

# 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

SPRING ISSUE 4.15.2020

## From the President's Pen:

To find the silver lining, we all probably have time to read and write more during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reading allows us to escape into other worlds and times. Writing also helps us to process complexities, see our goals written down, and express fears, griefs, and emotions. I was finally able to break the spine of Brene Brown's *Rising Strong*, a book I purchased at our annual summer conference Barnes and Noble book fair. I'm reminded of Teddy Roosevelt's 1910 "Man in the Arena" quotation Brene references, and I think it's timely:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."



We are all in an unknown arena. Let's lift each other out and connect now more than ever. Onward,  
Kelsey Johnson, NDCTE President

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## The Age of Corona



*Will anyone notice if I just don't do laundry for the rest of the month?*

*Will I ever need to fill my car with gas again?*

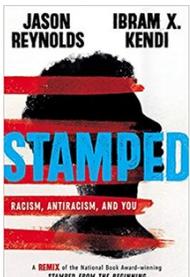
*Should I bother showering today?*

These are the questions I'm asking myself in the Age of Corona. ([continue...](#))

-Donna Davidson, Northwest Director

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## The Global Read Aloud 2020



Reading is the foundation for all learning. It has been said that the more we read the better we write, and the more we know. By reading aloud to students, teachers are able to demonstrate phrased, fluent reading (Fountas & Pinnell, 1996). Every fall, The Global Read Aloud is a time where teachers are able to demonstrate and connect their students to something that is bigger than them. There are different texts chosen depending on the level of learners that you teach: picture books, early readers, middle grade, middle school, and young adult. The young adult book for 2020 is *Stamped—Racism, Antiracism, and you* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. On Monday, April 27 at 8:00 p.m. ET, our national affiliate: NCTE, is hosting a live discussion with Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi about their latest book *Stamped!* I have shared the link to register for this event on our Facebook page: NDCTE Connected; however, you will need to be a NCTE member to participate.

To learn more about The Global Read Aloud visit their website:  
[www.theglobalreadaloud.com](http://www.theglobalreadaloud.com)

-Rebecca Johnson, Northeast Director

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## Kurated by Kurtti & Quintus



### Articles Describing the Struggles Teachers Currently Face

[Teaching Through Coronavirus: What Educators Need Right Now](#)  
[During Coronavirus, a Teacher Describes the Scramble to Go Digital](#)  
[Teaching Through a Pandemic: A Mindset for This Moment](#)

### Free ELA Resources

[Free Resources for Schools](#)  
[Teaching During COVID-19](#)  
[At Home Learning Resources for Educators](#)

### Journal Prompts and Stress Relief Activities (for you *and* your students)

[10 Quick Journal Prompts to Calm Your Mind](#)  
[A Pandemic Sized Lesson In Letting Go and Finding Courage Amid Fear](#)

- Nathan Kurtti, Southeast Director
- Lisa Quintus, Southwest Director

## Fine Readings



Provided by:  
Candace Brannan,  
NDCTE Secretary

Created by:  
Eric Sanders,  
NDCTE Member

**SANDERS**  
*fine readings*  
SINCE 1875

A literary-inspired menu to connect, share, think, and inspire  
for April 6, 2020

<p><b>TO LISTEN</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">"This is Water"</a></u></p> <p>If you remember David Foster Wallace from "Incarnations of Burned Children," this is a very different version of him. Think deeply with his graduation speech.</p>	<p><b>A POEM</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">"Instructions on not giving up"</a></u></p> <p>Ada Limon juxtaposes (ding) "the mess of us, the hurt, the empty" with new life on green trees flaunted by the neighbor. Do we take the bad with the good?</p>
<p><b>TO WRITE</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">Start a Journal</a></u></p> <p>What happened in your world today? Consider news, tv, hikes, stages of beard growth, transcripts of dialogue, etc. Include pictures, links, notes, etc.</p>	<p><b>TO FEEL</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">Some Good News</a></u></p> <p>John Krasinski from <i>The Office</i> covers all kinds of good news from the world, but the highlight comes when the <i>Hamilton</i> cast sings.</p>

As always this literary collection is designed to help us connect, think, and grow. Use the collection as you please, and share your thinking with us on Twitter or Instagram [#sandersfinereadings](#)

## NDCTE E-Learning Help & Resources

Because we have such an amazing group of North Dakota teachers in the NDCTE, we want to share with you resources to help your fellow ND teachers. We have an easy form for you to submit resources ([here](#)), if you feel so inclined. Also, we provide a link to the Resource Index of Shared Resources ([here](#)).

NDCTE  
ndcte.boardmember@gmail.com  
ndcte.org

Next edition: