

# Leslie C. Youngblood

P.O. Box 92512  
Rochester, NY 14692

Phone: \*\*\*-\*\*\*-\*\*\*\*  
E-mail: [lesliecyoungblood@gmail.com](mailto:lesliecyoungblood@gmail.com)

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## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

*Love Like Sky*

Middle-grade novel (target audience 8–12 years old). Published by Disney Books, 2018. Bought and republished by Little, Brown for Young Readers, 2019.

Accolades:

Vietnamese rights sold, 2020

Louisiana State Young Readers' Award Nominee, 2020

Scholastic Book Fair selection, 2019–2025

Simplified Chinese rights sold, 2019

Best Locally Written Book, City Magazine, 2019

Indie Next List selection, winter 2018–2019

Barnes & Noble Kids Favorite Contemporary Middle Grade selection, 2018

Southern Independent Book Association Fall Okra Pick, 2018

*Kirkus Reviews* Best Family Books selection, 2018

*Kirkus* starred review

*Atlanta Parent* magazine selection, Best Books of 2018

*Family Vacation Critic* selection, The 22 Best Kids' Books of 2018

Penn GSE (Graduate School of Education) selection, Best Books for 2018

Barnes & Noble selection, 2019 Must-Have Books for Young Readers

*Forever This Summer*

Sequel to *Love Like Sky*, published by Little, Brown for Young Readers, forthcoming Summer 2021.

## **WRITING AWARDS AND CREDITS**

Yaddo Elizabeth Ames Residency, 2014

Hurston Wright Fellowship

“Poor Girls’ Palace,” short story, *Kweli Review*, 2017

2010 Unpublished Writer Award, Go On Girl! Book Club, INC. [publication in journals/magazine with circulation not exceeding 5,000]

“Poor Girls’ Palace,” short story, *Indiana Review*, winter 2009

“Smoking Demon,” A Room of Her Own Foundation, online publication, Orlando Prize Winner (\$1,000 cash prize), 2009

Lorian Hemingway Short Story Prize, 2003 [third place out of more than 700 entries], 2005

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (in addition to numerous library and school events)**

Rochester Area Children's Author and Illustrators (RACWI), 2020: discussed my writing journey with writers at various stages of their writing careers.

“Creating *Love Like Sky*,” San Diego Equity Conference, San Diego, CA, 2020: presented three sessions to teachers looking to bring more diverse books and authors to their classrooms.

“Strong Girl Characters in Middle Grade Fiction,” Greensboro Bound Book Festival, Greensboro, NC, 2019.

“Promoting Your Work & Creating Engaging Dialogue,” Writers & Books’ The Ladder Literary Conference, Rochester, NY, 2019.

“Tough Subjects in Middle Grade,” American Library Association panel, Washington, DC, 2019.

Phillis Wheatley Black Women’s Book Festival, Rochester, NY, 2017 & 2018: featured presenter.

Monroe Community College Human Book Event, 2018, Rochester, NY Accessible to students for several sessions to ask questions about traditional publishing.

College of Brockport Interview Emcee, September 2018: selected to interview *New York Times* bestselling author Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate U Give*.

Monroe Community College (MCC) Scholars’ Day Program, Rochester, NY, 2017: addressed scholars interested in the traditional publication process.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Ebook Consultant, Pathstone Foundation, Rochester, NY** 2020–Present  
Review and enhance antiracism instructional resources for local social studies teachers in 4th, 8th, and 12th grades, Monroe County/Rochester, NY, to ensure quality grade-level–appropriate resources for students learning this curriculum.

**Advanced Fiction Workshop Instructor, Writers & Books, Rochester, NY** 2016–Present  
Instruct writers on various aspects of short stories writing and/or novel development including dialogue, structure.

**Assistant Professor, Creative Writing, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO** 2008–2012  
Courses include: English 271 (Introduction to Creative Writing), 375 (Creative Writing Workshop), English 102 (Argumentative Writing), English 473 (African American Literature), 416 (Survey of African American Literature). Experienced in using Angel and Blackboard to create interactive classroom environment that facilitates learning and student-teacher communications.

**Lecturer, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS** 2007–2008  
Courses include: English 1103 (Freshman Composition), 1163 (Advanced Composition), 1103H (Honors Composition), 3303 (Creative Writing)

**Lecturer, University of North Carolina, Greensboro** 2005–2007  
Courses include: English 101 (Freshman Composition), English 105 (Introduction to Narrative), English 225 (Introduction to Fiction Writing), English 2203 (Introduction to Literature)  
101 and 105 syllabi include diverse authors from U.S. and abroad

Help students improve grammar and their overall writing ability and confidence  
Review students' work and advise on revisions  
Guide students toward completion of a twenty-page, professionally bound portfolio  
Sample of works taught: *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison; *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald;  
*A Lesson Before Dying*, Ernest J. Gaines; *Two or Three Things I Know for Sure*, Dorothy  
Allison; *Changes*, Ama Ata Aidoo; *The Collector*, John Fowles; *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine  
Hansberry; *The Lover*, Marguerite Duras; *Ten Seconds*, Louis Edwards; *MACNOLIA*, A. Van  
Jordan

**Instructor, Duke Young Writers' Program, Duke University**

**Summer 2005**

Develop lesson plans for two creative writing courses focusing on writing short stories and  
crafting believable characters.  
Teach approximately 20 tenth- and eleventh-grade students per class.  
Prepare students to read aloud each week for the camp's forum, as well as for a formal reading  
presentation at the end of summer camp.  
Write evaluations of each student's class performance to present to parents.

**Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina, Greensboro**

**2004**

English 225 (Intermediate Fiction Writing)  
Responsible for leading workshop discussions, challenging students to think critically about their work  
and the work of others.  
Assist with grading.

***EDUCATION***

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, M.F.A. in Creative Writing

May 2005

Thesis: *Selah*

Georgia State University, major: English, concentration in Creative Writing;  
minor: African American Studies