APPLICATION for Participation

Great World Texts in Wisconsin 2012-2013

The God of Small Things in Wisconsin

Compared favorably to the works of Faulkner and Dickens, Arundhati Roy’s Booker Prize-winning novel is a modern classic that has been read and loved worldwide. Equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama, it is the story of an affluent Indian family forever changed by one fateful day in 1969. The seven-year-old twins Estha and Rahel see their world shaken irrevocably by the arrival of their beautiful young cousin, Sophie. It is an event that will lead to an illicit liaison and tragedies accidental and intentional, exposing “big things [that] lurk unsaid” in a country drifting dangerously toward unrest. Lush, lyrical, and unnerving, The God of Small Things is an award-winning landmark that started for its author an esteemed career of fiction and political commentary that continues unabated. (Indiebound)

Through the Great World Texts program, successful applicants from high schools throughout Wisconsin create interdisciplinary teaching teams that will receive the funding, resources, teaching materials (including free books!), and support from UW-Madison to teach a challenging text from multiple perspectives to provide students with an opportunity to engage fully in the complexities and possibilities of this rich and fascinating text.

The Center for the Humanities at the UW-Madison invites high school educators in any subject area to apply to participate in this collaborative year-long project. Our materials and resources are designed to encourage students to think critically and creatively while achieving Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts, including Standards for Disciplinary Literacy. Teams receiving the award are required to attend two all-day Teaching The God of Small Things in Wisconsin colloquia (on Oct. 1, 2012 and Feb. 4, 2013) in Madison to workshop with colleagues and hear talks from leading experts. On March 20, 2013 they will attend the Student Conference, where students will present their work and enjoy a keynote presentation from a leading authority on The God of Small Things- possibly Roy herself!

The God of Small Things is ideal for interdisciplinary teaching and has relevance for almost any discipline, including, but not limited to: SOCIAL STUDIES – THEATER and DRAMA – ENGLISH –LITERATURE – WORLD HISTORY – MUSIC – ARTS – GEOGRAPHY – PHILOSOPHY – PSYCHOLOGY and RELIGION.

To learn more, contact Heather DuBois Bourenane at greattexts@humanities.wisc.edu or (608) 890-1468, or download the application at http://humanities.wisc.edu/public-projects/gwt/2012-2013-project/

Apply today! Deadline for Applications: June 15, 2012
**Benefits of Participation**

**Project Team Awards:** Each school will receive a modest honorarium of up to $1,000, to facilitate, enrich and personalize your own vision of the program. Funds are intended to offset the costs of materials, transportation, substitute teachers, planning time, and other project-related expenses.

**Materials, Support and University Access:** Project teams will receive curricular support materials, including: copies of the text for your school’s permanent collection, a guide to teaching the novel, historical and contextual materials, & continually-updated online resources. Participating teachers and staff will have access to UW-Madison faculty, staff and graduate students in diverse areas of inquiry who are also teaching *The God of Small Things*, in addition to access to library resources, and contacts with faculty in high schools, colleges and universities around the state.

**Teacher Colloquia:** There will be two teacher colloquia held at UW-Madison on **Monday, October 1, 2012** and **February 2, 2013**. These colloquia consist of a full day of seminars and discussions about teaching *The God of Small Things*, featuring university scholars from across the state. We provide a chance to network, share best practices, and explore the text’s many dimensions of relevance to life in Wisconsin in the 21st century.

**Professional Development:** Our program provides teachers with an opportunity to accrue graduate credit, if teachers wish to register and complete program requirements. It also meets DPI teacher standards for PI-34. Consider making this program part of your Professional Development Plan. Further professionalization opportunities with us include presenting at your professional organization’s conference (WEAC, WAFLT, etc) and collaborating to publish curriculum.

