

Through the power of storytelling, Streetside Stories values and cultivates young people's voices, fostering educational equity and building community, literacy and arts skills.

CRITICS' CORNER — Here are Streetside's favorite books!



The Elementary Particles

By Michel Houellebecq

Considered the new *Brave New World*, French writer Michel Houellebecq presents the reader with contemporary characters lost in a dark and pessimistic world. Through them we see the future human race. A novel of ideas, *Elementary Particles* will force any reader to reevaluate their place in the world.

Stephen Boyer
Streetside A.C.E. Intern from USF



The Kite Runner

By Khaled Hosseini

The story chronicles the lives of two boys in Afghanistan and artfully deals with the issues of class, loyalty, political turmoil, and most importantly friendship. Hosseini, who is a local author, took me on a journey to a part of the world I have never seen and made it come alive. I highly recommend it!

Tanya Clark
Streetside Board Member



Stone Fox

By John Reynolds Gardiner

My favorite book is *Stone Fox*. This book is very nice and great. The reason that I like this book is because I like dogs and other animals. This book is about a dogsled race. It's kind of sad at the end, but I liked it.

Lucy Zuo
Aptos After School Student



Batouala

By René Marans

Batouala, a small village in Gabon and also the name of the main character, creates a bridge between pre-colonial and post-colonial Africa. Life transitions of a man take place in an era where cultures try to hold on to the past and cope with modernity. *Batouala* urges his people and the reader to be careful when walking through life, because at any moment, a wrong step could change the course of a person's life.

José Arriaga
Tech Tales Facilitator

Word on the STREET

Vol. 7, No. 2

NEWS FROM STREETSIDE STORIES

FALL 2006

Streetside Helps English Language Learners U.S. Department of Education Awards New Grant

My students, some of whom had just arrived in this country and spoke very little English, were eager to participate, raised their hands to offer suggestions, were able to remember details of stories, and were able to write descriptive paragraphs, narrative and dialogue, then weave them into a whole.

--**Marilyn Swartz**, a teacher who partnered with our Storytelling Exchange program

For almost fifteen years, Streetside has been helping students who are learning English to tell their stories and improve their literacy skills. Over 25% of our students this year speak English as a second language. Teachers like Marilyn Swartz tell us that Streetside helps students get excited about expressing themselves in English.

Now, the U.S. Department of Education has rewarded our work with English language learners. This is the third time that the U.S. Department of Education has recognized Streetside as a national model for arts education.

The Department of Education awarded us a four-year grant to do our programs with 1,000 students who are learning English. And they're also helping us evaluate the results, so that we can learn from data about how our programs help.

We'll share the results of the evaluation nationwide, so others can learn how to use storytelling and the arts to build English skills.

When it comes to learning English, sharing life stories is an incredible motivator. Our students hear stories acted out by our staff and see movies created by other young people. As a result, they want to tell their own stories. Then we take students through a step-by-step curriculum that helps them succeed at writing.

In the end, English learners are very proud of themselves when they write a complete story. Our students agree. As one student said, "Before I felt like I didn't fit into this big society because I couldn't speak and write right, and now I feel like I'm a part of it."

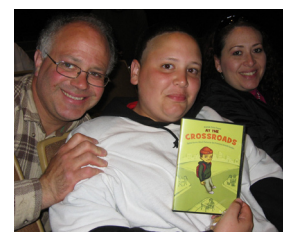
Streetside Launches New Website

In August, Streetside Stories launched a new, dynamic website. The website includes student stories, an up-to-the-minute events calendar and the new Street Blog.

The website was designed by a volunteer team, coordinated by the Taproot Foundation. The web team created a living, breathing site that is chock full of news and stories, just like Streetside! Hats off to team members Maneesh, T. Hardy, Susan, Tan, Swati and Deirdre.

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Students from Tech Tales and their families watch students' digital stories on the big screen at the Roxie.

On the Street Blog readers can share in our work in the classroom, celebrate the stories of young people and find out about trends and happenings affecting arts education. Check out our new website at www.streetside.org.

streetside STORIES

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Word on the Street is a publication of Streetside Stories, an arts education non-profit based in San Francisco.

Through the power of storytelling, Streetside Stories values and cultivates young people's voices, fostering educational equity and building community, literacy and arts skills.

Established in 1992, Streetside Stories brings literacy and arts education to Bay Area youth in public schools and the community, through in-school workshops, after school programs and literacy arts training for educators. Streetside engages students with storytelling, theater and digital media to make reading and writing come alive.

