

Maine Council for English Language Arts Monthly Newsletter

MCELA Matters

programs, ideas, connections



March 2022

March is [Women's History Month](#). The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. This website has countless resources to explore. Be sure to check out the [For Teachers section](#).

Tuesday, March 8 is also [International Women's Day](#). This year's theme is **#BreakTheBias**:

"Imagine a gender equal world.

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.

A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all **#BreakTheBias**."

Carrie Barbosa, President
maine.ela@gmail.com

Programming Matters

Join us for our sixth session of **Teachers Write**
March 7 from 4:00 - 5:00 via Zoom

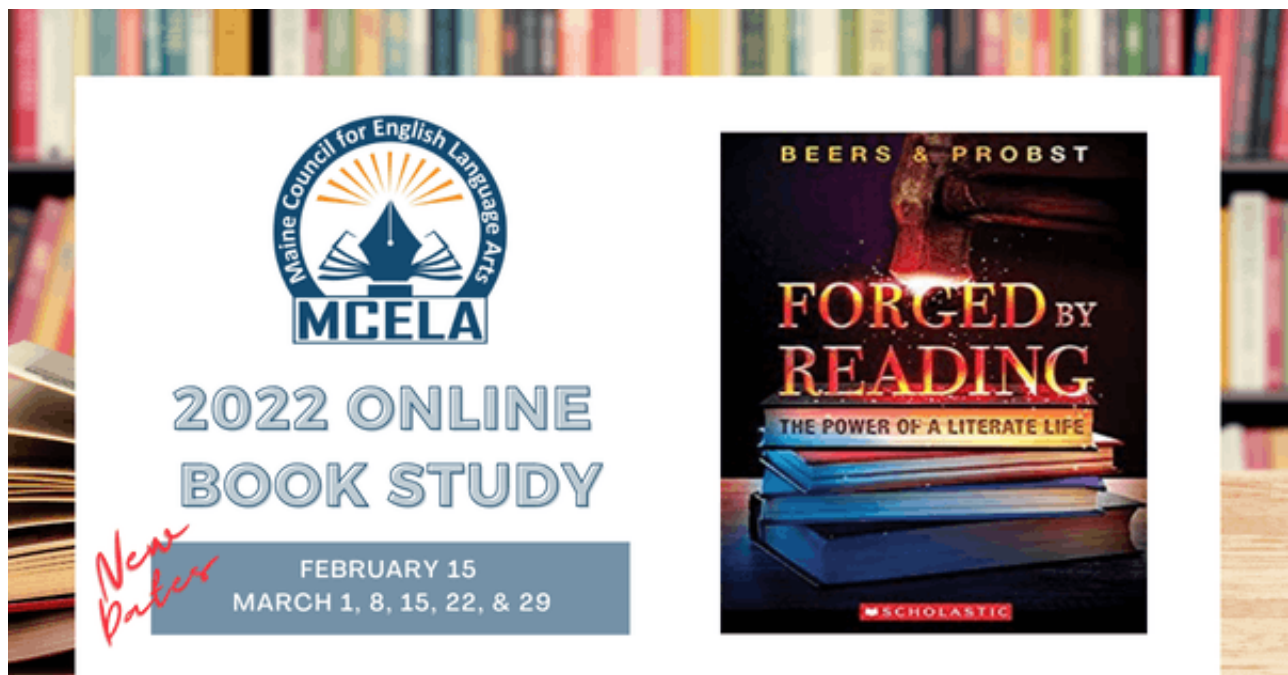




REGISTER HERE

Join us for our latest online book study!

***Forged by Reading* by Kyrene Beers & Bob Probst**



REGISTER HERE

It's not too late! Still space to register!

Join the Maine Council for English Language Arts to study *Forged by*

from the Maine Council for English Language Arts to Study *Forged by Reading* by Kylene Beers and Robert E. Probst.

This is a LOW-STRESS book group. Read what you can or access our "spark notes" quotes prior to the meeting. Join us via Zoom for quick section overviews and lots of time to share thinking in small breakout rooms.

