Fall Conference - Saturday, October 7, 2017
Wilsonville High School • 6800 SW Wilsonville Rd • Wilsonville, OR

Meeting Robin Cody
Tim Gipps, Oregon Educator and Writer Emeritus

Robin Cody may be known for his magnificent coming-of-age novel Ricochet River, which is widely used in Oregon classrooms. But Cody, who will be the keynote speaker at OCTE’s fall conference, has a rich writing résumé that extends far beyond his signature novel and a lively life residént (including a stint as a high school English teacher in Paris) with his fellow teachers, avid readers, and aspiring writers.

Born in St. Helens and reared in Estacada, Cody is an Oregonian through-and-through. After a detour away from our state—as a scholarship student at Yale, an Army officer for a two-year stint in Germany, and a teacher for a decade (with his wife Donna, also an Estacada kid) at the American School in Paris—Cody returned with his family to Oregon, where he’s been since. For a while he was an admissions officer at Reed, but mostly he’s been a freelance writer—for The Oregonian, the BPA, and numerous Northwest publications—since coming home.

In addition to Ricochet River, the compelling story of three teenagers growing up in a Willamette River town in the 1960s, Cody is the author of Voyage of a Summer Sun: Canoeing the Columbia River, his account of a 1,200-mile solo canoe trip from the headwaters of the Columbia River in the Canadian Rockies to the mouth of the river in Astoria.

During Oregon’s Sesquicentennial in 2009, both Ricochet River and Voyage of a Summer Sun were chosen by the Oregon State Library as among the 100 books best exemplifying Oregon’s rich literary heritage.

In 2012, Oregon State University Press published Another Way the River Has, a collection of 24 of Cody’s nonfiction pieces, most of which originally appeared in Northwest Magazine or Portland Magazine. These “true tales” capture Cody’s musings about living in the Northwest during his experiences wandering its rivers, refereeing high school basketball games, driving a special ed school bus, and interacting with Oregonians of all stripes.

Join Us in Wilsonville, October 7!

We all have those moments in our lives that make a huge literary impact on us—whether it is a book that imprintéd itself on us forever, finishing your 50th book in a year, or dis-covering a whole new world by reading a previously unexplored literature genre. For me, one of those impactful moments occurred when I was in middle school, and Robin Cody came to talk about his novel Ricochet River. Not only was it a fascinating, engaging presentation, but for me it was one of those moments where I discovered a whole new breed of books: books about Oregon. Hearing Robin Cody talk about his novel, and the compelling Oregon history that inspired it, caused me immediately to devour his book, then seek out other books that exuded the magic of Oregon. Cody lit a life-long love affair with Oregon and other Northwest authors and books, spurring a deeper appreciation for the state and region I have always called home.

Register online: octe.org

Pre-registration prices end September 30th.
**Fall Conference Workshops!**

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**Conference Details**

I am beyond excited to invite you to our 2017 Fall OCTE Conference on October 7 at Wilsonville High School, featuring Robin Cody himself. This will be an amazing day filled with sessions for all grade levels K-16. Sessions will include book talks, teaching strategies, and practical classroom lessons geared to all levels.

As a teacher, I am always trying to inspire literary “aha” moments in my students, but I am also seeking them out for myself. As teachers we are passionate, we are driven, and we are always searching for and sharing information on how to become wiser for our students. One of my favorite places to do just this is the Fall OCTE Conference. The school year is young, I’m energized and optimistic, and I love immersing myself with other educators and authors who feel the same way. I always walk away from the OCTE Fall Conference with inspiration and substance to utilize in my classroom, and that is such a fulfilling feeling.

Another personal favorite at the Fall Conference is the Oregon Spirit Book Awards. Established in 2005, the award is given yearly to children’s and young adult authors whose recent books have deeply affected their readers, engaged their imaginations and fulfilled their thirst for knowledge. We are lucky to have many of these authors including April Henry, Cat Winter, and Barbara Kerley joining us. They will also present and take questions during our author panel, right after lunch. Every registrant gets to choose a book by one of these authors to take home for their home or classroom library.

The conference is an excellent value, only $75 for OCTE members, $95 for non-members. This is a great professional involvement opportunity within the organizations closest to E/LA teachers: the National and Oregon Council of Teachers of English (OCTE/NCTE). PDUs will be given and Graduate Credit is available through PSU.

I look forward to seeing you on October 7 at Wilsonville High School. Please save the date!

Mariko Walsh
Conference Chair

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**2016 Oregon Spirit Book Award Winners**

The Oregon Council of Teachers of English is pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 Oregon Spirit Book Award. This award is given yearly to the author of a distinguished contribution to picture books, middle reader, young adult, graphic novels, nonfiction, or anthology literature that engages and encourages readers’ imagination, discovery, and understanding, reflecting the spirit and values held by Oregonians.

Presentation of awards will be made at the OCTE Fall Conference at Wilsonville High School on October 7, 2017. Meet winners, hear their wisdom, and get autographed copies of their books. Join us at the conference!

**Picture Books Winner:** *Leave Me Alone!* Vera Brosgol  
Honor: *Quit Calling Me a Monster!, Jory John*  
*Billions of Bricks, Kurt Cyrus*

**Middle Reader Winner:** *The Turn of the Tide*, Rosanne Parry  
Honor: *Avenging the Owl, Melissa Hart*

**Young Adult Winner:** *The Girl I Used to Be*, April Henry  
Honor: *The Steep and Thorny Way, Cat Winters*

**Graphic Novels Winner:** *The Great Pet Escape*, Victoria Jamieson  
Honor: *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth, Cathy Camper*

**Non-fiction Winner:** *Brave Like Me*, Barbara Kerley  
Honor: *Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific, Deborah Hopkinson*

**Anthology Winner:** *Oregon Reads Aloud*