**Student Conference:** **Wednesday March 20, 2013.** Students will visit the UW-Madison to present their team or individual projects. In addition to hearing a presentation from a leading expert on the text (possibly Arundhati Roy herself!), students and educators will interact with faculty, students, and the public in the process of learning how their work extends beyond the bounds of classroom walls. **Student attendance and participation at the conference is required if you are funded.**

**Requirements of Participation**

- A commitment to teaching the text collaboratively and challenging your students to think critically, creatively and across disciplines about this class text. In addition, it is expected that you will work to incorporate the text and its context into your year-long curriculum as much as possible.
- Attendance and participation of at least one participating educator from your school in the two (2) all-day **Teacher Colloquia** in Madison on **October 1, 2012** and **February 4, 2013**.
- Attendance and participation by both teachers **and** students at the **Student Conference on March 20, 2013.** Students **must** present their work at the conference.
- **Letter of consent and support from your principal,** acknowledging participation in our events.
- Active participation in ongoing communications with Great World Texts staff and other educators over the course of the project period, as well as a commitment to collaborative teaching and learning strategies.
- You must refund the Team Award if you decide after October 1 not to participate fully in the project.

*“The God of Small Things in Wisconsin” is sponsored by the Center for the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, UW-Madison Libraries, the Anonymous Fund, the Evjue Foundation, the Center for South Asia, and a partnership network of departments, faculty, graduate students and community experts. The program is also funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Wisconsin Humanities Council supports and creates programs that use history, culture, and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin.*
The God of Small Things in Wisconsin: Educator Application Form

Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2012 – Fax (608) 890-0779 – email: greattexts@humanities.wisc.edu

Team Leader Contact Information

Name: __________________________________________

School: ___________________________ Department: ___________________________

School Address: _____________________________________________

School Phone: ___________________________ Your Direct Phone: ________________________

Your Email: _____________________________________________

School Website Address: _____________________________________________

Additional faculty members who might be interested to join your school’s team, with departments:

1) Name: ____________________________________________
   Department/Subject: ________________________________
   Email: ___________________________________________

2) Name: ____________________________________________
   Department/Subject: ________________________________
   Email: ___________________________________________

3) Name: ____________________________________________
   Department/Subject: ________________________________
   Email: ___________________________________________

You are not required to have more than one teacher involved, but applications with broader involvement across the school, judged by numbers of teachers, classes, and subjects included, will be given preference.

Please provide the name(s), instructors and number of students for each of the courses that will participate in the program (i.e. each of the classes at your school that will incorporate Antigone into the curriculum and collaborate or work independently on student projects).

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<th>Subject and Name of Class and Subject</th>
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Total number of participating students from your school (estimate) __________________________

Number of these who will attend the Spring Student Conference (estimate) __________________________

Length of time you plan to spend teaching Antigone __________________________
The stipend is intended to cover the costs of substitute teachers for your time spent in Madison, travel for the colloquia and student conference, and materials for student projects. Books for your students and educators will be provided through the program. In consultation with your administrators, please provide accurate estimates of those costs here:

- Sub costs
- Travel costs (two colloquia)
- Travel costs (bus for students)
- Materials
- Amount of these funds (if any) your school will match

Has your school participated in the Great World Texts program in the past?  YES  NO
Have you taught *The God of Small Things* in the past?  YES  NO
Do you have access to online discussion forums like Moodle?  YES  NO

Please name the forums you can use: _________________________________

Would you be interested in partnering with a teacher from another school?  YES  NO
Are you interested in participating in the project WITHOUT the scholarship award?  YES  NO
Will your school provide additional funds if the scholarship award does not cover all costs?  YES  NO

**Statement of interest:** Explain why this program will be of value to you and the students at your school:

By signing below, you acknowledge that if your application is accepted, you will meet the above mentioned **Requirements of Participation**. Failure to meet these requirements will mean that the project award must be refunded to the Center for the Humanities.

_______________________________________________
Teacher Signature and Date

_______________________________________________
Principal Signature and Date

For additional information, and to download and print additional copies of this announcement/application, please visit [www.humanities.wisc.edu](http://www.humanities.wisc.edu), or contact Heather DuBois Bourenane at (608) 890-1468 or greattexts@humanities.wisc.edu. We look forward to the possibility of working with you.