Claire Gatrell Stephens

Claire is a National Board Certified Library/Media Specialist and the author of two Libraries Unlimited titles. A regular speaker at conferences and teacher trainings, Claire has presented at The National Middle School Conference, The Coretta Scott King A.L.A. Preconference, The Southeastern Regional Reading Association Conference, and the Florida Association for Media in Education Conference, among others. An experienced educator, Claire began working in school library/media centers over 10 years ago. Currently employed by Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, Florida she is the Media Director at Freedom High School. In addition to her work for Libraries Unlimited, Claire is a regular contributor to the Florida Media Quarterly, and recently, the Orange County Historical Society selected her short story American Hero to appear in their journal. When she is not teaching and writing Claire enjoys reading, cooking and spending time with her husband, family, and friends. She’s currently looking to find a publisher for her young adult novel and planning a trip to Alaska in the summer of 2005.

Her Books

Picture This! Using Picture Story Books for Character Education in the Classroom (2004)

Coretta Scott King Award Books: Using Great Literature with Children and Young Adults (2000)

Workshops

These workshops can range from one to three hours according to your needs.

AWARDS AND PRIZES AND BOOKS, OH MY!

This is the session where books are king! Libraries Unlimited author Claire Stephens will present this year’s award winners with an emphasis on the less famous awards such as the Pura Belpre, Boston Globe Horn Book Awards, and others. This session will help increase awareness of the awards to assist in promotion and selection of individual titles for students and teachers. Celebrate reading with Claire as she explores picture books, novels, nonfiction, and more. Attendees are guaranteed to find at least one title that will make them want to read, read, read!

BOOKS OF CHARACTER. BOOKS THAT TEACH.

Children’s literature is full of opportunities to pass along our values to future generations. In this session, nine core value areas such as honesty, fairness, and citizenship will be explored along with selected titles that illustrate each character trait. Teaching ideas and resources will round out the focus to help integrate character education into the curriculum using good literature.
THE CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD BOOKS: GREAT LITERATURE FOR THE CLASSROOM

The Coretta Scott King Award books have been exciting readers for over 30 years. This session will inform about the award’s history, highlight curriculum connections using Coretta Scott King titles and spotlight selected award titles. Extended versions of the session include sample class activities, additional related resources, and thematic tie-ins using these wonderful award winners.

LATINO LIT

Hispanic student populations are booming across the country. This session will identify good literature by Hispanic authors. The emphasis will cross Latin American boundaries and age levels to focus on books that interest, inform, and delight readers from all cultural backgrounds with good storytelling, interesting characters, and captivating plots. Whether you are looking for titles for classroom use or general reading recommendations this session will provide you with multiple titles to share.

LIBRARY 101: ADVICE FOR THE EMERGING LIBRARY/MEDIA SPECIALIST

National Board Certified Library/Media Specialist Claire Gatrell Stephens provides advice and tips for the beginning school library/media specialist in this jam-packed session. We’ll discuss how to start, what to do next, resources, ideas, and “how tos” to help you get going as a new school librarian. We will talk philosophy, define vocabulary, and lay the groundwork for being successful in this challenging, exciting, and important career.

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