



Presented by the Association of
Teachers of English of Quebec

2025

SPRINGBOARDS

Special 50th Anniversary at
McGill University

8:45 AM - 2:30 PM

\$60

Includes FREE

ATEQ membership
(& conference lunch!)

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
FACULTY OF EDUCATION**
3700 McTavish St., Montreal, Qc



ABOUT US

ATEQ is a volunteer-run association that represents teachers, consultants, librarians, university professors, and pre-service teachers, from all across Québec. Our mission is to provide support and opportunities for professional growth for English Language Arts educators in Québec.

Specifically, ATEQ

- Provides leadership in the development and sharing of pedagogical resources in order to increase teaching expertise and excellence;
- Creates and maintains a bank of professional resources and information through our website www.ateq.org;
- Organizes an annual conference, *Springboards: Teachers Teaching Teachers*;
- Publishes an online journal, *ELA Today*, with articles written by teachers and other members of the ELA community in Québec;
- Shares a variety Book Trunks, a travelling resource containing curated collections of literary and professional books to inspire ELA teachers;
- Provides subsidies to support members who wish to attend conferences and workshops, or to invite authors and performers to their classrooms;
- Provides Grants for Excellence in Teaching (GET) to encourage ELA teachers to develop in innovative classroom projects;
- Offers three yearly awards in recognition of excellence in pre- and in-service teaching, and for teacher mentorship and leadership.



Springboards is our annual, flagship conference held in the Spring and so-named because the ideas shared can serve as a springboard for new teaching ideas for the end of the year or the following school year. This grass-roots conference is organized by teachers for teachers, and has been a tradition in Québec for over 40 years.

Registration to Springboards 2025 comes with a one-year membership to ATEQ! Find out more at ATEQ.ORG

2025

Program

Program Overview

Friday, March 21st

8:00: REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST

9:00 - 10:00: KEYNOTE WITH DR. BRONWEN LOW & DR. ANITA HAGH

10:15-11:15: SESSION 1:

Making Space for Racial Literacy with Patricia Blackett & Angela Lionetti (LBPSB)

11:15 - 12:00: SESSION 2:

Elementary: Strategies for Modifying in the Elementary Classroom with Julie Haché (NFSB)

Secondary: Hacking Talk: A step by step guide to level up your teaching of Talk in English Language Arts with ELA Consultants and Teachers from EMSB, ETBS and WQSB

12:00-1:00: LUNCH

1:00 - 1:45: SESSION 3:

Elementary: Novel Ideas for your Classroom Reads with Karen Biskin (JPPS) & Zehava Cohn (Hebrew Academy of Montreal)

Secondary: Addressing Society's Fascination with the True Crime Genre and Bringing it into the Classroom with Amanda McCulloch (LBPSB)

1:45 - 2:30: Resource Sharing Roundtables

Sit down with practicing and pre-service ELA teachers to share innovative ideas, resources and lessons.

2:30: CLOSING & GIVEAWAYS

9:00 – 10:00 AM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#BookTok and the Algorithmic Imagination: Implications for Critical Literacy *with Dr. Bronwen Low and Dr. Anita Hagh*

As literacies become inextricably linked to the symbiotic interplay of human and machine, critical questions arise about how meaning-making occurs in an algorithmically mediated world. Traditional approaches to critical literacy, which rely on maintaining analytic distance, are challenged by this entanglement, as there is no clear "outside" to the algorithmic systems that shape participation. With the ongoing transformation of the Web through artificial intelligence (AI) systems, the socio-cultural contexts of contemporary digital literacy are increasingly shaped by data-driven systems, wherein proprietary algorithms co-produce and refine online cultures alongside human users.

Through multimodal content analysis of the Bookish community on TikTok, we propose and explore five categories of "algorithmic imaginings": critique, defense, explanation, how to work, and exploration of the algorithm. These imaginaries move beyond rational attempts to deconstruct the algorithm and critique its role in platform capitalism toward playful explorations of the human–algorithmic relationship.

These dynamics have significant implications for educators, who must now prepare students to critically engage with algorithms as co-creators of culture — but also to disrupt these systems and maintain their digital agency. By fostering algorithmic awareness and encouraging reflective and reflexive participation in these systems, teachers can empower students to navigate and shape the algorithmically mediated digital landscape responsibly.

9:00 – 10:00 AM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Dr. Bronwen Low has been leading and participating in research, knowledge dissemination, and program and curriculum development projects with a primary focus on how to best support socially marginalized young people underserved by traditional schooling models and practices. Partnerships have included local teachers, administrators and artists to develop an "urban arts" focus in a local high-school, and the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi and EMSB Outreach system

teachers to better understand and support youth transitions after leaving school. Current projects include piloting Studio 4 MTL, a new high-school program based in local youth recording studios in Montréal-Nord and Côte-des-Neiges, researching the impact of #Booktok on reading lives, and exploring a community-based game design workshop for youth. She is the Chair of the Department of Integrated Studies in Education, and teaches and supervises pre-service and in-service teachers as well as community educators.

