

Low-Residency MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults faculty information:

Eleanora E. Tate

Website: <http://www.eleanoraetate.com>

Biography:

Eleanora E. Tate was born in the Mississippi River Valley town of Canton, Missouri, where three of her eleven middle-grade novels take place. One, *The Minstrel's Melody*, is in the *American Girl History Mysteries* series. Another, *Just an Overnight Guest*, was made into an award-winning film. Her books appear on state and national teachers' and children's reading lists. *The Secret of Gumbo Grove* was a Parents Choice Gold Seal Award winner and a finalist for the California Young Reader Medal award. *Celeste's Harlem Renaissance* was the 2007 North Carolina AAUW Book Award Winner for Juvenile Literature. *Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!* was a Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies and a Child Study Book Committee Children's Book of the Year. A former newspaper reporter, she has a BS in journalism (news-editorial) from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Her short stories, essays, and books celebrate neighborhoods, communities, and the families who live there.

She is also an instructor with the Institute of Children's Literature, West Redding, CT, and has taught children's literature at North Carolina Central University in Durham. She gives workshops and critiques for the Carolinas chapter of SCBWI, North Carolina Writers Network, and other writers groups, has served on faculties of numerous writers conferences, and makes author visits in schools, libraries and universities.

I Am Happy to Work with Students in the Following Genres/Areas:

My years in the field have given me the opportunity to critique a variety of genres. As an ICL writing instructor and conference critiquer I work with aspiring writers who all share the vision of writing publishable children's stories and books. My strongest passions are for critiquing middle-grade contemporary fiction and historical fiction, especially those that feature robust, integral settings, because such settings enhance the character and the plot.

Other Things to Know About Me as an Advisor:

I'm a down-to-earth, working writer and instructor who utilizes equally down-to-earth language, the better to communicate with you. I'll work best with monthly hard copy submissions. I'll respond with detailed, written, supportive suggestions targeted to your strongest -- and more challenged -- skills, and welcome your feedback via email or hard copy. I can also talk with you by phone in case you feel the need to hear my soothing, sympathetic voice.

Books of Mine I Recommend You Read:

The Secret of Gumbo Grove, *Front Porch Stories at the One-Room School*, and *Celeste's Harlem Renaissance*.