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New Faces at Streetside Stories

There are lots of new great people working at Streetside this fall!

Curtis Asch is a new Facilitator for our Tech Tales program. Curtis is a rapper, actor, director, poet and playwright. Over the last five years he has taught theater, writing and recording rap, poetry, digital storytelling and media literacy.

Diana Gutierrez joins Streetside as a Storytelling Exchange Facilitator. Diana has taught high school English and dance in East Side San Jose. She is a professional actress, singer and dancer.

Erika Padilla-Morales, a longtime Streetside volunteer, is our Digital Teachers Coach. Erika is a latina boricua with a passion for music and the arts and their ability to galvanize communities. She has worked providing technology training to low-income adults and young women.

Jennifer Nette is Streetside's Fundraising Coordinator. Jennifer has worked in fundraising and program development at DC-based WAVE, a national youth development organization, and has a passion for education and youth empowerment.

Cecilia Long joins Streetside as a Storytelling Exchange Facilitator. Cecilia has an extensive background in education, ranging from policy research and lobbying to teaching and tutoring. Cecilia is a jazz/inspirational vocalist, emerging actress and writer. She is currently working on a one-woman show and CD, and conducts jazz performance workshops.



Angel Chen receives award at the SF Youth festival, pictured with event keynote and director Octavio Solis

Streetside Students Win Awards from 2006 San Francisco Youth Arts Festival

Streetside students made an amazing splash at the 2006 Youth Arts Festival, nearly sweeping the memoir category. That's even more impressive when you realize that all of Streetside's winners were in 6th grade--and competing against high school students! The 20th annual San Francisco Youth Arts Festival showcased visual art, literary art, instrumental art and dance performance from San Francisco schools. Students from Streetside's 2006 Storytelling Exchange were also featured performers.

Congratulations to the following Streetside students and middle schools: **Angel Anqi Chen**, gold medal, Luther Burbank; **Jessica Nemerovski**, silver medal, Claire Lillienthal; **Diana Parada**, bronze medal, James Denman; **Fanny Yang**, bronze medal, Francisco; **Jennifer Ling**, bronze medal, Aptos; **Linda Fung**, honorable mention, James Denman; **Kristoffer Moeller**, honorable mention, James Denman; **Icela Mojica**, honorable mention, Enola Maxwell; and **Gavin Liang** honorable mention, Luther Burbank.

At the De Young museum, Angel Chen read her story, *Angel's Tear* (see the story **swap**). All the winners' stories appear in our 2006 anthology *Speaking My Piece*, available on our website at www.streetside.org.

The Story Swap

At the beginning of each Streetside workshop, facilitators tell a story and ask students whether they have had a similar experience that they would like to share. This is called the Story Swap. This page is dedicated to sharing student stories.

Angel's Tear

by Angel Anqi Chen
Burbank Middle School
Storytelling Exchange



This is a true story. I didn't make this up.

Twenty years ago, my mom was an active girl. When she was 14 years old, she went out and played with lots of boys. Of course, they all liked to be friends with my mom.

When my mom was 14 years old, she was a pretty girl. Her skin was white and yellow. Her eyes were brown, and her hair was long. Her voice was a little loud when she was mad. If everything was okay, her voice was sweet. She liked to dance, so she always moved gracefully. My mom also liked to play basketball when she was a kid. She liked to sew, too.

Sometimes she felt happy, but not all the time. Sometimes she felt angry. When she went out to play with boys, she would worry because she knew that, when she came back home, her father might get mad at her (because she came back home late). People always felt that my mom was friendly, but they didn't know that my mom just wanted to be alone.

Two years later, my mom met my dad when my dad was 18 years old and my mom was 16 years old. At first, they were just friends, then they began dating. Then they got married. When I was born, my mom was 19 years old. They divorced when I was three.

Now my mom and I live in San Francisco, California and my dad is living in China! I was in China until I was ten years old. When I was in China, I had many friends in our school. In China, I was an active girl. Now I am in San Francisco, California. I have many friends in San Francisco, too!

One day I was thinking. I questioned myself, did they care about my feelings? Why did they get divorced? Didn't they care how I would feel when I grew up? So

I was not happy. I only liked to play and stay outside.

