

# WRITERS BLOC

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

V17 N7 / 1 DECEMBER 2025

## ATTENTION ARTISTS & WRITERS



Trillium Art Show entries will be accepted through December 5. Submissions to the Trillium will be accepted through February 18. Get your writing and artwork in! Contact [trillium@glennville.edu](mailto:trillium@glennville.edu)

This is our last *Writers Bloc* until next semester. Thanks to everyone who shared news, opinions, pictures, and ideas!



## SEND WRITERS BLOC SUBMISSIONS TO

[melissa.gish@glennville.edu](mailto:melissa.gish@glennville.edu)

Views expressed in the *Writers Bloc* are not necessarily the views of GSU.

## CONTACT FACULTY AT

[www.glennville.edu/departments/language-literature](http://www.glennville.edu/departments/language-literature)

## MEET OUR HONOR GRAD

Congratulations are in order for Tioga, West Virginia, native Abby Hudson, who will be graduating with honors this month, having earned a BA in English with a minor in Professional Writing. Throughout her academic career at GSU, Abby served as Secretary for SGA and as a member of the university's accreditation team. She also worked as a Writing Center Consultant and an English tutor in SSS. Central to GSU's literary community, Abby also volunteered as the Literary Editor for the *Trillium*. A natural leader and eager scholar, Abby studied abroad for a summer in the Netherlands at the Hague University on a TRIO grant. We had a great conversation with Abby recently. Here's what she had to say:

**Writers Bloc:** Looking back on the literature you've encountered as an English major, which text challenged or transformed your perspective in the most unexpected way?

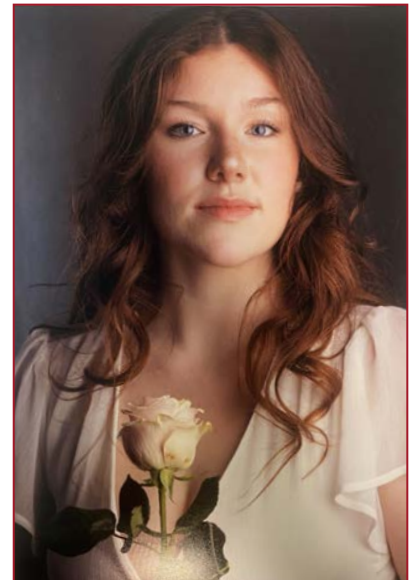
**Abby:** The text that transformed my perspective in the most unexpected way would have to be *The Love Suicides at Amijima* by Chikamatsu Monzaemon. It is a Bunraku (a Japanese traditional puppet theatre where half-life-size dolls act out a chanted dramatic narrative). The drama was memorable because of its romantic themes, which were swiftly warped by envy and a lack of love that led to dominance over one of the lovers. Being able to read the play let me have a glimpse of Japanese culture that not many discuss but also showed how different cultures may relate to one another through the use of the envious lovers trope.

**Writers Bloc:** What aspect of being an English major have you most valued?

**Abby:** The biggest aspect of being an English major I have valued is reading and analyzing literature. I had no idea that reading a book could alter your viewpoint on so many different topics as much as it can. These days, I can't stop analyzing everything, even TV shows and how others interact with me. It gives me a new perspective on the world and makes me realize how much of it is shaped by the lives and inventiveness of others. When I was younger, I would say that I was a reader, but that habit faded until I arrived at Glenville State University. My freshman year was challenging since I had to read for class, but I quickly fell back in love with reading. Some stories were hit or miss, but the ones that succeeded were a result of both my passion for reading and my desire to comprehend the true purpose of literature (viewing the world from a variety of perspectives).

**Writers Bloc:** What connections have you discovered between your English studies and other aspects of your academic or personal life?

**Abby:** I've found links between my English studies and other facets of my academic and personal life, such as how literary movements are so in line with reality that they influence it. I can relate to how literature moves the world and feel that it has the ability to change some aspects of it. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and *Demon Copperhead* were incredibly relatable to the difficult narrative that we all call life. The moments of misplacement, the deep internal thoughts that no one sees, and wanting to lose oneself in habits to feel better are some of the biggest things that I recall. Even though some take *Perks* and possibly *Demon Copperhead* to be adolescent novels, I can still relate to them as an adult.



