

MELINDA S. BUTLER

Department of Literacy, Language, and Culture
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Professional Experience

September 2019- present	Assistant Professor, Literacy Education Literacy, Language, and Culture Dept. (LLC) School of Education and Human Development University of Southern Maine, Gorham, Maine
September 2018-August 2018	Lecturer, Literacy Education Literacy, Language, and Culture Dept. (LLC) School of Education and Human Development University of Southern Maine, Gorham
August 2007-July 2018	Instructional Reading Coach Jack M. Fields, Sr. Elementary Humble, Texas
August 2006-June 2007	Fourth Grade Language Arts Teacher Jack M. Fields, Sr. Elementary Humble, Texas
August 2003- June 2006	Third Grade Self-Contained Teacher Jack M. Fields, Sr. Elementary Humble, Texas
August 2002- June 2003	Fourth Grade Language Arts Teacher Jack M. Fields, Sr. Elementary Humble, Texas
August 2001-June 2002	Third Grade Language Arts Teacher Stafford Intermediate Stafford, Texas
August 1997-May 2001	Assistant Director UT-Houston Child Development Center Houston, Texas
1999-2001	Validator National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Houston, Texas

Courses Taught

University of Southern Maine

- EDU 222: Foundations of Language and Literacy
- EDU 512: K-12 Children's Literature
- EDU 514: Content Area Literacy
- EDU 522: Foundations of Language and Literacy
- EDU 565: Teaching Reading for all Students in Grades K-8, Including Those with Diverse Abilities and Backgrounds
- EDU 566: Teaching Writing for all Students in Grades K-8, Including Those with Diverse Abilities and Backgrounds
- EDU 634: Seminar in Literacy Research
- EDU 635: Seminar in Second Language Literacy
- EDU 665: CAS Directed Study
- EDU 639: Practicum in Literacy Education
- EDU 607: Teacher Research in Literacy and Language

Education:

Sam Houston State University, Literacy	Ed.D.	May 2018
Sam Houston State University, Reading	M.Ed.	August 2007
Northern Arizona University	B.S.	May 1980

Certifications and Licensures:

Reading Specialist Certificate, EC-12, Texas Department of Education

English as a Second Language Certificate, EC-12, Texas Department of Education

Elementary Self-Contained, Grades 1-6, Texas Department of Education

Digital Literacy Certificate, Sam Houston State University

Honors:

Campus Teacher of the Year, 2007-2008 and 2013-2014

Outstanding Doctoral Student, Sam Houston State University (2014-2015)

First Place, 3 Minute Thesis, Sam Houston State University (2017)

Scholarship

Dissertation

Butler, M. S. (2018). *Elementary teachers' perceptions of popular culture texts* (Doctoral dissertation). (10903545).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Butler, M. S. (2020). Choice, with conditions: Popular culture texts and independent reading. *Primer Journal* 48(2), 13-25.

Butler, M. S. (2018). Hey, can you find me a book? Providing popular culture texts to students in a Title I elementary school. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Yearbook*. Accepted for publication in 5(1).

Butler, M. S., & Votteler, N. K. (2016). Disequilibrium: An instructional coach's reflection. *Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Journal*. Accepted for publication in 4(1).

Published Book Reviews

Butler, M. S. (2018). Miles Morales: Spiderman. A Review. *TALE Newsletter* (7)3.

Butler, M. S., (2017). Making Bombs for Hitler. A Review. *TALE Newsletter* (7)1.

Butler, M. S., (2014). Bruised. A Review. *SIGNAL Journal* (37) 2.

Butler, M. S., (2013). Out of the Cold: A Robyn Hunter Mystery. A Review. *SIGNAL Journal* (37) 1.

Peer-Reviewed National Professional Presentations (underlined represents student contributions)

Butler, M. S. (2019). *Popular culture book clubs: Springboard to inquiry* at the 2019 National Council of Teachers of English Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

Karlin, A., Henderson, S., Adams, A., & Butler, M. S. (2019). *Journeys to freedom and inclusion: Stories of refugee and/or immigrant journeys told in picture & chapter books that broaden knowledge and promote empathy in children & young adults* at the International Literacy Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Karlin, A., Swope, M., Henderson, S., & Butler, M. S. (2018). *Voices of the past creating voices*

for the present and future: Learning about & remembering WWII & the Holocaust through picture books at the 2018 International Literacy Association Conference, Austin, Texas.