Dr. Anita Hagh's research primarily explores how platforms are constantly shaping and re-configuring our digital literacies. Through the lens of a member-researcher, Anita is particularly drawn to novel platform practices, cultures, and communities, as well as emerging trends and impacts. In prior works, she has explored the discursive power of memes, with a special focus on their affective implications towards recovery and resilience. Currently, Anita's research centres platform cultures and literacies in algorithmic contexts.



10:15 – 11:15: SESSION 1

Making Space for Racial Literacy

with Patricia Blakett & Angela Lionetti (EDDI Anti-Racist Pedagogical Consultants LBPSB)

Race matters and our students are talking to each other about it, verbally and online. As educators, how might we support our students to speak from a place of confidence, informed by knowledge while always adding to their 'toolkit'? It begins with the development of our own racial literacy and transcends to our pedagogy and practice. Developing racial literacy creates space for disruption, develops counternarratives, and fosters an ability to engage in Courageous Conversations. Making space for racial literacy collectively encourages envisioning forward.

11:15 – 12:00: SESSION 2

ELEMENTARY: Strategies for Modifying in the Elementary Classroom *with Julie Haché (NFSB)*

In this session, we will have a round table discussion on different ways we can differentiate our instruction for our students. By differentiating instruction and the work required from our students, it allows teachers to respect different abilities and needs, while allowing the whole class to participate and learn together. Together we will discuss the struggles and feelings related to teaching multiple levels within a single classroom. Strategies and teaching practices that have proven successful will be shared, and attendees are also invited to share their respective tips and tricks, to help expand other teachers' repertoire of tools.

SECONDARY: Hacking Talk: A step by step guide to level up your teaching of Talk in English Language Arts

with ELA Consultants (Anne Beamish, Stephanie McCulley & Sarah Kobia) and teachers (Lindsay Currie, Laura Leblanc, Marie-Claude Marcotte & David Millard)

In this session, we'll explore Hacking Talk, a comprehensive guide designed to help high school English teachers integrate meaningful talk into their classrooms. Discover practical scaffolds, strategies, and techniques for teaching students how to use talk as a tool for learning. We'll also dive into the creation process of Hacking Talk, highlighting teacher experiences, challenges, and the evolution of classroom talk as a powerful learning tool. Join us to learn how to foster dynamic classroom discussions that support student engagement and facilitate developing a deeper understanding as they engage with diverse perspectives and grapple with a variety of texts.

1:00 – 1:45: SESSION 3

ELEMENTARY: Novel Ideas for your Classroom Reads with Karen Biskin (JPPS-Bialik Librarian) and Zehava Cohn (Head Librarian/ Hebrew Academy of Montreal)

Join two school librarians as we present a curated selection of books for upper elementary and junior high students. This session will inspire educators to update their novel studies with fresh, relevant titles that engage students and reflect their diverse experiences, including novels and graphic novels. We will share literacy activities that enhance student interest, creativity and spark discussions. Attendees will leave with practical ideas to revitalize their curricula and foster a love for reading in their students.

SECONDARY: Addressing Society's Fascination with the True Crime Genre and Bringing it into the Classroom with Amanda McCulloch (LBPSB)

True crime is more than just a popular genre—it's a powerful tool for critical thinking, media literacy, and interdisciplinary learning. This presentation will explore how true crime narratives can be effectively integrated into the classroom to spark student engagement, foster analytical skills, and encourage ethical discussions. From analyzing real-world cases to examining biases in media coverage, students receive meaningful lessons that balance curiosity with sensitivity. They also practice identifying the elements of a mystery, analyzing the narrative point of view of true crime and detective stories, as well as researching evidence and motives in actual true crime cases, crafting compelling crime narratives of their own, and more.

1:45 – 2:30: ROUNDTABLES

Resource Sharing Roundtables

Across this moving roundtable session, attendees will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of teaching resources based on topics like fostering reading engagement through physical movement and integrating varied popular culture texts (e.g., Dungeons & Dragons, story driven videogames) within K-12 classrooms.

2:30: CLOSING & GIVEAWAYS

ATEQ RESOURCES

Book Trunks • Unit Plans • GET Grants • ELA Today



Book Trunks

ATEQ Book Trunks are themed book collections that can be borrowed by members for a period of 4 weeks. Some of the Trunks available:

- Poetry Picks
- The Write Trunk
- All YAL
- Residential Schools
- Reluctant Readers
- Early Literacy
- Discussing Anti-Racism
- LGBTQ+ Content

Create a new Trunk with a GET Grant!



ELA Today

Articles with project ideas, book reviews, and classroom practices from ELA teachers, consultants, and librarians.

Submit an article idea on our website!

Get inspired with...



ELA Unit Plans

ELA Unit plans created and curated by Elementary and Secondary teachers throughout the province! Search by level, topic, competency, and more.



Fund a classroom project!

GET Grants

Apply for an ATEQ GET Grant to help fund an innovative project! Applications are submitted the first Friday in December.

Have a resource to share? We'd love to hear from you!