

OIC *Qwic*KEY

400 North Walnut Avenue • OKC, OK 73104 • (405) 235-2651
www.oicofoklahomacounty.org

Tell Me A Story



Listening comprehension had a winter feast! On February 15th OIC was paid its anticipated annual visit by a storyteller from the Arts Council of OKC's *Winter Tales Storytelling Festival 2007* (sponsored by OG&E). This year **Gay Ducey** enchanted us with

two beguiling stories, "The Kiss of Death", and a story of her own eerie, childhood visit to the gravesite of the famous New Orleans Voo Doo queen, Marie Laveau. When not sharing her storytelling performances around the country, Gay is a children's librarian at the Oakland Public Library and teaches storytelling at the University of California-Berkeley. OIC learners were intrigued most with the faces Gay made while spinning her tales, and they did some retelling of their own as well as some journaling the next day on their favorite parts of the stories.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

OIC THE DREAM LUNCHEON DATES

Thurs., August 2nd
Thurs., September 13th
Thurs., November 8th
11:30am at OIC
Call to reserve a seat!

Annual Golf Tournament

Thur., October 11th
8:00am Tee Time
Fairfax Golf Course

Did You Know?

19% of Oklahomans age 25+ are without a high school diploma

18% of Oklahoma adults function at the 1st grade level

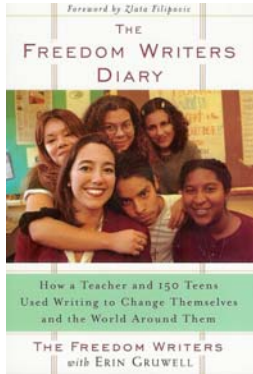
40% of incarcerated adults are functionally illiterate

8% of OIC students, after completing training, receive an immediate wage increase

Looking for a Way to Help?

With our eyes to the future and our feet planted in the present, here is a list of OIC's current and projected needs.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8" foot round tables (10) | GED Calculators (17) |
| Computer tables (5) | Toner Cartridges |
| Lateral file cabinets (4) | DVD Recorder/Player |
| White erase boards (2) | Computer Software (\$10,000) |
| White copy paper, cases (25) | Volunteer Classroom Tutors |
| Ink cartridges | 15-sec TV Commercials (10) |
| New Computers (20) | Full-time Clerical Positions! |



OIC Writers Cheer for *Freedom Writers*

The OIC Literacy student took a field trip to Harkins Cinema in Bricktown to see, *Freedom Writers*, a film based on the best-selling book *The Freedom Writers Diary*. The movie is a true story of a high school teacher and students whom the school system and society had already given up for lost to a world of gang violence. The teacher, Erin Gruwell, was the first person to believe

in their potential and help them see it themselves. After the “private screening,” OIC students returned to school where they did research on the Freedom Writers website. We learned how the Freedom Writers Foundation provides scholarships for students of similar life circumstances of the Freedom Writers and even offers training for teachers who would like to implement

the Freedom Writers teaching model. Our students discovered that many of the now-adult students have gone on to earn college degrees. It was also fun to look up the photos of the real life Freedom Writers and compare them to the actors who portrayed their characters. OIC learners were asked to journal their powerful responses to the powerful film.



The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake

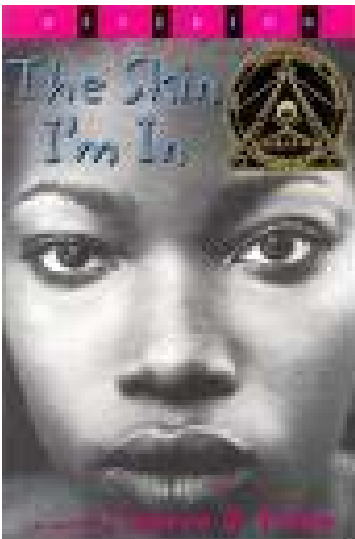
Instructor Shannon Carter began model reading with a new book group and a brand new set of Sharon Flake’s debut novels. The first book is *The Skin I'm In*. The story has many themes; one of them is finding one’s self identity. In the story Maleeka Madison, the heroine, is given an extension of a writing assignment. She writes the journal of Akeelma, a young African girl aboard a slave ship. Creating

Akeelma, Maleeka defines herself. The writing helps her as she struggles to understand her mother who still grieves for her father, helps her take a more critical look at others, and helps her stand firm against peer pressure. Our students have been enthralled with this 1990 Coretta Scott King Book Award winner story, and some amazing writing has been produced from them as they relate to Maleeka and her peers.

After reading the book, students created collages to represent the themes and concepts. The book stimulated lots of discussion and generated increased reading, self-esteem, spelling, vocabulary, and deeper understanding for students. One journaling topic that really got our students going was “What does your face say to the world?” Here’s a sampling of some OIC students’ “faces.”

“I can only be myself, and if the world sees me, good or bad, that is the world’s problem!”

- OIC Student



“Looking in my face, I bring joy to other people. And I do care what people say, and I am feeling that my face looks good.”

“The people are impressed to see me. I love letting the people receive my beautiful face.”

“I hope I carry myself in a manner that shows respect, caring for others, loving my family and anyone I come in contact with. But you know, it doesn’t matter to me what my face says to the world. I can only be myself, and if the world

sees me, good or bad, that is the world’s opinion.”

“I’m nice like a beautiful rose; I’m kind like a little puppy; I’m giving like the Lord gives. And that’s what my face tells the world. So what does your face say to the world?”