Butler, M. S. (2017). "*Hey, can you find me a book? Reclaiming reading engagement through the use of popular culture texts*" at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference, St. Louis, Missouri.

Benge, C. L., Butler, M. S., Athans, K., Keelan, J., Morris, A., & Combs, J. P. (2016). *Using academic notebooks in doctoral writing: An investigation of doctoral students' and instructors' perceptions*. Paper proposed to the 2016 American Educational Research Conference, Washington, D. C.

Gerber, H., Ranzau, S., Abrams, Arzt, J., Garland, K., Kajder, S., Maije, A., Malo-Juvera, V., McDermott, M., Moran, C., Olsese, N., Schipke, R., Warner, J., Yerk, M., Young, C., & Butler, M. S. (2013). *Exploring story through technology in English education: Using a wiki for summer professional reading groups* (Butler Roundtable Topic), at the 2014 National Council of Teachers of English, Washington, D.C.

Butler, M. S., (2013). *Changing lives: One reader at a time*. Poster Session for the 2014 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting. Washington D.C.

Gerber, H., Abrams, S. S., Price, D., Miller, M., Votteler, N., Stufft, C., Benge, C., Neimeyer, D., Kwoka, L., & Butler, M. S. (December, 2013). *From Donkey Kong to Metroid to Call of Duty: Teachers implementing games-based literacy learning to engage students*. Paper proposed to the 2013 Literacy Research Association Conference, Dallas, Texas.

Regional, State, and Local Presentations

Butler, M. S. (2019). "*Hey, can you find me a book? Reclaiming student reading engagement through the use of popular culture texts*" at the 2019 New England Council of Teachers of English Conference, Danvers, Massachusetts.

Butler, M. S. (2019). *Captain Underpants and Spiderman: Popular culture texts in reading workshop* at the Northern New England Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference, Lewiston, Maine.

Butler, M. S. (2019). *Elementary teachers' perceptions of popular culture texts*. Lightning Talk presentation at the 2019 University of Southern Maine Research and Scholarship Symposium.

Butler, M. S. (2019). *Elementary teachers' perceptions of popular culture texts*. Roundtable presentation for the 2019 Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Waco, Texas.

- Briggs, C., Walker, A., Ranzau, S., McNulty, A., Gaddy, S., & Butler, M. (2019). *Advocacy and justice in the teaching profession: We can make a difference* at the 2019 Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Waco, Texas.
- Butler, M. S. (2018). *Super Heroes, Captain Underpants, and Amulet: Integrating popular culture into reading workshop* at the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, West Texas A & M University, Canyon, Texas.
- Butler, M. S. (2017). "Hey, can you find me a book?" *Reclaiming student reading engagement through the use of popular culture texts* at the Baylor TAIR Conference at Region 12, Baylor, Texas.
- McIntush, K., Butler, M. S., & Coyne, J. (2017). *Tech tools you can use* at the Bring 'Em Back, Kats Conference at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.
- Butler, M. S. & Montelongo, T. (2017). *All wrapped up (in a text): Strategies to move students towards immersion in independent reading* at the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Butler, M. S. (2016). "Hey, can you find me a book?" *Providing access to popular culture texts for economically disadvantaged students* at the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas.
- Butler, M. S. (2015). *Independent reading: No fake reading allowed* at the Baylor University/Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.
- Butler, M. S., Keelan, J., and Davis, R. (2015). *Utilizing transmedia texts in the classroom* at the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Sam Houston State University, The Woodlands, Texas.
- Butler, M. S., (2014). *Changing lives: One reader at a time* at the 2015 Texas Council of Teachers of English State Conference, Houston, Texas.
- Butler, M.S., & Ucci, P., (2013). *Multi-genre writing*, at the Sam Houston Reading & Writing Project/Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.
- Butler, M. S., (2013). *Independent reading: No fake reading allowed* at the Passport to Learning Conference, Humble Independent School District, Humble, Texas.
- Butler, M. S., (2013). *The (em)power of I Am: Action research in a Title 1 elementary school*, at the 2013 Joan Prouty Conference, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.
- Butler, M.S., Chatham, T., Thompson, R., & Ucci, P., (2012). *Independent reading: The I's and*

why's, at the Sam Houston Reading & Writing Project Conference, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

Butler, M. S., (2012). *Independent reading: The I's and why's* at the Passport to Learning Conference, Humble Independent School District, Humble, Texas.

