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Bentonville's 3rd Annual Youth Literature Festival Diversity Workshop

BENTONVILLE, Ark.—Bentonville's Third Annual Youth Literature Festival (BYLF) is Saturday, April 29 at Bentonville Public Library! This year, BYLF will have a unique opportunity for educators, parents, and students to explore diversity in children's literature with the Notable Books for a Global Society (NBGS) Workshop. The workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Rotary Conference Room.

Presented by the current chair of the NBGS committee, children's literature professor Dr. Renita Schmidt, and past chairs Dr. Sue Parsons and children's author Janet Wong, the workshop will highlight the work of the Notable Books for a Global Society committee, part of the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association.

According to author and poet Janet Wong, past NBGS Committee Chair, "We need diverse books more than ever today. The NBGS list is, in my view, the definitive annual list of diverse books. The workshop will provide examples of diverse and inclusive literature for children and teens—and allow participants to gain insights on how to share these books with young people. The NBGS list is considered one of the best recommended book lists because it is presented annually with easy-to-follow Teaching Suggestions for K-12."

Each year the Committee selects 25 outstanding books for enhancing student understanding of people and cultures throughout the world. Three years of Notable Books will be presented.

The Notable Books for a Global Society Workshop is approved for 2 hours of Professional Development by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The NBGS workshop is free to attend and registration is not required, but the first 20 registrants will receive a free NBGS title. To register, please visit the calendar at www.bentonvillelibrary.org and click on the April 29 NBGS Workshop event.

Bentonville's Third Annual Youth Literature Festival will also include presentations by authors and illustrators of popular youth titles, art and creative writing workshops, book sales and signings. All BYLF events are free to attend; registration is not required. All ages are welcome. BYLF3 is an "Official Kick-Off Event" for Children's Book Week. Learn more at www.bylf.org or www.bentonvillelibrary.org.

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