



Monthly Newsletter

Issue 27: November 2015

News Updates

November 30 is the last day to RSVP for the December 4th meeting of the Middle Tennessee Writers' Group. This group welcomes adult writers of all genres and experience levels to gather for ongoing community and structured critique. For more information, contact Allison Justus (alliboyd@gmail.com).

Applications for ISI are due January 15. Interested educators can apply now by going to middletnwritingproject.org and clicking on the "ISI" tab. Curious about what ISI can do for you? Check out our website!

Teacher Consultants, do you have someone you'd like to recommend for ISI? Now is the time to encourage your colleagues to apply and to email your recommendations to Ellen.Donovan@mtsu.edu

January Saturday Seminar is on the 30th from 9:00-noon. Teacher Consultant Leslie Trail will be showing strategies for helping students learn to read and process complex text. Register at www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development. Send purchase orders to PO Box 213 MTSU 1301 E. Main St. Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Teacher Feature

Sarah Morris (ISI 2014) teaches Advanced Honors English II and AP English Language and Composition at Central Magnet School in Murfreesboro. One of her favorite aspects of teaching is hearing what the students have to say both in class and in their writing; they are surprisingly astute and clever. In the 2014-2015 calendar year she enjoyed the *Lord of the Flies* unit - mostly because the students enjoyed it so much, especially the Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau social contract aspects of the book as well as the tie-ins to pop culture (*LOST*, *The 100*, etc.). She also tried Writer's Workshop using writing topics that were predominately student choice and saw amazing results: students' writing and thinking blossomed because they were passionate about the topic. They willingly researched and revised and edited. Grading became enjoyable, and she looked forward to essay due dates. Sarah and her partner Kevin have two dogs, Charles Barksley and Bartleby. They love the NBA, Grizzlies basketball, and silly references to Melville's short stories.