## Abby Hudson, continued from page 1

**Writers Bloc:** What are your plans for the future?

**Abby:** My plans for the future are to begin my journey as a mother and take care of my beautiful baby boy who will be born in early February. I am going to have a remote job as a content writer or editor, later do graduate work in composition and rhetoric. Eventually, I want to be able to work in Huntington, West Virginia, at WSAZ NewsChannel3 as their multimedia journalist. Aside from the journalist job, what I really want to accomplish is to write a book on the challenges I've endured from youth to adulthood that have shaped who I am.

**Writers Bloc:** What is it like to have come such a long way and be a college graduate? How does your family feel about it?

**Abby:** Being a college graduate is awe-inspiring for me because I never thought it was where I would be in life. I originally came to college to get away from a life back home that I did not want to endure anymore, basically I ran from it. Getting to fall in love with college and having a second family really made the three and a half years at Glenville State worth it. Going to the Hague University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam was a real highlight of college. I would have never gotten the opportunity to see the world in a different way had it not been for Glenville State and Student Support Services. Being one picked out of 20 people in the entire U.S. felt like a dream for me; I never thought it would actually happen, but it was an amazing experience where I met a few new friends. My family is ecstatic for me and what I have accomplished. They are beyond proud to know I am graduating with honors and cannot wait to see how successful I am going to be in life.



Abby visiting Amsterdam, The Netherlands

## Reflections

When I have an English major/minor/etc. whom I've not previously had in a class in one of my online surveys I **always** encourage them to come in and meet with me because if they're one of ours I want them to have a face to go with the name. Abby remains the **only** student to have taken the suggestion in, like, six years. I was really perplexed when she asked to meet with me that semester. I asked, "So what do you need to talk about?" And she says, "You suggested I come meet with you because I'm an English major!" I was embarrassed (but no one had ever taken the advice before!). Anyway, I think that's really indicative of her as a student—she absolutely does her own thinking, but she takes what we say seriously. (I just read over a response paper for Women's Lit that she wrote through the lens of Larkin's "This Be the Verse"—a poem I'd used extensively as a framing device in our Appalachian Lit class last spring, so material sticks with her as well!) She's always kept me on my toes; when you have Abby in class you **have** to be prepared (she reads everything and remembers it better than you will!). I'm proud of all she's achieved (haven't even mentioned the trip she got to take to the Netherlands last summer). I am happy for her and look forward to her future success, but I will absolutely miss having her in my classes.

— Schuyler Chapman  
Associate Professor English and Director of the Honors Program

For information on the Honors Program, email Professor Chapman at [Schuyler.Chapman@glenville.edu](mailto:Schuyler.Chapman@glenville.edu)

**Call for Artists**

The Trillium, GSU's literary and arts journal, is now accepting art submissions for its 2026 issue! All GSU students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members are invited to submit their visual art through the following form:

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5th, 2025**

For more information, contact Autumn Moyers, the Trillium arts editor, at [moyers.autumnr@gsu.glenville.edu](mailto:moyers.autumnr@gsu.glenville.edu).

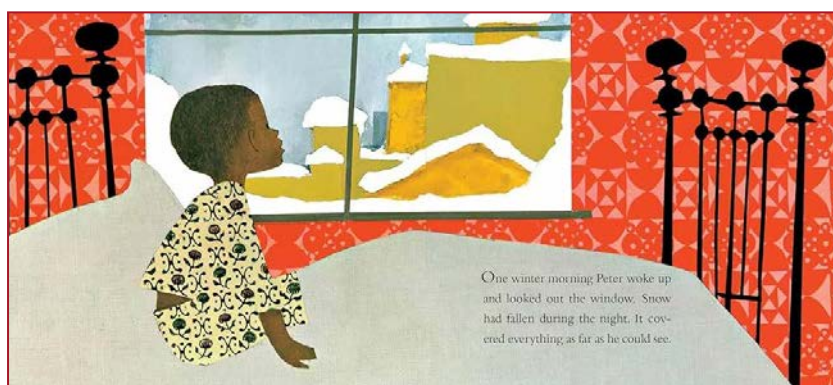
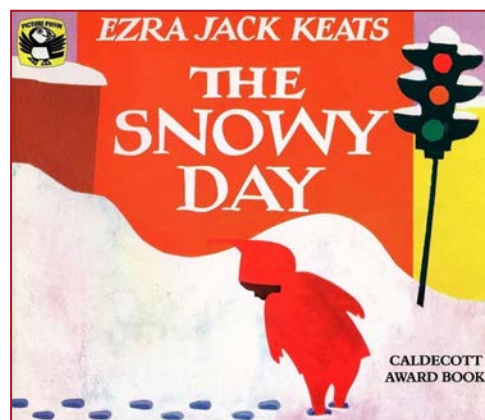


