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# TULSA WORLD



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## 'Speak' author wins Zarrow Award

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Posted: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 12:00 am



Anderson

By James D. Watts Jr. Tulsa World | 0 comments

Laurie Halse Anderson, whose 1999 novel, "Speak," was an award-winning best-seller and a target of censorship, has been named the recipient of the 2017 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers Literature.

The award, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, is a \$7,500 cash prize and an engraved crystal book.

She will receive the award at a ceremony May 17 at Central Library. Anderson will also present the awards in the library's annual Young People's Creative Writing Contest.

Anderson had published two books for children before writing "Speak," about a young woman so traumatized by a sexual assault that she retreats into silence.

The book was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Edgar Allen Poe Award but attracted controversy over its explicit content.

However, when Anderson was awarded the American Library Association's Margaret A.

Edwards Award for her contributions to young-adult literature, she was praised for "masterfully (giving) voice to teen characters undergoing transformations in their lives through their honesty and perseverance while finding the courage to be true to themselves."

Anderson's other novels include the "Seeds of America" trilogy, historical thrillers set during the American Revolution; "Wintergirls," which was selected as an American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults; and "The Impossible Knife of Memory," about the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder and the long-term effects it can have on a family.

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Tulsa County teachers are invited to attend "Mr. Henry's Books Teacher Workshop," to be held Jan. 28 in the Pochontas Greadington Learning and Creativity Center of Central Library, Fifth Street and Denver Avenue. The workshop will include a continental breakfast, 50 copies of Anderson's novel "Chains," and lesson plans on how to incorporate the work of Anderson in school subjects. One participant will win a classroom visit from Anderson on May 5.

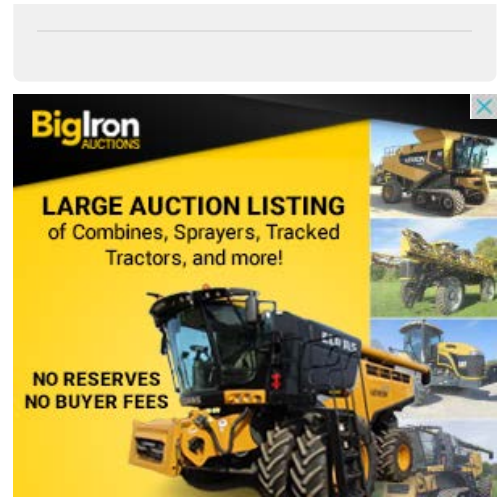
Registration is \$10. For more information on registering for the workshop, call 918-582-8504.

James D. Watts Jr.

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State Superintendent DeWitt is expected to attend a forum on education reform in Tulsa on Friday.

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The Osage Nation is betting big on a new casino development in Tulsa.

**Board denies Iron Gate zoning exemption**

The city board has denied a zoning exemption for a proposed development in Iron Gate.

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