

We the People: Stories of Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum,
Boston, MA

May 9, 2019

Program with Session Descriptions

8:00 Registration, Book Browsing

8:30 Introduction

8:45 **“Uncovering Stories of Strength and Struggle”**

Keynote Address by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Charles & Mary Beard Professor of History at Rutgers University

Hear the inside story of Dunbar’s well-researched narrative, *Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*, which was named finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction. Join the author in considering critical questions such as “who writes history and what kind of history do we present?” Learn how Dunbar created a young readers’ edition of the book.

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. Authors share their research and writing process and reflect on questions of voice, representation, and history.

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Concurrent Sessions I:

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.

Learn how to identify and address bias and microaggressions when they emerge in school settings. Discuss various types of students’ questions and comments about difference and develop effective responses. Participants are encouraged to bring actual situations/dilemmas they have faced when hearing seemingly biased or offensive student comments.

C. The Whole Book Approach and Critical Literacy with Megan Dowd Lambert

Discover the Whole Book Approach, a dynamic, engaging experience that puts children and their responses to art, text, and design at the heart of storytime. Hear how the Whole Book Approach can support kids' critical engagement with picture book representations of race, class, gender, and other aspects of identity. Learn how to guide children to picture books with positive representations of diverse characters, while also supporting them in resisting or reading against problematic, biased content.

1:45 Concurrent Sessions II:

D. Meet the Author: Joseph Bruchac

E. Meet the Author: Lesa Cline-Ransome

F. Meet the Author: Pamela Muñoz Ryan

2:50 Conclusion, Book Signing