## A CLASSIC BOOK REMINDS US OF CHILDHOOD'S SNOWY DAYS

Contributed by Emily Hawkins, Early and Elementary Education Major

Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day* is one of the many children's books that has stood the test of time. The book was first published in 1962; however, it continues to stand out due to the simple yet meaningful ideas it captures of the magic of a child discovering the world for oneself, while also discovering who they are as a person. The story follows Peter, a young boy who wakes up to the first snowfall of the season. The entire book feels like stepping into a calm, snowy winter morning. I was reminded of this book when we had our first snowfall recently. Waking up to the world covered in beautiful white snow is one of my favorite moments of nostalgia.

What makes *The Snowy Day* so relatable is how it accurately shows the way children think and explore. Keats writes in a gentle, simple way that reflects the real curiosity of children. The book follows Peter dragging a stick through the snow, making different footprints in the snow, creating a snow angel, and trying to save a snowball for later. These are all everyday moments that children experience during the winter months. These moments are significant because they are honest and real events. Keats does not try to force a lesson throughout the book; he just lets the theme be the joy of childhood itself.



The unique illustrations are a huge part of why the book is so often revisited. Keats uses collage-style artwork, mixing bold colors with texture and patterns. This style gives each page its own uniquely different energy. The bright red snowsuit Peter wears against the white snow makes him stand out. The art adds movement and warmth to the story.

Something you have probably never thought of is the historical importance of this simple book. Peter was one of the first Black book characters to appear in a popular picture book. He was just living his life, not facing a struggle, not being used to teach a lesson, but just being a kid and enjoying his childhood. This image of a Black child just

being a child helped shift the thought of what children's literature could look like and who could see themselves reflected in it. This was one of the first children's books to open peoples eyes to make literature more diverse and inclusive.

*The Snowy Day* is still popular and loved today because it blends simple ideas, beautiful illustrations, and the idea that adventure can be found in everyday life. It reminds readers, no matter their age, of the beauty in ordinary moments. Keats created a story that feels personal, universal, and relatable, making it a book that continues to resonate more than sixty years later.

### Winter Trees

All the complicated details  
of the attiring and  
the disattiring are completed!  
A liquid moon  
moves gently among  
the long branches.  
Thus having prepared their buds  
against a sure winter  
the wise trees  
stand sleeping in the cold.

— William Carlos Williams



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@gsu\_languageandlit

## NOSTALGIA WILL BE THE DEATH OF US

Contributed by Emmy Clickenger, Psychology Major

An article by Noah Smith called “Why has American Pop Culture Stagnated?” is about how media has gone downhill as of late. Movies, songs, and other things are boring. Smith states, “Perhaps if we call modern American pop culture ‘stagnant’ enough, artists will be shamed into making something new.” The things that go viral are often older stuff. For example, a really big TikTok trend for a while was to the song “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You” by Frankie Valli, which was a song released in 1967. It feels like we’re just remixing the past.

One trend that seems to be going on in the box office is making not-so-new live action movies. *The Little Mermaid* was made into a live-action in 2023 and *Snow White* this year. There is soon to be a live-action *Rapunzel*, *Lilo and Stitch*, *Moana*, and on and on and on. That’s not even mentioning the fact that we are drowning in superhero movies and sequels that go on forever. It’s like Hollywood is afraid to try anything different. I think part of the problem is everybody is playing it safe. Everything has to be a trend or go viral, so people just copy what’s already popular.

