

Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah

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Biography: I am a Ghanaian American poet, editor, and educator living out the diaspora in Boston, Massachusetts. For 6 years I taught 11th grade English at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, and prior to that served as a teaching artist at organizations throughout Boston. I have very recently (September 2023) transitioned from teaching high school English, and am currently working as a school librarian at the Joseph Lee School in Dorchester, Boston (it's a K-8!). While I miss my high schoolers, the transition to working with littles, particularly kids growing up in the city I myself grew up in, has been incredibly joyful and life-giving. The pursuit of joy, and that which sustains life, is essential to my creative practice, and to my practice of living. My first chapbook, "not without small joys" (published in 2021 by Game Over Books Press) explores the centrality of joy as an animating force, especially in the face of human suffering. In my free time, I enjoy hot carbs, afternoons spent playing board games, and the long sigh at the end of a good book.

Education:

Harvard Graduate School of Education | Cambridge, MA (2018)

Program: Teacher Education Program

Strand: Secondary Level (Grades 8-12) English





University of Connecticut | Storrs, CT (2015)

B.A. (Double Major): English & Urban Studies

Minors: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Teaching/Teaching Artist Work:

School Librarian & Technology Coordinator, Joseph Lee School K-8, Boston, MA (2023 - Present)

-  Teach library classes for students in grades K-8 in collaboration with classroom teachers and other instructional staff
-  Coordinate school-wide sign-up system for library visits and individualize content for each class
-  Facilitate classroom access to digital and technological resources
-  Maintain school library as a welcoming and productive space for all students and staff within our broader learning community

- ✚ Design programming to connect students and families to library resources, e.g. “Week of Code” curriculum, themed free book giveaways, etc.
- ✚ Develop and manage library collections in response to the needs of the school community

Writing Instructor, Grubstreet (2017 - Present)

- ✚ Design and instruct day-long to multi-week courses on the elements of creative writing both for youth and adult participants interested in further exploring their use of craft.

English Teacher, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Cambridge, MA (2018 - 2023)

- ✚ Designed lesson plans for 80-minute 4x4 block schedule to accommodate the needs of heterogeneous student population, including FLEP, ELL, and IEP & 504 plans (co-taught classes alongside special education instructor)
- ✚ Instructional strategies and topics included close reading; creative, analytical, and expository writing; literary and rhetorical analysis; research method & writing; Readers Theatre; Socratic seminar; portfolios, presentations, and other authentic forms of assessment

Instructor, Harvard Graduate School of Education (Summer 2022)

- ✚ **EDU T222C: English Methods III**
- ✚ **EDU T999C: English Fieldwork III**

Teaching Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education (2021 - 2022)

- ✚ **EDU T222A-C: English Methods I, II, and III** (Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)
- ✚ **EDU T999A-C: English Fieldwork I, II, and III** (Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Slam Team Coach, Northeastern University (2016 - 2020)

- ✚ Worked as the founding coach of the Northeastern University poetry slam team, coaching a team of five Northeastern University students to write, workshop, and edit poems to be performed at the College Union Poetry Slam Invitational, an international competition

Teaching Artist, Cambridge Public Art Youth Council (2018)

- ✚ Implemented a summer-long youth participatory art program in which Cambridge teens were encouraged to think about the role of public art within their community and work towards creating a public art project of their own.

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Performance Art Crew Coach (2016 – 2018)

- ✚ Wrote curriculum for a group of Boston teens committed to engaging in the craft of poetry and spoken word
- ✚ Implemented Youth Development strategies to foster community while building a sense of engagement and outreach through the arts

Walltalk Teaching Artist, Institute of Contemporary Art (2016 - 2018)

- ✚ Engaged 7-12th grade students from our nine partner schools with contemporary art through writing, spoken word, and performance
- ✚ Developed culturally competent curriculum that highlights the intersections of contemporary poetry and contemporary visual arts forms

Winter Tangerine, Summer Workshop Advisor, (2016 – 2018)

- ✚ Oversaw two groups of 4-5 students, of various ages, to participate in a three week writing workshop, facilitating student fulfillment of workshop requirements and responding to a variety of student needs.
- ✚ Conducted advisories for advisee groups, and provided detailed critiques and feedback for all lessons written during the workshop.