Tutor Captures the Heart of OIC

During the 1970's I was privileged to know Hannah Atkins. My husband and I met her when our family moved to North-east Oklahoma City and our children attended Millwood School. She was a remarkable woman - the first black woman elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives, a United States delegate to the 35th General Assembly of the United Nations, and Secretary of State for the state of Oklahoma, the highest government post that was ever held by a black woman in our state. She was also the wife of Dr. Charles N. Atkins, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Opportunities Industrialization Center of Oklahoma County, Inc. Through our activities at Millwood, and in other organizations, we became acquaintances and then friends.

I was younger then and filled with the desire to try to make the world a better place. Hannah suggested to me that instead of trying to change the entire world, it might be more practical to help one person at a time. She told me about

an organization called OIC. It sounded like a very interesting place. She told me that OIC's main focus was to teach people a skill so they could become self supporting and along with this be able to feel pride in themselves. They realized that people could not be taught these skills or keep any employment unless they could read and do math, so OIC was also providing help with basic education.



**Evelyn Medders,
long-time tutor and
friend of OIC**

I knew that I enjoyed math, even though I had majored in Medical Technology in college before I became a mother. One morning I came upon a small ad concerning the need that OIC had for a math tutor, and I wondered if I was qualified to help adult students studying to take the GED Test. So in July of 1984 I began doing math tutoring at OIC.

I was apprehensive - but soon found that I was in for a great experience. The teachers and staff made me feel useful and appreciated from the beginning. It was apparent that they had the same attitude toward the students. This, in turn, helped the students feel that they were persons of worth and they could succeed.

I saw changes in the staff and administration over the years that I was there, but the feeling of caring and respect for each individual was only expanded with each change. My greatest joy was the students. I was able to work one on one with each student who needed and wanted my help. I respected each of them - they wanted to learn and were willing to make the effort to help themselves.

The students gave me so much the 13 years I tutored at OIC by accepting me and responding to what I was ready to give them. Working with someone who is "afraid I can't" and discovers "I can!" is so very rewarding. When I developed a health problem in 1997 I had to leave, and I have missed it very much. OIC to me means "acceptance". The staff accepted me as they do each student - with the belief that each person is unique and different, but each is important in his or her own way. Actually, I feel that both the students and staff at OIC did more for me than I was ever able to return.

Working with someone who is "afraid I can't" and discovers "I can" is so very rewarding!

Day By Day with *The Daily*



Requests to read newspaper articles together as a class were plentiful thanks to the Newspaper In Education program. OIC receives the newspaper each day, sponsored by Steve Horton of Horton & Neighbors, PC and Mr. Donald Nevard. Two articles led to some classroom debate. On January 9, "Siblings Taken at Boy's Funeral," prompted serious discussion on whether or not it was appropriate for state lawmen to whisk away young children from family members during a funeral service for the death of their brother who had been killed by a car driven by his underage sister. Another article was headline news on January 31st "Mother Gets Prison for Abuse," and led to a debate on the legitimacy of mental illness as a defense in criminal charges.

OPPORTUNITIES
INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER
OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY, INC. (OIC)

400 North Walnut Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Phone: 405-235-2651
Fax: 405-235-2653
E-mail: oicoc@sbcglobal.net

OIC - Investing in Life!

We're on the web!

www.oicofoklahomacounty.org

*Call to Advertise
Your Business
Here!*



OIC ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007
FAIRFAX GOLF CLUB
8:30 A.M.



PLAYERS \$100.00 EACH

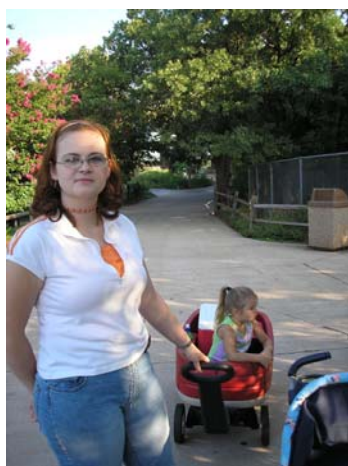
Includes green fees, cart, AM Donuts, lunch, range balls and golf gifts



Gold SPONSOR \$1,000
Silver SPONSOR \$500
CORPORATE TEEBOX SPONSOR \$125

REGISTRATION FORMS ON-LINE www.oicofoklahomacounty.org

\$20,000 HOLE-IN-ONE & OTHER PRIZES!



**Angela, with her niece,
attending an outing at the
OKC Zoo**

It's About Real Lives – Angela Houston

When you first enter the doors of OIC, you feel it. There's a tingle in the air.. You don't quite know what it is, but you know, you want more of it.

The first day of class, you start to see, there is something a little different about the people here.

You here them say things, you never heard before. And at first, it seems too unbelievable and a bit uncomfortable.

You grew up hearing, "you

can't", "you won't" and "you're not", and after a lifetime, you've come to believe it.

But the people here are different; they see something more in you.

They believe in YOU, and after awhile, you start to believe in yourself too.

By the time graduation comes around, you've got it! You finally know what it was you felt the first time you came through the doors...

It's the **OIC Attitude**, its thick in the air here, and it penetrates your every pore.

You may have come through the doors thinking, "I can't", "I won't" and "I'm not"

But when you leave you know, "**I can**", "**I will**" and "**I am**"

"I can do it", "I will succeed" and "I am worth, every bit of it"

That is the OIC Attitude, and it changes lives.