One day, the weather was cold and windy. When the bell rang, my classmates and I all went to the playground/gym to play ball. Then we went down to our class. We could smell chicken. It smelled good. I was very hungry, so I asked Ms. Szeto, "Ms. Szeto, when is the lunch coming?"

Ms. Szeto said, "Angel, are you hungry?"

I answered, "Yep, I'm very hungry."

Ms. Szeto said, "Just wait five minutes. Did you smell it? I think it's chicken. It made me feel hungry, too."

Five minutes later, the lunch came. I ate a lot of things. I didn't want to go home early.

When I went home, my mom said to me that if I were a boy, she would give me to my dad. I didn't really understand what my mom meant by that, but I do know one thing—my dad wants me because he loves me, and he doesn't care if I am a boy or a girl! So I don't know if I was happy about that or not. I love my mom, and I love my dad, too. Why would they want to give me or push me to each other if I were a girl or a boy? I don't know. If I were a boy, would my mom really give me to my dad? I don't have an answer, because I'm a girl now.

Every time I think about this, my heart hurts like something is on my heart. It bites my tears out. I don't like feeling like this, but I can't forget that they are divorced.

One day, I said to my mom, "Would you want me if I were a boy?" I could hear nothing come out of my mom's mouth. I thought she didn't hear it, so I said it one more time, but this time I yelled, "Would you want me if I were a boy?"

"What do you want to eat for dinner?" Mom asked.

I was mad. I yelled, "If I were a boy, what would you want to do?"

I was sure that, when I finished my question, I could hear a sigh from my mom's mouth. Then she just told me,

"I don't know!"

I felt sad and cried. I shouted, "I'm not hungry!" I went to my room. I cried that night on my bed.

After I cried, I felt better, but I didn't want my mom to know I was crying, because she always thinks that I am brave. I don't know what my mom thought when I went to my room.

After that, each time I tried to ask my mom about it, I couldn't even say one word. Nothing!

Maybe it was because I wasn't brave enough to know the answer. I still have a long life ahead of me, but I still want my mom and my dad to hear what I believe and what I want. I want them to love each other again. I know if that dream would come true, I would feel happy and wouldn't worry so much. But now, I feel very tired of waiting for that dream to come true. Maybe my dream will never come true. But no matter how tired I am, I still want to wait for my dream to come true forever!



Untitled

by Romy Youngquist
Aptos Middle School
Streetside After School

I am from dandy lions,
from sugar and spice.
I am from the grass in my backyard,
the dirt ground I feel when I wrestle.
I am from the tree I grew with my friends
in my neighborhood.
I am from the saying that comes from
my mom's mouth,
"No one is responsible for
your own mistakes."
I am from the dish we cook in Africa
we like to call sauce gombo.
I am from the skates
from my hockey gear.
I am from my country,
Cote d'Ivoire.

Thank You Volunteers!

Dedicated volunteers make Streetside's programs work. Thank you for your support. Volunteer of the Month awardees and organizations are in bold.

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Get Involved!



Storytelling Exchange Students
Read their stories at A Clean
Well Lighted Place for Books

There are lots of different ways to be part of Streetside! To find out more, give Tara a call at (415) 864-5221, email her at tara@streetside.org or visit our website at www.streetside.org.

Tell It Like It Is! is a free, monthly one-hour event that's all about Streetside. Want to learn more about Streetside, or get answers to your questions? Have a friend, coworker or family member who you think would enjoy

learning about Streetside? Here's your chance! Join us on **Thursday, December 14** at 6:30 pm or **Thursday, January 18** at 6:30 pm for the facts about Streetside, some great stories and refreshments.

RSVP: contact@streetside.org.

Volunteer in the Classroom! During the school day volunteers can be part of the Storytelling Exchange, mentoring youth as they express themselves through autobiographical stories. After school, volunteers can work one-on-one with students to help them with writing, reading and theater performance.

Bring Streetside Stories to Your School!

Ever wished Streetside could come to your classroom? You can bring Streetside's Storytelling Exchange, Tech Tales or Streetside After School programs to your school. Our programs build literacy skills while engaging students in theater, digital storytelling and autobiographical writing.

In addition, Streetside's TALE (Tools for Arts and Literacy Education) program trains educators, teachers-in-training and other youth service professionals to use our innovative and engaging techniques.

"Streetside is simply the best arts education program I've seen in my years as a teacher and administrator."

--William Hack, *Assistant Principal*
Claire Lilienthal K-8 school

Call Linda Johnson at (415) 864-5221 for details.

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