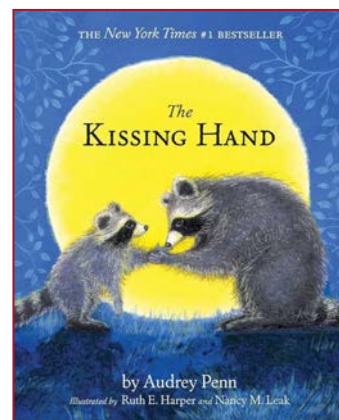
One of the other big culprits is definitely nostalgia. I recently watched the movie *Fear Street: Prom Queen*, directed by Matt Palmer, with my mom. She spent the whole time singing along with the soundtrack and talking about how she used to wear things like the characters and how she used to do her hair like them too. The nostalgia was definitely what made the movie for her. But the truth is, it’s the safe option. The media is just playing it safe, and it is boring. Give us something new, never seen before!

Read Smith’s article here: <https://www.noahpinion.blog/p/why-has-american-pop-culture-stagnated>

## A BOOK FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Cassie Cook, Early and Elementary Education Major

*The Kissing Hand* written by Audrey Penn and illustrated by Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak is a children’s book about a young raccoon named Chester. He is going off to school for the first time, but he’s nervous to be away from his mom. Chester’s mom kisses his hand and has him hold the kiss in his hand to remember her love and reassurance while he’s scared. This book is such a great book for young children, especially those who have a tough



time leaving those whom they are with all the time. This book helps those who are nervous to realize that others get nervous too, but it’s still okay to go experience new things. Not only is this book reassuring, but this could also give these students an idea. The students could either ask their loved one to do what Chester’s mother did, or it could help to spark an idea of how they could remember their touch when they get scared. I think this is such an amazing book for young students to read or listen to, but this book could even be referenced to those at an older age that still struggle from separation anxiety. As a future teacher myself, I would present this book to the class on the first day of school. As crazy as it seems, this could be calming to the students who are actively scared or worried because of separation as this could help students recognize their feelings and deal with them. This is a great book and I would recommend teachers using this as a tool in their classrooms.

## SUPPORT GILMER COUNTY HISTORY

The Gilmer County Historical Society is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a new full-size quilt. The “Jewel Box” was made by Melissa Gish, Associate Professor of English, and was long-arm quilted by local talent Patty Thrasher.

Tickets are \$1 each or 6 chances for \$5. You can purchase tickets by MAIL or in person.

Gilmer County Historical Society  
302 East Main St.  
PO Box 235  
Glenville WV 26351

For more information, email Karen at [gchistorical@gmail.com](mailto:gchistorical@gmail.com)  
Open most Wednesdays 11-3 after the Christmas holidays  
Phone: 304-804-2054

The winner’s name will be drawn at the 2026 West Virginia State Folk Festival in the Historical Society annex on Saturday, June 20, at 3:00 p.m. We hope you’ll consider supporting the important work of the Gilmer County Historical Society.



Q: What do quilts and freshman English papers have in common?

A: Finished is better than perfect!



# WEIRD QUESTION *of the* WEEK

As we approach the winter holidays, we are reminded of special times gathering with friends and family, telling stories and sharing memories, and this weird question came to mind: "If animals could speak a human language, what animal would tell the best stories?"

**Laycee Conway** - Dual-Enrollment Student

"I think gorillas would tell the most interesting stories. Gorillas are similar to humans in their mannerisms and the way they think, so I think it would be the most interesting because it would be similar to us."

**Naomi Sanders** - Pioneer Support Counselor

"I think a fox would tell the best stories!"

**Dwight Heaster** - Associate Professor of Business Administration

"I would have to say that birds would tell the best stories. They are distant observers of people. They get to see humanity at its best and its worst. I think that they have a sense of humor. Sometimes we get to enjoy their humor as they fly by and poop on random people."



**Ashley Crook** - Early Education/Multi-Categorical SPED Major

"Birds, because they can fly and see everything that's going on around them that we can't."