MASSLEAP Artist in Residency, Snowden Academy (2016 - 2017)

- ✚ Collaborated with teachers to craft and implement writing and performance workshops that engage students and meet MA standards
- ✚ Built meaningful creative outlets for students such as print publications and student-run open mics.

Americorps MATCH Education Fellow, MMS Corps XII Community Associate (2015 – 2016)

- ✚ Provided five groups of five to eight students, grade 6 through 8, daily, hour-long instruction in English Language Arts.
- ✚ Served as teaching assistant to a 7th grade English classroom, with duties such as regular grading of classwork, oversight of classrooms, and chaperoning student field trips.

Director of Curriculum, Boston Pulse (2015 - 2016)

- ✚ Wrote culturally competent curriculum for Boston Pulse, a youth-empowerment organization focused on promoting positive change for young people and their communities through spoken word.
- ✚ Conducted workshops for, and prepared middle school students to perform at events, such as the 2016 & 2017 Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni

of Color Conference, and TFA's 2016 #StayWoke: Social Justice through Hashtag Activism Conference.

Community Organizing Work:

“CRLS Open Mic + Poetry Series” (2018 – 2023)

- 📖 Received a faculty innovation grant from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School to create a youth-centered space for expression at the high-school.
- 📖 Featured performers and workshop leaders at CRLS including Porsha Olayiwola, The Northeastern University Slam Team, The Lesley University Slam Team, Angelica Maria Aguilera, and others.

Volunteer Staff at House Slam (2018 – 2020)

- 📖 Volunteered and helped coordinate events for the “House Slam” at the Haley House Café, Boston’s Poetry Slam venue located in the heart of Dudley (now Nubian) Square.

“The Plantain Collection” (2018)

- 📖 Co-organized a bi-monthly reading and conversation series for writers of diaspora with an emphasis on highlighting and supporting Boston-based poets of color.

Fellowships & Honors:

- 📖 Chapbook, “not without small joys,” Runner Up for 2020 Own Voices Chapbook Prize (2020)
- 📖 Semifinalist for 2019 – 2021 CreateWell Award Program (2019)
- 📖 Chapbook, “not without small joys,” longlisted for Pank Little Book contest (2019)
- 📖 Chapbook, “not without small joys,” Finalist for Gold Line | Ricochet Chapbook Competition (2019)
- 📖 Chapbook, “not without small joys,” Finalist for Diode Editions’ Chapbook Prize (2019)
- 📖 Open Mouth Writing Retreat Participant (2019)
- 📖 Shortlisted for the Brunel International African Poetry Prize (2019)
- 📖 Pushcart Prize Recipient, for "kra-din" (Kweli), Pushcart XLII (2018)

Editorial Work:

- 📖 Editor // Porsha Olayiwola's "I Shimmer Sometimes, Too" (Button Poetry) // Published 2019
- 📖 Editor // JR Mahung's "Since When He Have Wings" (Pizza Pi Press) // Published 2018
- 📖 Associate Editor // Pizza Pi Press (<https://pizza314press.org/masthead/>) // 2017 - 2018
- 📖 Reviews Editor // Winter Tangerine (<http://www.wintertangerine.com/book-reviews>) // 2016 - 2018

Publications:

