

NOMINATE A TEACHER IN YOUR LIFE

Penguin
Random
House

Education



Teacher Award for Lifelong Readers and Maya Angelou Award for Poetry

Recognizing Innovative Projects in Support of Cultivating Literacy & Lifelong Readers

We are proud to announce our 2019 Teacher Award Recipients



CICELY LEWIS

Teacher Award for Lifelong Readers
\$10,000 Grant Recipient

School Librarian
MEADOWCREEK HIGH SCHOOL
Norcross, GA

“Readwoke Community of Readers Challenge”

Named a 2019 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker and Georgia Library Media Specialist of the Year, Cicely Lewis is a school librarian with a passion for creating lovers of reading. In 2017, she started the **Read Woke** challenge in response to the shootings of young unarmed black boys, the repeal of DACA, and the lack of diversity in young adult literature. Her students were required to read books that challenge the social norm and give voice to the voiceless. Using this platform, she had inspired the nation to Read Woke with educators across the world joining in and sharing the movement with their students. A native of Mississippi, she currently resides in Georgia with her Anime loving husband, Michael and two rambunctious children, Tristan and Trinity. When she is not reading, you can find Cicely writing for her bi-monthly column in the *School Library Journal* where she shares her book recommendations. She is currently working on her own “woke” young adult novel and hopes to share it with the world soon. Follow her on Twitter @cicelythegreat or check out her blog CicelytheGreat.



RICK COPPOLA

Maya Angelou Teacher Award for Poetry
\$10,000 Grant Recipient

Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher
SOUTH LOOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Chicago, IL

“Speak Yo’ Peace”

Rick’s passion and commitment to educational equity have taken root over the course of his 14-year career as a middle school ELA teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. He has developed his activist stance through doctoral work at the University of Illinois of Chicago, where he studies culturally sustaining pedagogy, disciplinary literacy, and participatory design-based research. Rick teaches college-level courses in disciplinary literacy and sociocultural theory and has worked on numerous research-practice partnership initiatives committed to shifting students’ roles from participants to contributors and co-authors. His research on integrating spoken-word poetry has appeared in numerous NCTE journals including *Language Arts*, *English Journal*, and *Voices from the Middle*. Rick is a 2019 finalist for Illinois Teacher of the Year and a two-time Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction. Rick’s most important work resides in his role as husband and father of two Mexican-American children, working to sustain their hybridized and bilingual identity.

Runner-Ups will each receive a Penguin Random House Book Donation for their program:

DIANE BAILEY, Northside Elementary, Wolf Point, MT
MICHELLE BEST, Austintown Middle School, Youngstown, OH
ALBERTIA BURGESS, West Charlotte High School, Charlotte, NC
ALICIA D. DERVIN, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC
LARA DIECKMANN, Harrisburg High School, Harrisburg, MO
JADE FELICIANO, Harrison Avenue School, Harrison, NY
NICHOLE FOLKMAN, Hartsburg-Emden High School, Hartsburg, IL
KATE FUSSNER, Fenway High School, Boston, MA
SHARI HIGASHI, Salt Lake Elementary School, Honolulu, HI
ANGIE JOHNSON, Southport Middle School, Indianapolis, IN

PETER KAHN, Oak Park/River Forest High School, Oak Park, IL
SARAH KRAJEWSKI, Cleveland Hill High School, Cheektowaga, NY
MEGAN KRUPA, Dobyns-Bennett High School, Kingsport, TN
LEILA KUBESCH, Norwood Middle School, Norwood, OH
KYLE NELSON, Lone Peak High School, Highland, UT
LYNNE REEDER, West Perry High School, Elliptsburg, PA
MELISSA SMITH, Lake Norman Charter High School, Huntersville, NC
DONJA THOMAS, Gahanna Lincoln High School, Gahanna, OH
JACINDA WHITE, Gwynn Park Middle School, Brandywine, MD
MELODY WILSON, Harrisonburg High School, Harrisonburg, VA