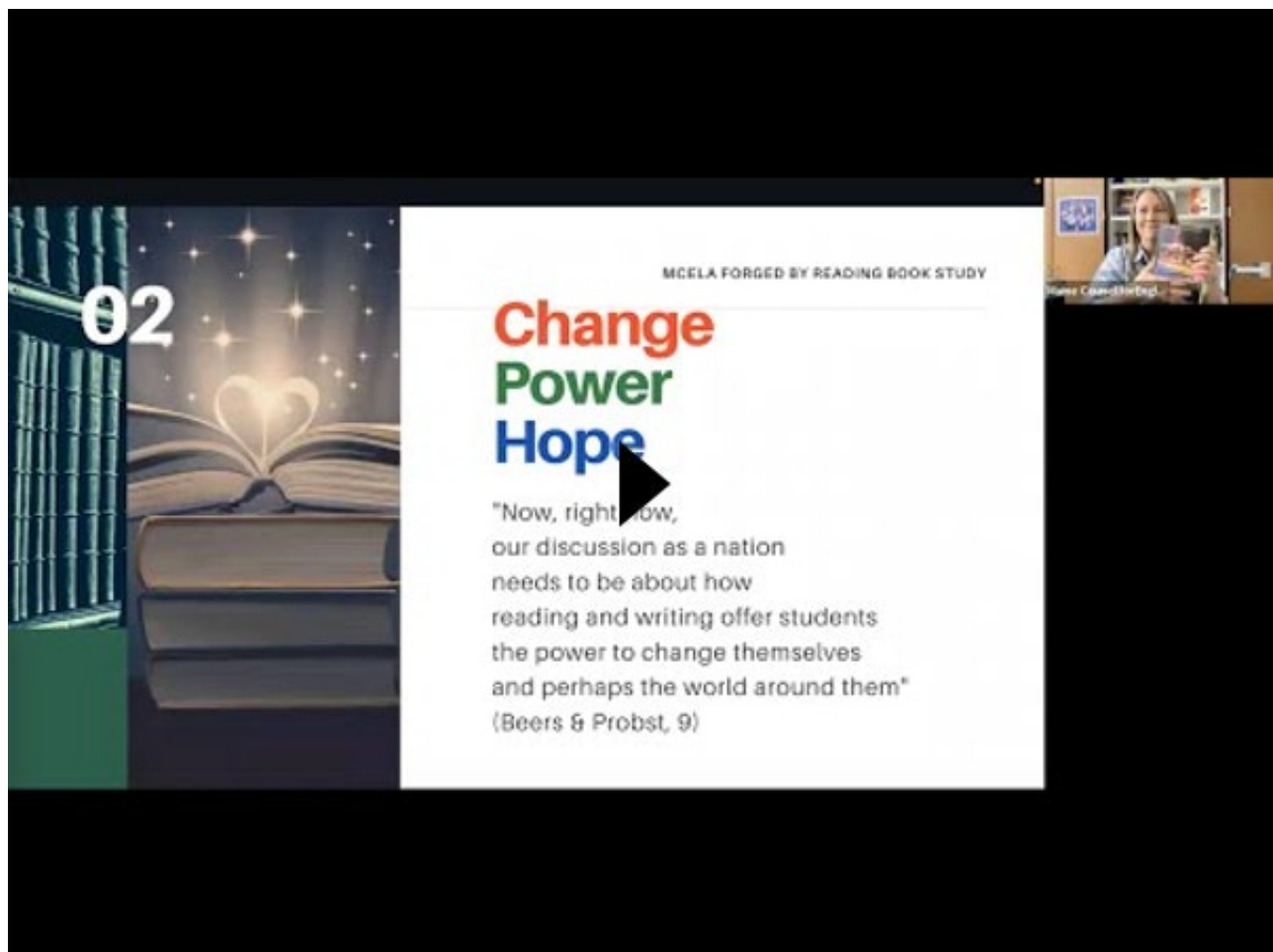
We'll be meeting Tuesdays 4-5:15 pm in March via Zoom to create space for ELA educators across Maine to network and discuss the timely topics in this book. If interested, get a copy of the book or pull out your copy and join us Tuesday, March 1, when we'll be discussing the first section: Change.

Still not sure?

Want more information?

[Click here for our "spark notes" for the first section of the book.](#)

Here is a 20-minute recording of our introductory session:



Idea Matters

from the IDEA Collective

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access for Teachers of English Language Arts

The IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) Collective focuses on an important goal: Support Maine educators as they explore ways to develop materials and practices for inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. In particular, MCELA invites educators to think about, discuss, and take steps to address issues related to racism, income disparity, gender identity, environmental justice, equity, genocide, and indigenous sovereignty. Each month, the IDEA Collective of MCELA will share a resource for educators to explore and consider using in their practice and with their students.

