



May 9, 2019

John F. Kennedy Presidential
Library and Museum

We the People

Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times

A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3 to 8 and School Librarians

We the People

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Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times

In his final months in office, amidst a nationwide civil rights struggle, John F. Kennedy framed the ongoing crisis as a moral as well as a constitutional and legal issue. More than 55 years later, people of color, immigrants from certain countries, women and LGBTQ communities continue to face inequities.

Join award-winning authors to explore how children's literature can shed light on people past and present who are seen as "other." Uncover stories of strength and struggle in the search for opportunity, freedom, and equality. Discuss the impact on all children of seeing stories about underrepresented groups in books and other media, and reflect on the role educators play in a time of social and political divisiveness. Consider new strategies to help students engage in civic discourse and become active, empathetic community members.



Joseph Bruchac has been creating poetry, short stories, novels, and music that reflect his Native American heritage for over thirty years. In addition to being a renowned storyteller, he is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas. His most recent novel is *Two Roads*, which Horn Book calls a “tautly paced and compelling story of self-discovery, family, belonging, and friendship.” He is also the author of *Code Talkers, A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War II*.



Lesa Cline-Ransome is known for her stirring picture book biographies, many of which feature African Americans, including Frederick Douglass, Louis Armstrong, and Harriet Tubman. Her two most recent works for young readers are *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams* and *Finding Langston*, the story of a young boy growing up in Chicago who discovers the poetry of his namesake, Langston Hughes. *Finding Langston* received a Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction and was named a 2019 Coretta Scott King Honor Book.



Pam Muñoz Ryan is the award-winning author of over forty picture books and novels for young readers, including *Echo*, a Newbery-Honor book. *Esperanza Rising*, a fictional account of her grandmother’s immigration story from Mexico to California, is a modern classic and has received multiple awards, including the Pura Belpré Award and the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award. She received an Orbis Pictus Award for *When Marian Sang* which describes the challenges and accomplishments of singer Marian Anderson.



Keynote Speaker:

Erica Armstrong Dunbar is the Charles & Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers University. She writes and teaches about slavery, racial injustice, and gender equality. While recognizing the deep pain associated with these topics, she “marvels at the incredible triumph of survival and the beautiful history of resistance.” Dunbar is the author of *Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge* which was a finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction. A young readers’ edition of *Never Caught* was published in early 2019.

Program at a Glance

- 8:00 Registration, Book Browsing
- 8:30 Introduction
- 8:45 **“Uncovering Stories of Strength and Struggle”**
Keynote Address by
Erica Armstrong Dunbar
- 9:45 Book Browsing, Conversation
with Colleagues
- 10:15 **“Telling Our Stories, Sharing Our History”**
Panel discussion with Joseph Bruchac,
Lesa Cline-Ransome, and Pamela
Muñoz Ryan—moderated by Megan
Dowd Lambert, Senior Lecturer at
Simmons University.
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:30 Concurrent Sessions I:
*List your first and second choices
on the registration form*
 - A. Meet the Author:** Erica Armstrong
Dunbar (60 min)
 - B. A Teachable Moment: Responding
to Children’s Comments and
Questions about Difference**
with Doug Weinstock and Jamila
Capitman from VISIONS, Inc.
 - C. The Whole Book Approach
and Critical Literacy** with
Megan Dowd Lambert
- 1:45 Concurrent Sessions II:
*List your first and second choices
on the registration form*
 - D. Meet the Author:** Joseph Bruchac
 - E. Meet the Author:** Lesa Cline-Ransome
 - F. Meet the Author:** Pamela Muñoz Ryann
- 2:50 Conclusion, Book Signing

More detailed information on the
program and speakers is available at:
www.jfklibrary.org/profdev

Registration Form

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

Name_____

Home address_____

City/State_____ Zip code_____

Phone_____

Email address_____

School/organization_____

Grade/position_____

List choices for Concurrent Sessions I (A, B or C):

1st choice_____ 2nd choice_____

List choices for Concurrent Sessions II (D, E or F):

1st choice_____ 2nd choice_____

Early registration: \$95 if postmarked by March 30

Regular registration: \$115, must be postmarked by April 12

Registration fee includes handouts, morning coffee and lunch. To reduce carbon footprint, we are sending confirmations via email. Help us by including your email address. Please make check or purchase order payable to **John F. Kennedy Library Foundation**, and mail with completed registration form to:

Esther Kohn

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

Columbia Point

Boston, MA 02125

For information, contact Esther Kohn, esther.kohn@nara.gov.

Note: The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum does not sell or share your personal information or email address.