

# NDCTE CONNECTED

THE BEST FIT FOR ELA TEACHERS ACROSS NORTH DAKOTA

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the North Dakota Council for Teachers of English

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## From the President's Pen:

**#WHY I WRITE**

This month we are celebrating the National Day of Writing on October 20. Join the NCTE and NDCTE as we answer #WhyIWrite. When I think about why I write, it often is to process information. I enjoy slow mornings with mediocre coffee, a rising sun, my Moleskine journal, and a black Pentel Precise v5 rt pen (I'm very specific about my pens). Using Julia Cameron's method from *The Artist's Way*, I frantically handwrite for three pages without self-editing or judging what ends up on the page. "Morning Pages" according to Julia Cameron, "provoke, clarify, comfort, cajole, prioritize and synchronize the day at hand." Processing on paper helps to clear my mind and organize my upcoming day. I encourage you to take a moment to take time to write every day, no matter the reason.

After reading this newsletter, I urge all of you to head over to Facebook to keep the conversation going. We have a goal of hitting 100 likes on our Facebook page. Search "North Dakota Council of Teachers of English." When you get there, join our closed group, NDCTE Connected, to stay connected year-round with your fellow members.

From my classroom to yours,

- Kelsey Johnson, NDCTE President

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## When You Have THAT Student



Each year that we teach, we hope that we have moved past last year's problems and are smarter, tougher, and awesomer. What we usually realize is that while we may know our material and our schedule a bit better there will always be challenges that will test just how smart, how tough, and how awesome we really are. Perhaps nothing may test a teacher's constitution than a student who finds the teacher to be the dumbest, weakest, and lamest of all people that they have ever met in their life... [continue reading here](#)

-Lisa Gusewelle, Member-at-Large

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## YA BOOK PREVIEW



[Get Well Soon: History's Worst Plagues and the Heroes Who Fought Them](#) by Jennifer Wright

Would you like a non-picture and non-infographic nonfiction book option for your students who like all things weird and gross? Pick them up [Get Well Soon](#), a snarky lovably gross book that will spook the heebie-jeebies of your students who are afraid of germs. This is a fascinating read with many historical heroes and villains, pitfalls and successes, and disease and pustules.

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## If Not Us, Then Who?

- Joshua Eddy,  
NDCTE Communications  
Director

Teaching is not easy. I don't think any of us expected it to be so. But there are some hardships that we have to deal with that we didn't expect or foresee when we signed that first contract, prepared our first unit, and bought our first trunkful of classroom décor. I don't recall an overview of lockdown drills or active shooter scenarios during that first interview. Conversely, I will never forget the looks on the faces, the slower pace of the feet of the students who came to school the day after our school safety was threatened on social media. I signed a contract not to teach English, but to teach kids, to help these kids, and that's what I'm here to do. As our super said in that morning meeting, "If not us, then who?"

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