- 📖 [*not without small joys*](#) // Game Over Books // 2022
- 📖 "contrapuntal for awareness of becoming" (<https://www.nefa.org/news/reflections-inpublic-2021>) // inPUBLIC 2021 // 2021
- 📖 "self-portrait as multiple dreamscapes, each craning its neck towards home" (<https://2035africa.org/anthology/issue-2/>) // 20.35 Africa: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry Vol. II // 2020
- 📖 "kra-din" (<http://www.kwelijournal.org/poetry-1/2017/6/22/kra-din-by-emmanuel-oppong-yeboah>) // Kweli Journal // 2017
- 📖 "fruit" & "You Can't Write Poetry in a Language Not Your Own" (<http://birdsthumb.org/issue-10-16>) // Bird's Thumb / 2017
- 📖 "the thing expressed" // A Portrait in Blues (<https://platypuspress.co.uk/aportraitinblues>) // Platypus Press // 2017
- 📖 "fade." (<http://wusgood.black/2016/10/emmanuel-oppong-yeboah-fade/>) // Wusgood // 2016
- 📖 "epiphyte written into a black night's sky" (<http://www.narrativenortheast.com/?p=4357>) // Narrative Northeast // 2016
- 📖 "Lord How I Want" (<http://www.wintertangerine.com/stld-lord-how-i>) // Winter Tangerine // 2016



Performances/Workshops/Events:

- 📖 Performance, Poets for Palestine, Boston Liberation Center, Boston, MA (November 1, 2023)
- 📖 Performance, The Stock Up, Fundraiser Showcase for justBook-ish, Dorchester Brewing Company, Boston (October 16, 2023)

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-  Performance, Poems and Pints, Boston Book Festival, Boston, MA (October 14, 2023)
-  Performance, Liberation Open Mic, Boston Liberation Center (October 13, 2023)
-  Lunch Time Craft Talk with Hanif Abdurraqib, Roxbury Poetry Festival, Bruce C. Bolling Building, Boston, MA (August 5, 2023)
-  Performance, Canon, Canyon, Cannon: Poetry Reading, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, MA (January 26, 2023)
-  Performance and Workshop, Arrupe International Immersion, Boston College, MA (January 21, 2022)
-  Workshop, The Boston Writers of Color Group, MA (October 26, 2023)
-  Performance, Game Over Books Authors Showcase, Trident Book Store, MA (October 4, 2022)
-  Performance, Poetic Inheritance, WBUR CitySpace, Boston, MA (April 29, 2022)
-  Performance and Workshop, Arrupe International Immersion, Boston College, MA (April 23, 2022)
-  Performance, First Friday Reading + Open Mic, First Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain, MA (October 4, 2019)
-  Workshop, MassLEAP Cypher, Emerson College, MA (May 4, 2019)
-  Performance, Clouds and Other Louds, Dorchester Art Project, MA (April 27, 2019)
-  Performance, City of Boston Poetry Gathering with Porsha Olayiwola, Paramount Center, MA (March 12, 2019)
-  Performance, Segue Reading Series, Zinc Bar, NY (January 26, 2019)
-  Performance + Workshop, Boston Poetry Slam, Cantab Lounge, MA (November 21, 2018)
-  Performance, Poets & Pints, Aeronaut Brewery, MA (July 11, 2018)
-  Performance, Grudge Match, Oberon Theatre, MA (March 29, 2018)
-  Performance, Arm Your Voice, Hygienic Gallery, CT (November 10, 2017)
-  Workshop, Winter Tangerine Summer Intensive, Poets House NY (July 26 - July 29, 2017)
-  Performance, Gallery Talk: Poetic Responses to Nari Ward, ICA Boston, MA (June 11, 2017)
-  Performance, The House Slam, Haley House, MA (May 26, 2017)
-  Performance, Dirty Gerund, Ralph's Rock Dinner, MA (February 23, 2017)
-  Performance + Workshop, Student Day of Poetry, Wayland High School, MA (February 3, 2017)
-  Performance, Moonlighting, Article 24, MA (December 1, 2016)
-  Performance, Bard College, NY (April 22, 2016)

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-  Performance, Northeastern University, CSSH, MA (March 29, 2016)
-  Performance, Boston Poetry Slam, Cantab Lounge, MA (February 3, 2016)