Butler, M. S., Tijero, K., & Gary, M. (2009). Presentation at the 2009 Sam Houston Area Reading Council/Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Sam Houston State University, The Woodlands, Texas.

Butler, M. S., & Orand, D. (2008). Presentation at the 2008 Sam Houston Area Reading Council/Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Sam Houston State University, The Woodlands, Texas.

Conference Proposals Submitted

Butler, M. S., & Dean, P. (2021). *Sing a song of equity and justice: Reflections on children's access to literature* at the 2021 National Council of Teachers of English Conference.

Butler, M. S. & Lemieux, L. (2021). *Communities of literacy practice: Graduates students' stories* at the 2021 National Council of Teachers of English Conference.

Butler, M. S. & Hooper-Bressler, K. (2021). *A tale of two perspectives: Graphic novel book clubs during a global pandemic* at the 2021 National Council of Teachers of English Conference.

Butler, M. S., Lemieux, L., Hooper-Bressler, K., Marsh, J., & Arbor, E. (2020). *The story of a literacy practicum: A confluence of literacies and a community of practice* at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference, Denver, Colorado. (Conference canceled).

Butler, M. S., & Dean, P. (2020). *Sing a song of diversity: Reflections on children's access to literature* at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference, Denver, Colorado. (Conference Canceled; Accepted for Virtual Conference, unable to accept at this time).

Karlin, A., Butler, M. S., & Adams, A. (2020). *Eyes of the beholder: The value of books* at the International Literacy Association Conference, Columbus, Ohio (accepted). Conference canceled.

Butler, M. S. (2019). *Captain Underpants and Spiderman: Popular culture texts in reading workshop* at the Northern New England Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference, Lewiston, Maine (accepted).

Butler, M. S. (2019). *"Hey, can you find me a book? Reclaiming student reading*

- engagement through the use of popular culture texts* at the 2019 New England Council of Teachers of English Conference, Danvers, Massachusetts (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2019). *Elementary teachers' perceptions of popular culture texts*. Lightning Talk presentation at the 2019 University of Southern Maine Research and Scholarship Symposium (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2019). *Elementary teachers' perceptions of popular culture texts*. Roundtable presentation proposed for the 2019 Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Waco, Texas (accepted).
- Briggs, C., Walker, A., Ranzau, S., McNulty, A., Gaddy, S., & Butler, M. (2019). *Advocacy and justice in the teaching profession: We can make a difference* at the 2019 Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Waco, Texas (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2019). *Popular culture book clubs: Springboard to inquiry* at the 2019 National Council of Teachers of English Conference, Baltimore, Maryland (accepted as panel member).
- Karlin, A., Henderson, S., Adams, A., & Butler, M. S. (2019). *Journeys to freedom and inclusion: Stories of refugee and/or immigrant journeys told in picture & chapter books that broaden knowledge and promote empathy in children & young adults* at the International Literacy Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2018). *Super Heroes, Captain Underpants, and Amulet: Integrating popular culture into reading workshop*. Presentation proposed for the International Literacy Association, Austin, Texas (not accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2018). *Super Heroes, Captain Underpants, and Amulet: Integrating popular culture into reading workshop*. Presentation proposed for the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, West Texas A & M University, Canyon, Texas (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2017). *"Hey, can you find me a book?" Reclaiming student reading engagement through the use of popular culture texts* at the Baylor TAIR Conference at Region 12, Baylor, Texas (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2017). *"Hey, can you find me a book? Reclaiming reading engagement through the use of popular culture texts*. Presentation proposed for the National Council of Teachers of English Conference, St. Louis, Missouri (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. & Montelongo, T. (2017). *All wrapped up (in a text): Strategies to move students towards immersion in independent reading*. Presentation proposed for the Texas Association for the Texas Association for Literacy Education Conference, Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi, Texas (accepted).

