

Reading Matters

Vol. 41 No. 1

Sept 2026

PUBLICATIONS

• **Cydney Alexis** and Hannah J. Rule, eds, *Writing Artifacts*. Routledge, 2026.

“A Facilitating Literary Artifact: The Roller Skate.” *Writing Artifacts*, edited by Cydney Alexis and Hannah J. Rule, Routledge, 2026, pp. 111-123.

• **Traci Brimhall**, *A Brief History of Falling*. Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, 2026.

• **Christina Hauck**, *Alive* (poems). Finishing Line Press, 2026.

• **Anne Longmuir**, “Epistolary Fictions: Authorial Persona and Narrative Form in Elizabeth Gaskell’s Correspondence and Short Stories.” *Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature*, no. 149, 2026, pp. 61-78.

• **Anuja Madan**, “Ganesha is my Friend and Krishna is a Fan: Hindu Boy-Gods’ Mirroring of Indian Middle-Class Identity in Hindi Mythological Composite Films.” *India Animated: Essays on Contemporary Practice*, edited by Anitha Balachandran and Timothy Jones, Palgrave, 2026, pp. 189-214.

• **Ania Payne**, “Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better”: Moving Beyond the Success-Failure Binary Through Community Writing in the Professional Writing Classroom.” *Special Issue: Risk, Failure, and the*

Teaching of Writing in Composition Forum, vol. 58, Summer 2026, <https://compositionforum.com/issue/58/try-again-fail-again-fail-better/>

“ArcGIS Survey 123 on the Front Porch.” Co-authored with Josh Brewer and Emmanuel Jeje. *Writing Artifacts*, edited by Cydney Alexis and Hannah J. Rule, Routledge, 2026, pp. 24-33.

“Writing with Habitat Homeowners in an Online, Professional Writing Course.” *Collaborations: A Journal of Community-Based Research and Practice*, vol. 9. no. 1, 2026, pp. 1-11, <https://collaborations.miami.edu/articles/10.33596/coll.134>

“Possible Causes of Chronic Hives.” *Literary Mama*, May/June 2026, <https://literarymama.com/contributor/payne-ania>

“Plantigrade in Atitlan Nature Reserve.” *Complete Sentence*, June 2026, <https://www.completesentencelit.com/post/plantigrade-in-atitlan-nature-reserve>

“Too Pregnant for Mice and Men.” Co-authored with Diane Payne. *Cutleaf Journal*, vol. 6, no. 9, 2026, <https://cutleafjournal.com/content/too-pregnant-for-mice-or-men>

• **Anne Phillips**, Review of *Beyond Nancy Drew: U.S. Girls’ Series Fiction in the Twentieth Century*, edited by LuElla D’Amico and Emily Hamilton-Honey. *Children’s*

Literature Association Quarterly, vol. 50, no. 1, 2025, pp. 146-149.

Review of Pamela Smith Hill’s *Too Good to Be Altogether Lost: Rediscovering Laura Ingalls Wilder’s Little House Books*. *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*, vol. 50, no. 3, 2025, pp. 376-378.

• **Melissa Poll**, and Selena Couture, editors. *Performance Matters*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2026, <https://performancematters-thejournal.com/index.php/pm/issue/view/32>

• **Shirley Tung**, “Travel Writing and Boswell’s Biographical Acts of Union.” *The Enduring Work of Biography: James Boswell’s “Life of Johnson,” 1791–2020*, edited by Greg Clingham, University of Delaware Press, 2026, pp. 115-39.

“Rectifying the Controversial Afterlife of Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Letters Written During a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark* (1796).” *Annual Bulletin of the Japanese Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* 『日本18世紀学会年報』, Vol. 41, 2026, pp. 20-21.

