

1939

Name **Justus, May** (1898)

Negro

White Southerner

Creative Writing

Special Field **Children's**
Group **Literature**

Position **Elementary teacher, Summerfield School**
Tracy City, Tennessee

College

University **University of Tennessee. No degree**

Plan of Work:

To do research in the field of southern mountain folk lore and use this material in a supplementary reader for southern schools. One year.

Action of Fellowship Committee:

Granted \$1,500

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Teacher at Summerfield School in Tracy City since 1925.

Has written 12 books for children, two of which are Julia Ellsworth Ford prize books.

9/24/40 Miss Justus did not return to her teaching at the end of her fellowship. She continues her community activities and her writing. During her fellowship she completed two books, "The Mail Wagon Mystery" and "Mr. Songcatcher & Co." She expects to publish the supplementary reader, "Five Miles from Far Beyant" in the fall of 1941. Miss Justus also did a great deal of work on a novel and hopes to devote another year to its research and writing.

9/23/44: Has written two books on fellowship, one a Junior Literary Guild Selection. Will write two books this year for children under twelve.

Route 1, Box 120
Tracy City, Tennessee



JUSTUS, MAY

PUBLICATIONS

The Mail Wagon Mystery, Albert Whitman & Company, 1940.

Mr. Songcatcher and Co., Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1940.

Dixie Decides, Random House, August, 1942. (written under title Let Thistles Grow)

Bluebird Fly Up, July, 1943. J. B. Lippincott.

Sammy a Literary Guild selection for August 1946 (based on Tennessee Mountain fables)

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1940

MAY JUSTUS

42

Author, Tracy City, Tennessee

application for renewal

Creative Writing

This is a fine woman and our own correspondence is partly responsible for her reapplication.

However I believe the great thing was to give an award to a one room school teacher and thus recognize and glorify her talents and her long service in this humble place - In view of the other pressures, I think we cannot afford another grant others are probably better fits for creative writing per se

no

Creative Writing

A grand person
 The first fellowship was certainly
 a good investment.
 And her books get a ready market
 and are right down our rural alley.

She's pretty old
 And maybe we should pass
 these books around
 But she only asks for \$1,000. This
 modesty - and her modesty -
 everything - is a strong point in
 her favor
 Bontemps doesn't get her books

10-80
forward 1939

Elementary teacher, Tracy City, Tenn

Children's literature

A most interesting candidate
Unfortunately she is over age

But an award would be a
big gift to the whole school
teacher group - a very spectacular
grant -

Our office has followed her
splendid teaching - writing for
years.

A+

Candidate **May Justus** Special Field
 Elementary teacher, Summerfield School, Children's Literature
 Tracy City, Tennessee

Plan of Work
 To do research in the field of southern mountain folklore and use
 this material in a supplementary reader for southern schools.

Digest of Application

Born May, 1898, Del Rio, Tennessee. Single.

Two years, University of Tennessee, no degree.

Principal, Summerfield School, Tracy City, Tenn., 1925-27, 1930-38.

\$600-750.

Author of twelve books for children, two of which are Julia Ellsworth Lord Prize Books. Among publications are: The House in No-end Hollow, Peter Pocket's Book, Honey Jane, and The Other Side of the Mountain.

References

Miss Erich Berry, author, Fort Ann, N. Y.
 Miss Vera McCampbell, teacher, Monteagle, Tenn.
 Miss Martha DuBerry, editor, 810 Broadway,
 Nashville, Tenn.

Budget Summary

Total amount needed \$1200

From applicant 200

From Fund \$1000 *11500?*

Granted \$1,000

Committee Notes

a.

*Excellent! Agreement & successful
 in a place where most have kept for creative work.*

Documents submitted

Photograph
 Exhibit material
 Transcripts

University of Tennessee

Plan of work

Digest

Sent to Committee

Documents returned

Name May Justus **Field:** Creative Writing
Tracy City, Tennessee

Plan of Work

I wish to devote a year to research in the field of southern mountain folklore which will enable me to write a reader of regional material.

Granted 1939, applied 1940.

Personal Data Born Del Rio, Tennessee, May 1898. **Age:** 44

Undergraduate Work University of Tennessee, 1928, 1931-33.

Graduate Work

Experience Principal, Summerfield School, Tracy City, Tennessee, 1925-37, \$650-\$680.

Accomplishments Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellowship, 1939, \$1500.

Publications: A number of juvenile books, including The Mail Wagon Mystery, Mr. Songcatcher and Co., The Cabin on Kettle Creek, and Let Thistles Grow, written on 1939 fellowship.

*add. ref. from
Scott Freeman*

References

Dr. Edwin Kirkland, University of Tennessee
Miss Helen Ferris, Junior Literary Guild
Miss Mary Harvey, J. B. Lippincott Company
Mr. Forrest D. Knapp, Albert Whitman Company
Miss Vera McCampbell, Tracy City, Tennessee

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$2,050
From Applicant	1,000
From Fund	\$1,050

AMOUNT GRANTED

Sent to Committee

Gr 1 2/6

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