## Daily Language Review, Grade 6.pdf

## MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX by WREN STRATTON

I've always thought "Blues on the Move" is just a cool idea. It's the name D.C. and Selby gave their band. It could mean the "blues", bad feelings, are on their way out or it could mean the "blues" as a musical genre is on its way up. Maybe it refers to how far reaching DC and Selby's influence on the blues has become, or maybe just because D.C. knew they would travel so much with the music. They've certainly had a huge influence on the Muslcogee area and especially Rentiesville. Bentiesville is just down 69 highway from Muskogee, about 15 miles South. It has an interesting history in that it is one of the only 13 towns remaining that were founded by freed black slaves. DC's Grandmother ran a sort of "Julebox club" (known as a juke joint) there for several decades called the Cozy Corner. That's where D.C. first got exposed to the sound of the Blues. It is this original site in Rentiesville that has become the home for Oklahoma blues.

D.C. met Selby in California, he was her teacher and mentor for learning to play electric blues. Selby comes from Phode Island and became a blues convert after a concert by Janis Joplin. In 1979 she married D.C. and they began to make the transition to Oklahoma.

I first met the Minners in, of all places, West Middle School. They were listed through the Oklahoma Arts Council and we hired them to celebrate with the students at West. It was so obvious that they loved working with the students. They participated in several arts camps for kids and performed for many area schools. To this day, if you are a student and just want to learn, you are always welcome to jam with them (Selby and friends) at the Blues Club early on Sunday nights. Selby also teaches guitar and bass, free, at libraries from time to time.

We lost D.C. a couple of years ago but Selby continues to promote and provide an opportunity for the "Blues on the Move" to continue with the annual Dusk til Dawn Blues Festival. This year is special because it is the twentieth year for the festival. It is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, Sept 3, 4, and 5. The cost is \$15 each day with kids under 12 and volunteers free. The web site is <a href="https://www.dcminnerblues.com">www.dcminnerblues.com</a>. Advance tickets are \$10 and available at local music stores only.

Selby can do this so inexpensively because of the community sponsors who have helped with the event. Be sure and say thank you to the OK Arts Council, VSA Arts, Yaffe, Love Bottling, Republic Guitars, Bud, James Hodge Ford, Griffin Foods and Citizens' Bank.

I volunteered one year and took tickets. It was so fun. If you enjoy people watching, it was the best. They need volunteers so you might check the web site for contact info. Everyone is so friendly and glad to be their of They provide a hids village with all kinds of arts activities. You will want to bring your lawn chair but plan on eating the awesome BBO.

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The promotional fiver says, "There will be 30 bands on three stages indoors and outside 200 musicians will celebrate the OK-TX contribution to the blues along with 5 international headliners," Artists like Johnny Rawls - BMA winner for best RBB Soul album, Zora Young, Bernard Allison, Conboy, Budk Young, Harry and Debbe Bladwell from California and Harry Williams will be performing.

It's not just about at. This music festival has a huge economic impact on Muslogee. The advertisement for it suggests staining in Muslogee motels. Because it is a three dail event, folloneed to buy gasoline, eat in our restaurants, etc. What D.C. and Selby have accomplished is twenty years of gifting our region with the Dust-till Davin Bluesfestival. We one them our grattude and support. Besides it really is a great time, dusk till davin.

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