are encouraged to find inspiration in the poetry, stories, illustrations, and information in *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*. The contest will launch on January 20, 2009, Inauguration Day, with entries due on February 16, 2009, Presidents Day. A grand prize winner will be named in each competition level: Level I, PreK and K; Level II, grades 1-3; Level III, grades 4-6; Level IV, 7-9; and Level V, grades 10-12, on April 30, 2009, the 100th day of the new presidential term.

Contest information and resources for [preK-grade 3 teachers](#) and for [grades 4-12](#) are available from Reading Rockets and AdLit.org. At www.ourwhitehouse.org, the companion website to *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*, educators and parents will find useful information and historical resources to help students with research. Winning entries will be published online and prizes include copies of *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out* and gift certificates to [Better World Books](#).

NCTE is seeking rationales from teachers (and their students) about novels they teach or have taught in their classes. Presently, NCTE sells two CDs of rationales, but could always use more recently published, yet controversial works. The SLATE Steering Committee also urges teachers to review their school's, district's and or county's policy on book selection, adoption and challenge policies. If at all possible, teachers are requested to forward these policies to Dr. Clarissa West-White, SLATE Steering Committee Member at drcwestwhite@gmail.com, in an effort that those who need assistance in developing or amending such policies can have a place to seek advice.

Middle School Teacher Wins Distinguished Educator Award

Jane Feber, language arts teacher at Mandarin Middle School in Jacksonville, received the National Middle School Association's (NMSA) Distinguished Educator Award. This award recognizes outstanding practitioners in middle level education, and identifies those who have made a significant impact on the lives of young adolescents through leadership, vision, and advocacy. Jane received the award at the annual NMSA conference in Denver, Colorado.

FCTE needs your help. We have created a very short survey of six questions regarding this year's Institute for Professional Development. Please take a minute or two to answer the questions so that we can be sure we're meeting your needs. Simply click on the following

link! If clicking doesn't work, you can copy and paste it into your browser.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=yXuJBXiaAFssnbo9_2bWN_2bNQ_3d_3d

If you do not wish to receive the FCTE Newsbox, simply let me know and I'll remove your name from the list. Please know that by removing your name, you will not receive any FCTE email correspondence.

Paula Clements
FCTE Executive Secretary
Lake Region High School
863-297-3099