



Spartan Writing Camps & Greenrock Writers Retreat

Directed by Dr. Janet Swenson and
Facilitated by RCWP Teacher Consultants

Audience

Under the direction of WRAC faculty member, Dr. Janet Swenson, and in collaboration with RCWP Co-director Renee Webster, 15 Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP) Teacher Consultants facilitated 23 sections of **Spartan Writing Camps** serving 192, 1st-8th grade students (155 females & 37 males). The camps were organized around various genres (Full Moon Poetry, Skits and Scripts), writing methodologies (Digital Writing: From Cameras to Computers) and particular audiences (Just for Boys, Just for Girls).

Under Dr. Swenson's direction, two RCWP Teacher Consultants, Dawn Reed and Luke Rodesiler facilitated **Greenrock High School Writers Retreat** serving 42, 9th - 12th grade students, representing 29 school districts in 2013. Thirteen of these students returned for their second (10) and third (3) year of Greenrock! Most participants are from the Greater Lansing area; however, some students travel from as far away as Gull Lake and Saginaw, Michigan. Six former Greenrock participants joined this year's participants for a half-day writing marathon. One pre-service English education student was also involved in camp facilitation.

Funding

In addition to student registration fees, Spartan Writing Camps and Greenrock receive financial support from Red Cedar Writing Project (RCWP), Michigan State University's site of the National Writing Project and the College of Arts and Letters.

Objectives

Both camps share a common mission to engage students in creative writing, critical thinking, and active learning. The camp director and facilitators seek not only to enhance students' writing skills, but also their commitment to writing as a personally and professionally meaningful act. These objectives are addressed through a variety of activities that include visits to such university facilities and landmarks as the university's museums, gardens, Cyclotron, Dairy Store, and Theatre Department's productions, and daily writing and writing response time, book/mentor text study, and the publication of an anthology and/or a public reading.



Outcomes

All Spartan Writing Camps are designed for students to leave with the following understandings about writing:

- We sometimes write to learn, without pre-determined purposes or audiences.
- Often, however, we write with particular audiences and purposes in mind.
- Depending on those audiences and purposes, we may change genres to better suit our needs.
- Writers are intentional in choosing just the right words to convey their meaning.
- When preparing to publish, writers focus on the readers' needs, including spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.
- Writers need rich knowledge of the subjects about which they will write.
- Writers imbue their writing with their own original voices.

Greenrock is crafted around the importance of having a space for high school students to write and discuss writing within a community of writers. "Write your World," the theme for 2013, provided an opportunity for students to tell their own stories through nonfiction writing, but also to use personal experiences to influence writing in various genres and for various purposes. This included writing to promote change in our world or creating fictional worlds. "Write your World" encompassed the following:

- *Using personal experiences to inspire writing*
- *Creating fictional worlds and characters*
- *Writing to influence the world around you*

Susan Beth Pfeffer author of more than 70 young adult novels visited Greenrock via Skype as a guest speaker. She answered students' questions about the Greenrock mentor texts and about her own writing processes.

For more information,
Visit <http://rcwp.msu.edu/> and click on "Youth Programs" or Call Dr. Janet Swenson at (517) 432-7236

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