**Mikayla Strimel** - Elementary Education and General Math-Algebra Major

"If animals could speak, I believe that birds would tell the best stories because their view of the world is unlike anybody else's, so I'm sure they've seen beautiful things to tell about."

**Kathy Gilbert** - Director of Aquatics & Recreation

"I'd say, as it pertains to our geographic area, the Burnsville Lake Muddy Bottom Monsters would probably tell pretty good stories. I didn't realize there are HUGE catfish-like creatures at the bottom of the lake, some four feet long! They have big mouths, which have come in handy scooping up chips and snacks that have flown overboard from someone's boat. They are more than likely experts on sunglasses and can tell stories about people diving down looking for their expensive Ray Bans that are now in their silty bottom. It's a good thing they're fish, because they see lots of human bodies swimming around. They'll tell stories of people jumping in the water, losing their bikini bottoms or tops. But some of the best stories are those of folks water skiing above them. They'll hear the roar of the motors and see streams of turbulence trailing behind. Then there's a loud scream or lots of yelling followed by a person flailing in the water with large skis on their feet. But the most entertaining is the big inner tubes that crash; then there's lots of folks laughing and kicking in the waves until their ride returns. Never a dull moment under the Burnsville Lake in the summertime."

**Hector Arriaga Hernandez** - Business Major

"Dogs would tell the best stories because they are the closest animal to humans, and I'm sure they would tell pretty funny and weird stories about their humans. And since the other animals live in the wild, the only stories they would tell is about surviving and mating, but dogs witness all the crazy things humans do, like treating them like babies, taking them in car rides, when we wear costumes, or talk through the internet. So for these reasons, I'm sure they would tell the best stories."

**Jennifer Wenner** - Senior Lecturer of Communications

"The giant tortoise. They live up to 200 years and move slow, so they have time to take in all the sights."

**Rachel Adams** - Certification Analyst, Registrar's Office

"I think that the animal that would tell the best stories would be any type of hunting dog. Think of the chases they could tell you about, the wrong turns, finding the scent again, and the success stories they have!"

**Kaiya Lian** - Psychology Major

"I think that kangaroos would tell the best stories. They're so feisty, so I feel like their stories would always be entertaining."

**Amanda Chapman** - Associate Professor of English

"Raccoons, because they are everywhere, and they must know everyone's dirty business."

**Alex Rogerson** - Biology Major

"I believe the coolest animal to talk to would be a whale, specifically gray whales. They travel 10,000 to 14,000 miles every year, usually during the cold season, and they can live up to 200 years. If you do the math, that means they can travel roughly 2.4 million nautical miles in a lifetime. It's about 24,901 miles around the world, so that's the equivalent of around 97 laps around the planet. You can't tell me these guys wouldn't have some amazing stories. I can totally imagine one having a full conversation with a turtle about their kids sitting over an underwater volcano, just sipping some bubbles."

**Alyssa Hall** - Field Forensics (CRJU) Major

"I think a cricket or a hound dog would tell the best stories because hearing stories from old timers make me laugh and happy."

**Michael Vozniak** - Assistant Professor of English

"An Arctic tern. They migrate from the North Pole to the South Pole every year. Imagine the things things they've seen along the way."

**Darcy Pickel** - Wildlife Management Major

"In my opinion, birds may tell the best stories. Mainly because most species of birds can fly; therefore, they can travel and experience life from a different perspective. However, I am curious as to what a cricket may have to say."

**Journie Curtis** - BA-Undeclared

"I agree with Darcy with birds telling the best stories since they can travel."

**Anna Marie Deeds** - Pre-Physical Therapy Major

"Something aquatic like whales or deep-sea fish. Living in the ocean would already be interesting to hear about, but whales are huge so the perspective must be different. It would be cool to hear how they view creatures smaller than them. As for deep sea fish, I mostly want to know what's going on down there from a native perspective."

**Abby Hudson** - English Major

"If animals could speak a human language, I feel like either a red panda or a whale would tell the best stories. The whale in my mind would be super wise, like an old man who has lived a very long life and can share its stories with me. The red panda would be a little spunky because it has gone through so much. It would share with me the mistakes that made it grow."