PRESENTATIONS

• **Traci Brimhall**, readings at:
• Raymer Society/Red Barn Studio, Lindsborg, KS. 16 Aug. 2026
• Koester House Museum, Marysville, KS. 18 July 2026
• USA-250 Celebration, Topeka, KS. 2 July 2026
• Flower Power Reading, New York Botanical Gardens, New York, NY. 28 May 2026

- Book Launch for *A Brief History of Falling*, Kalamazoo Book Arts Center, Kalamazoo, MI. 2 May 2026
- **Mark Crosby**, “William Hayley and the Queen's Engraver, Caroline Watson.” *British Association of Romantic Scholars annual conference*. University of Birmingham, UK. 6 Aug. 2026.
- **Gregory Eiselein**, “Heraclitus and Marcus Aurelius in Octavia E. Butler's Parable Series.” *American Literature Association Conference*. Chicago, IL. 22 May 2026.
- **Mary Kohn**, with Kenzie Jansonius (Ph.D., History). *150th Celebration of the Koester House Museum and Gardens* (co-curators, exhibit). Koester House Museum, Marysville, KS. 25 July 2026 – Nov. 2026.
- “100 Years of Teen Slang” (workshop leader). KAWSE Workshop. The Chapman Center, Manhattan, KS. 4 June 2026 and 3 June 2026.
- “How to Make Rope” (organizer and instructor). Riley County Historical Society. Riley County History Museum, Manhattan, KS. 10-11 July 2026.
- Viewing of documentary *Sacred Red Rock* (host and organizer). In collaboration with the Riley County Genealogical Society. Manhattan Public Library, Manhattan, KS. 23 August 2026.
- **Anuja Madan**, “Teaching Indian Comics through an Emphasis on Context and Local Art Traditions.” *Comics Studies Society Conference*. Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 13 June 2026. Online.
- “‘To Stand as One’: Indigenous Kinship and Activism in We are Water Protectors and Healer of Water Monster.” *Children's Literature Association Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA. 29 May 2026.
- **Philip Nel**, “Democracy Needs Diverse Books; or, Why DEI is Patriotic” (invited). *HarmonyFest*, Heritage Park, Junction City, KS. 22 Aug. 2026.
- “Fear of a Woke Planet: Censorship, Safety, and the Child Citizen” (conference paper). *The Citizen-Child: Global Perspectives on Children's Literature and the Making of Modernity*. University of Antwerp, Belgium. 26 June 2026.
- “In Dreams Begin Possibilities: Can Children's Literature Change the World?” (keynote/invited talk) with Julia Mickenberg:
 - Les Orangeries de Bierbais, Mont-Saint-Guibert, Belgium. 14 June 2026.
 - *An International Event on Education and Culture for Children and Youth*. Faculty of Dramatic Arts, University of Arts in Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia. 11 June 2026.
 - *Bending the Rules: Social Radicalism, Wanderlust, and Utopianism in Children's and YA Literature*. University of Zagreb, Croatia. 10 June 2026.
- “Mr. Censor's Neighborhood: Writing, Reading, and Teaching Children's Literature Today” (panel organizer and moderator). *Children's Literature Association Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA. 29 May 2026.
- **Ruth Okon** (MA '27), “Extractable Bodies, Fractured Solidarities: Capitalist Precarity in Contemporary Canadian Speculative Fiction.” *Academic Conference on Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Toronto, Canada. 31 May 2026.
- “Pop Music as Cultural Theory: Intra-Oppositions, Masculinity, and Political Stagnation in Paris Paloma's ‘Good Boy.’” *Cultural Studies Association Conference*. 28 May 2026. Online.
- **Anne Phillips**, “On Crafting and Curating a *Little Women* Puzzle” (faculty reading). Hollins University, Roanoke, VA. 25 July 2026.
- “Mystery in the Neighborhood: From *The Westing Game* to *The Parker Inheritance*.” *Children's Literature Association*. Pittsburgh, PA. 29 May 2026.
- “Building a Career: Building a Mentorship Neighborhood.” *Children's Literature Association*. Pittsburgh, PA. 28 May 2026.
- “‘The Humor as Well as the Pathos’: Parsing the Prose of Alcott's *A Round Dozen*.” *American Literature Association*. Chicago, IL. 22 May 2026.
- **Maria Tardiff**, “‘Home Pain’: Montgomery's Female Heroines Confront Changing States of Home.” *L.M. Montgomery Institute's 17th Biennial International Conference*. University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. 27 June 2026.
- **Lisa Tatonetti**, Film Showing and Talk Back with Kaw Nation citizens and the Kaw Mission / Kansas Historical Society (facilitator). *Flooding Kaw Nation: Submerged Cities, Desecrated Graves, and Kaw Lake. Washunga Days*. Council Grove, KS. 20 June 2026.
- **Shirley Tung**, “‘A melancholy that exalts the mind’: Wollstonecraft's Sentimental Journey.” *British Association for*

Romantic Studies 2026: Romantic Introspection. 6 Aug. 2026. Online.