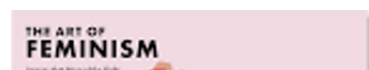
In honor of Women's History Month, IDEA offers a link to the [National Women's History Alliance](#), where you can find more information about the 2022 Women's History Month theme "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope" as well as classroom resources. We also offer the poem "Responsibility" by Grace Paley, a poem that asks us to consider the value of looking at the world through the eyes of women, and we invite you to share this with your students and let us know what happens.

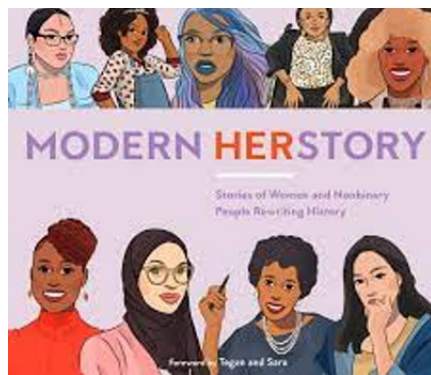
Responsibility by Grace Paley

It is the responsibility of society to let the poet be a poet
It is the responsibility of the poet to be a woman
It is the responsibility of the poet to stand on street corners
giving out poems and beautifully written leaflets
also leaflets you can hardly bear to look at
because of the screaming rhetoric
[....more here](#)

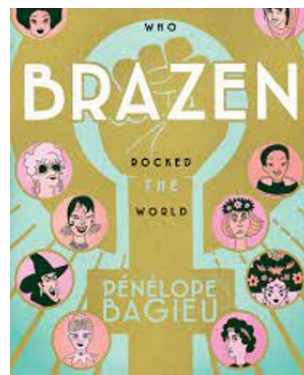
Looking for more? Check out the [NCTE Guidelines for Affirming Gender Diversity through ELA Curriculum and Pedagogy](#)

Book Matters





With a radical and inclusive approach to history, *Modern HERstory* profiles and celebrates seventy women and nonbinary champions of progressive social change in a bold, colorful, illustrated format for all ages. Despite making huge contributions to the liberation movements of the last century and today, all of these trailblazers come from backgrounds and communities that are traditionally overlooked and under-celebrated: not just women, but people of color, queer people, trans people, disabled people, young people, and people of faith. Authored by rising star activist Blair Imani, *Modern HERstory* tells the important stories of the leaders and movements that are changing the world right here and right



Throughout history and across the globe, one characteristic connects the daring women of *Brazen*: their indomitable spirit.

With her characteristic wit and dazzling drawings, celebrated graphic novelist Pénélope Bagieu profiles the lives of these feisty female role models, some world famous, some little known. From Nellie Bly to Mae Jemison or Josephine Baker to Naziq al-Abid, the stories in this comic biography are sure to inspire the next generation of rebel ladies.

This title has Common Core connections.



Discover a rich showcase of the vibrant feminist aesthetic over the last 150 years: Once again, women are on the march. And since its inception in the 19th century, the Women's Movement has harnessed the power of images to transmit messages of social change and equality to the world.

- Features more than 350 works of art, illustration, photography, performance, and graphic design along with essays examining the legacy of the radical canon
- Highlights posters of the Suffrage Atelier, through the radical art of Judy Chicago and Carrie Mae Weems, to the cutting-edge work of Sethembile Msezane and Andrea Bowers
- Broken into three sections: Suffrage and

world right here and right
now—and will inspire
you to do the same.

Sections: Suffrage and
Beyond 1857-1949;
Defining Feminism 1960-
1988; and Redefining
Feminism 1989-Present



We stand with Maine educators and librarians in ensuring and protecting students' rights to intellectual freedom.

Get the resources &
talking points:
bit.ly/FReadomME



Membership Matters

The pandemic has forced us to change our membership structure since membership has been tied to our annual conference in the past. We are excited to announce a new membership structure that is an annual fee and covers all of our programming*

For an annual membership, we are asking for a donation of \$30.

Did you know you can put the cost of membership for your entire English department into your district budget? When it's time to request funds from your district for next year's budget, consider adding a line for membership for MCELA for all ELA teachers in your school. Membership is just \$30 a person and will bring a year's worth of PD and a discounted rate for the annual MCELA conference.

*We will be offering an exclusive author talk in the spring that will come with an additional charge.

ALREADY A MEMBER?

Use your membership number to access [MEMBERS-ONLY CONTENT](#) on the MCELA website, including recordings of past webinars.

[DONATE HERE](#)

stay tuned via social media

