

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

Authors & Illustrators course welcomes Young People's Poet Laureate as first guest speaker

The first speaker for the annual Authors & Illustrators' Art & Craft reading course, Jacqueline Woodson, has just been named the Young People's Poet Laureate. This praiseworthy designation is bestowed by the Poetry Association biennially to an author of "exceptional poetry for young readers." In her new role she will work with the Poetry Foundation regarding literature for young people. And, as the title suggests, she will promote poetry for children and their families as well as schools, libraries, and other venues.

Ms. Woodson has already been honored over the past year for *brown girl dreaming*, which received the National Book Award, The Coretta Scott King Award, and a Newbery Honor.

As first visiting author for the RDG 570 course, Jacqueline Woodson sets the stage for what will be an outstanding course with many

notable authors and illustrators of children's and young adult literature. Her own books tend to mirror much of the course, with picture storybooks such as *The Other Side* and *Each Kindness*, young adult books including *Miracle's Boys* and *If You Come Softly*, and poetry used as a novel in *Locomotion* and memoir in *brown girl dreaming*.

The course begins Monday, July 6 and meets four days each week in July and features an author or illustrator guest-lecturer each day. These children's book creators represent most genres and ages. They include:

- Newbery Award winner Lynne Rae Perkins
- Sy Montgomery, winner of Siebert and Orbis Pictus informational book awards
- Pura Belpré Award illustrator Raúl Colón
- plus seven more lauded authors and illustrators

RDG 570 is a master's level course, but some undergraduate students may be eligible to take the course as an independent study or it can be taken as a continuing education course.

Learn more about the **Authors & Illustrators** course.



Jacqueline Woodson, who has just been named the Young People's Poet Laureate, will be the first speaker in Oakland University's Authors & Illustrators course.