- McIntush, K., Butler, M. S., Coyne, J. (2017). *Technology you can use*. Presentation proposed for the Bring 'Em Back, Kats Conference, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2016). *"Hey, can you find me a book?" Providing access to popular culture texts for economically disadvantaged students*. Presentation proposed for Texas Association for Literacy Educators Conference, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas (accepted).
- Keelan, J., and Butler, M. S. (2015). *Time for transmedia: Integrating digital literacy into literature circles*. Presentation proposed for the 19th European Conference on Literacy, Klagenfurt, Austria (accepted but unable to attend).
- Butler, M. S. (2015). *Independent reading: No fake reading allowed*. Presentation proposed for the Baylor University/Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Conference, Baylor University, Waco, Texas (accepted).
- Butler, M. S. (2015). *Adventure Time to WWE: Integrating popular culture texts into classroom libraries*. Presentation for the International Council for Educational Media Conference, Medellin, Colombia (accepted but unable to attend).
- Keelen, C., Keelan, J., & Butler, M. (2014). *Utilizing transmedia texts in the classroom*. Presentation proposed for the 2015 Texas Association of Literacy Educators, The Woodlands, Texas (accepted).
- Butler, M. S., (2014). *Changing lives: One reader at a time*. Presentation proposed for the 2015 Texas Council of Teachers of English State Conference, Houston, Texas (accepted and presented).
- Gerber, H., Ranzau, S., Abrams, Arzt, J., Garland, K., Kajder, S., Maije, A., Malo-Juvera, V., McDermott, M., Moran, C., Olsese, N., Schipke, R., Warner, J., Yerk, M., Young, C., & Butler, M. S. (2013). *Exploring story through technology in English education: Using a wiki for summer professional reading groups* (Butler Roundtable Topic). Presentation proposed for the 2014 National Council of Teachers of English, Washington, D.C. (accepted as roundtable leader).
- Butler, M. S., (2013). *Changing lives: One reader at a time*. Presentation proposed for the 2014 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting. Washington D.C. (accepted as combined poster session).

Academic Service

University Service Record

2020-present Co-Chair, Communication and Resources Committee, Inclusion, Diversity, and

Equity Council (IDEC)

- 2021 Department Co-Chair, Literacy, Language, and Culture
- 2020-present Member, SEHD Curriculum Committee
- 2020 Member, Professional Education Council
- 2020-2021 Faculty Advisor for UROP undergraduate student research.
- 2018-present Member, Undergraduate General Education Teacher Education Pathways Committee
- 2020 America Reads Presentation: Teaching and Reaching English Language Learners for America Reads Readers (February 21, 2020)

Community Service

- 2020-present Volunteer, Telling Room, 2020. (currently closed)
- 2020-present Member, Maine State Literacy Team, 2020.
- 2020-present Member-at-Large, Executive Board, New England Council of Teachers of English (NEATE)

Community Service (past)

- 2020 Buxton Center Elementary School, Buxton, Maine. Presentation on Using Mentor Texts to Teach Math (March 13, 2020)
- 2020 Waynflete School, Portland, Maine. Presentation on Censorship and Students' Right to Read (May 25, 2019)
- 2018-2019 Advocacy Committee, Texas Association of Literacy Education (TALE)
- 2016-2018 Advocacy Committee Co-Director, Texas Association of Literacy Education (TALE)
- 2018, 2020 Reviewer, Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE) Yearbook
- 2011-2018 Exhibits Chair, Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR)
- 2017-2019 Vice President, Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR)
- 2018 Texas Council of Teachers of English Association Elementary (PK-5) Section Committee

2016-2017 Advisory Board, Sam Houston State University Reading Masters' Program

Public Schools Service

2012-2018 Campus Site-Based Team Member, Jack M. Fields, Sr. Elementary

2012-2018 Instructional Support Team, Jack M. Fields, Sr. Elementary

2016-2017 Humble Leadership Academy

2014-2015 Curriculum Development Team, Humble Independent School District

2011-2013 Instructional Coach Team, Humble Independent School District

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association

American Library Association

Children's Literacy Assembly

International Board of Books for Young People

International Literacy Association

Maine Education Association

Massachusetts Reading Association

National Council of Teachers of English

New England Association of Teachers of English

National Writing Project (Sam Houston Writing Project)

Northern New England Teaching English as a Second Language

Texas Association of Literacy Education