• **Karin Westman**, “Making Budget Models Work for You” (discussion group moderator). *MAPS Virtual Leadership Institute*, sponsored by the ADE-ADL. 23 June 2026.

“Strategic Planning” (workshop leader). *MAPS Virtual Leadership Institute*, sponsored by the ADE-ADL. 15 June and 16 June 2026.

“Editor’s Roundtable” (panelist). *Children’s Literature Association*. Pittsburgh, PA. 30 May 2026.

“The Special Issue and the Book Series: The Future of ‘Kiddie Lit in Academe.’” *Children’s Literature Association*. Pittsburgh, PA. 29 May 2026.

AWARDS

• **Krista Danielson** received the department’s 2026 Excellence Award for Term Instructors.

• **Wendy Matlock** has received the 2026-2028 Donnelly Faculty Award.

• **Philip Nel** and Eric Reynolds, co-editors of *Crockett Johnson’s Barnaby, Volume Five: 1950-1952* (Fantagraphics, 2025), were nominated for an Eisner Award in the category of Best Archival Collection/Project — Strips. They did not win.

• **Ruth Okon** received the 2026 Kathleen C. Goetsch Scholarship from the Department of Social Transformation Studies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Anne Phillips** has been elected to a three-year term on the Advisory Board for the Louisa May Alcott Society.

FEATURED IN MEDIA

• **Philip Nel**, appeared on a podcast < <https://aclimatechange.com/shows/248-why-the-lorax-matters-more-now-than-ever-with-philip-nel/> > and in an interview with *USA Today* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/books/2026/07/11/dr-seuss-legacy-childrens-books/90868886007/>.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

• **Brennan Bestwick** (MA ’16) published “Horses in the Orchard” (poem) in Issue 58 of *Adroit Literary Journal*. <https://theadroitjournal.org/issue-fifty-eight/brennan-bestwick>

• **Heather Etekamaki** (BA ’12, MA ’15) has published the flash fiction “Baba O’Riley in the Morning,” included in issue 8 of *The Q & A QueerZine!* <https://theqandaqueerzine.com/issue-eight/>

• **Heather Healy** (MA ’05) is now serving as the Interim Director at Hardin Library for Health Sciences at the University of Iowa.

• **Taraneh Matloob Haghanikar** (MA ’11) published a new picture book and celebrated with a book signing at the American Library Association meeting.

• **Natasha Muhametzryanova** (MA ’21) published a short story in *Iowa Review*.

• **Mindy Trenary** (MA ’05) started a new position at Johnson County Community College.

• **Winniebell Zong** (MA ’21) published two poems in *Poetry*’s June issue: “Bargains” and “Self-Portrait.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• **Friday, 4 September** 3:30-4:30 p.m. *Touchstone* meeting

• **Friday, 5 September** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Children’s and Adolescent Literature Community meeting

• **Wednesday, 9 September** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Graduate Program Committees and Writing Projects

• **Thursday, 10 September** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Reading and Art Talk by Lisa Olstein

• **Wednesday, 16 September** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Rhetoric and Composition Society Meeting

• **Wednesday, 23 September** 5:30-6:30 p.m. Get Crafty: English Fall Social for Majors, Minors, and Certificate Students

• **Friday, 25 September** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Applying to Graduate Programs in English

• **Tuesday, 29 September** 1:30-3:00 p.m. Craft Workshop with Jordan Thomas

• **Thursday, 1 October** 7:00-8:00 p.m. Lecture by 2026 K-State First Book author Dave Isay

• **Friday, 2 October** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Paper. Pencil. Play! with ChALC

• **Friday, 9 October** 6:30-7:00 p.m. Shakespeare Lightning Talks

• **Thursday, 15 October** 7:00-8:00 p.m. Book launch for *Writing Artefacts*

Reading Matters is a monthly publication of the Department of English, ECS Building, 1612 Steam Place, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-6501. Editors: Philip Nel, Karin Westman, and Josh Allen. The deadline for the next issue of *Reading Matters* is **September 30, 2026** at 5 p.m. Central Time. Please send your news to Philip Nel via email at <philnel@ksu.edu>. Thank you.