



NEWS RELEASE FROM EWU  
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## ***Get Lit!* 2005 children's events begin**

SPOKANE, WA - The Inland Northwest's premier annual literary arts festival, *Get Lit!*, will reach about 30 rural communities as part of the second annual Authors Tour of Rural Schools beginning this month.

Eleven Spokane-based authors will participate in daylong school visits across the Inland Northwest, including Jack Nisbet and EWU alums Jess Walter and Terry Trueman. Up to 50 school visits will take place between now and early April.

The touring authors will share their writing, talk about the writing life and lead students in writing exercises. Verla Kay, who writes historical picture books, often appears in costume. Author Kelly Milner Halls brings along her collection of fossil replicas when she presents her book *Dinosaur Mummies*.

Authors work with students of all ages in rural schools, where academic enrichment can be difficult to arrange. Visits this year will range from Northport and Republic in the north, Wilbur and Lind to the west and Pullman to the south. Moscow, Idaho, schools are also participating.

This program is supported by Eastern Washington University and a grant from Humanities Washington, a statewide, nonprofit organization supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and local contributors.

The Authors Tour of Rural Schools acts as a prelude to the nine-day-long *Get Lit!* festival, which runs April 15-23, 2005. Presented by the Eastern Washington University Press, the 2005 festival will feature Robert Bly, Rita Dove, Bob Edwards, Salman Rushdie and David

Sedaris. Writing workshops, a series of free panel discussions, Writers in the Schools Day for Spokane-area schools and the KPBX Kid's Concert will round out the events.

For more information about the *Get Lit!* Festival, call the EWU Press at (509) 623-4285 or visit [www.ewu.edu/getlit](http://www.ewu.edu/getlit). The *Get Lit!* 2005 media contact is Cathy Dixon; she can be reached at (509)359-4868.

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