

March 17, 2009

John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site &
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum present:

Picturing the *Past*

A Conference for Classroom Teachers and Librarians of Grades 3 - 8

A well-told story creates lively, lasting impressions in a child's mind. How can we present history this way to our students? How do we best use illustrations, photographs and other primary sources, along with great writing, to widen their world and help them connect to people in different times and places? What new challenges are there for building historical understanding in today's media-saturated learning environment?

Join outstanding storytellers and fellow educators as we explore ways to help young people form their own memorable pictures of the past!

This conference addresses Massachusetts learning standards in English Language Arts and History & Social Science.

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Columbia Point
Boston, MA 02125

PRSR FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 157
BOSTON, MA

JOHN F. KENNEDY
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM





Ellen Levine is an award-winning author with a gift for making history both vivid and personal. In *Henry's Freedom Box*, a 2008 Caldecott Honor Book, she sensitively captures the cruelties of slavery while relating one of the most amazing escape stories from the Underground Railroad. The richly-detailed narratives in her books for older readers such as *Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews* and *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories* allow the voices of those who were there to "paint a broad canvas" conveying the magnitude of historical events as well as the humanity and heroism of individuals. *Up Close: Rachel Carson*, her newest title, is a biography for teenagers.

Wendell Minor is a noted children's book illustrator and one of the nation's most distinguished painters of book cover art. David McCullough described Mr. Minor as "an exceptionally gifted, almost unimaginably prolific American artist....In the world of publishing there is no one quite like him." His books for young readers include *Sitting Bull Remembers*, *Into the Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream*, and *Reaching for the Moon*. His illustrations for works of fiction, such as the classic *Shane*, and *Ghost Ship: A Cape Cod Story*, are infused with a remarkable sense of time and place. Wendell Minor's most recent book is *Abraham Lincoln Comes Home*, in which a father and son wait to meet the Lincoln funeral train as it passes through their town.

Walter Dean Myers is a celebrated author of fiction, nonfiction and poetry for young people, and a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for titles such as *Fallen Angels* and *Now is Your Time!* He has also built an extraordinary personal archive of photos and documents, many of which have been reproduced in his books, including *One More River to Cross*, *At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England*, and *Here in Harlem*. "In my basement," he writes, "there are thousands of old photographs and bits of paper. These are ephemera...such as theater tickets, newspapers, letters, and advertisements....I love these old paper items, and the clues they provide to history. It makes research fascinating and helps the past to come alive."

Martin W. Sandler recognized the power of photographs to engage students' interest in history as a classroom teacher many years ago. The author of more than 70 books and a two-time Pulitzer Prize nominee, his enthusiasm for the visual approach to history continues with the publication this year of *Lincoln Through the Lens: How Photography Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Life*. Among his other titles are *Trapped in Ice: An Amazing True Whaling Adventure*, *The Story of American Photography*, and the Library of Congress American History Series for Young People, which drew extensively on the LOC's vast collection of primary sources. Martin Sandler is also an Emmy Award-winning television writer and producer, and creator of the "This Was America" series.

R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M

Registrations are accepted in the order in which they are received. Conference space is limited - please register early.

Name _____

Home address _____

City _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Grade _____

E-mail address _____

School/organization _____

Please list choices for Concurrent Session (A, B or C).

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Please list choices for Meet the Authors (1, 2, 3 or 4).

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Registration fee is \$90 and includes handouts, morning coffee, and lunch.

Registration form and payment must be received by **February 15, 2009**. Confirmation and directions will be sent to the first 125 registrants.

Make check payable to **Eastern National**, and mail with completed registration form to:

Liza Stearns
Kennedy National Historic Site
99 Warren Street
Brookline, MA 02445

For information, contact Sam Rubin at 617/514-1650 or Liza Stearns at 617/201-7217.

Reproduce registration form as needed.

Picturing the Past

March 17, 2009

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

8:00 Registration

8:30 Welcome

8:45 **Discovering the Past through Words and Images**

How do authors and illustrators use imagery to help young readers visualize and make sense of the past? What resources do they draw upon to create these images? What are the particular challenges of using illustrations and photographs in history-based literature?

Myra Zarnowski, Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education at Queens College, leads a wide-ranging discussion with **Ellen Levine**, **Wendell Minor**, **Walter Dean Myers** and **Martin Sandler**.

10:00 Book browsing and sales

10:35 **Primary Source Invitations to Critical Thinking and Understanding**

In this interactive presentation, **Rhonda Clevenson**, Executive Director of Primary Source, shows how curiosity-provoking fragments of history provide invitations to learning that students simply can't resist. Through examples from different historical periods, she shares instructional strategies for using primary sources that connect to students' lives and resonate with their natural desire to know and understand the world.

11:30 Lunch

12:15 **Concurrent Workshops** *List your first and second choices on the registration form.*

A **Imagining the Pilgrims: A Creative Approach to Learning History**

Veteran teacher and author of *Far Away and Long Ago* and *Seeking History*, Monica Edinger uses primary and secondary sources, children's literature, and new technologies to develop a love of history in her students. In this workshop, you will travel back in time and experience life as a Pilgrim in Massachusetts. You'll decipher a seventeenth-century journal entry, analyze children's book illustrations, and learn how to guide students to write and illustrate their own historical fiction with imagined Pilgrim characters.

Grades 3-5

Monica Edinger, The Dalton School, New York City

B **Sort it Out**

A treasure-trove of primary source images available on the internet may go unused by teachers who lack effective ways of approaching them with students. In this hands-on session, Rhonda Clevenson leads participants through an inquiry process in which students classify historical documents in order to develop their own ideas and interpretations. *Grades 3-8*

Rhonda Clevenson, Primary Source Learning

C **Picturing America**

This innovative program from the National Endowment for the Humanities, guides student exploration of American history through art masterpieces. The presenters, who received national recognition for their participation, show how they successfully implemented the program. Learn how the program can support curriculum, extend understanding beyond text, and open doors to the past. Leave with at least one lesson or activity to implement in your classroom. *Grades 5-8*

Mary Kelleher, **Jessie Gerson-Nieder** & **Trevor Wrangmore**, Prospect Hill Academy Charter School, Somerville

1:20 **Meet the Authors** *List your first and second choices on the registration form.*

Our guest authors meet with participants in small groups to discuss their work and conference-related topics.

1 Ellen Levine

2 Wendell Minor

3 Walter Dean Myers

4 Martin Sandler

2:20 Closing Session

2:30 Book Signing

