

2024 IRC CONFERENCE FINAL PROGRAM



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

PILLARS OF LITERACY

SKILLS, STRATEGIES, JOY & MAGIC

March 14 – 15, 2024
Springfield, Illinois

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Please take a moment to read the information below regarding the 2024 IRC Conference.

- **IRC Conference is an Open Forum**

The IRC Conference serves as an open forum and exchange of ideas and opinions. Opinions that are expressed by featured speakers, program presenters, and participants do not reflect endorsements by the Illinois Reading Council.

- **Conference Sessions**

All conference sessions will be held in the Bank of Springfield Center, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, and Wyndham Hotel.

- **Pre-Registration & Registration**

Pre-registered conferees may obtain their registration packets at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. On-site registration is also available. Hotel reservations and meal function tickets should be secured prior to arrival in Springfield. Registration Hours: Wednesday, March 13 – 5:00 – 9:00 PM Thursday, March 14 – 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM Friday, March 15 – 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

- **ISBE PD Clock Hours**

IRC is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered conference attendees can earn up to one clock hour for each session attended. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit your clock hours for the sessions that you attended and/or presented at the conference via an online form. The ISBE Evidence of Participation will be sent to you about two weeks after the conference.

- **Admission to Meetings**

Paid conferees receive a badge with their registration packet. Badges are required at all times and for all conference functions. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-purchased tickets are required for all meal functions.

- **Special Accommodations**

Individuals who need special accommodations should make specific requests in writing to the IRC office three weeks prior to the conference in order for their needs to be met.

- **Food**

All scheduled meal functions require pre-purchased tickets. The concession area in the Bank of Springfield Center will be open during exhibit hours. Springfield restaurant information will be available at the hospitality table in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

- **Hospitality & Information Table**

A hospitality and information table is located in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

- **Message Board**

There will be a message board for conferees to leave notes in the registration area in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. A phone line (309-454-1341) has been established at the Registration Desk to receive emergency phone calls.

- **Lost and Found**

Inquire at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center regarding lost and found items. IRC is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

- **Parking Options**

Downtown Springfield has many public parking options that cost anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a day to park. Details on the public parking will be available under the Resource Tab in the Conference APP.

- **Program Book and Conference APP**

In accordance with ILA guidelines, individuals have not been designated by titles. Acknowledgments to publishers and other companies for sponsoring speakers and special events are current as of this printing. Information in this program is subject to change. **Don't forget to bring a device to download the Conference App or the PDF of the Final Program Book as there will not be a printed Final Program Book or a tote bag provided by IRC.**

- **No Smoking**

In consideration of others we request your cooperation in observing the NO SMOKING regulations inside buildings.

- **Cell Phones**

Please silence phones during sessions at the conference.

- **Videotaping/Audiotaping/Photos**

Unless notified in writing, registration to the conference constitutes an agreement that the registrant's image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs of such events and activities. It is also not permitted to videotape, audiotape, or take photos of conference speakers without the speaker's consent.

- **Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) does not allow harassment or discrimination of any kind at any IRC affiliated event. IRC and its affiliates will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy including removal from the event. To report an issue, please visit the Event Registration Desk.

- **Cancellation/Refund Policy**

Conference refund requests must be in writing and postmarked by February 1, 2024. Requests can also be faxed to (309) 454-3512 or emailed to irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org. A \$25 processing fee will be assessed. Please note that membership fees are non-refundable. Conference registrations are transferable, but replacement names must be requested by March 5, 2024.

Welcome to the 55th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference



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Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the Illinois Reading Council Executive Committee, the IRC staff, the Conference Committee members, and you, the IRC members, welcome to the 55th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference — Pillars of Literacy: Skills, Strategies, Joy, & Magic.

The theme of the conference holds a great deal of meaning about literacy. The Pillars of Literacy are at the core of every effective reading instruction program. They include Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. Skills are needed for decoding (phonics, pre-fixes, suffixes, root words, morphology, etc.). Key strategies (predicting, asking questions, summarizing, visualizing, making inferences, activating prior knowledge, etc.) are used to aid in understanding what we read.

In terms of Joy and Magic, we recall Louise Rosenblatt's reader response theory that stresses the importance of the reader making meaning from the text (1988). This is where the joy comes in. When we think about the partnering of skills — code deciphering — together with our experiences, we are able to read for the purpose of enjoyment or for learning. The result of this combination is pure magic!

The national educational landscape now includes the Science of Reading, as many school districts are adopting this form of instruction. These concepts have been around for many years and refer to a body of research from the fields of education, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, and neuroscience. At this year's conference, we added a new strand for all of the sessions on this topic, offering a range of perspectives. Other strands include: administration, literacy coaching, early career, English Language Learners, Equity and Diversity, Librarians, Reluctant Readers, Social Emotional Learning, STEAM, Technology and Writing.

This conference is packed with over 200 sessions to cover your needs. Don't forget to visit our exhibitors and drop by the membership booth. Make plans to see the Illinois Reads Authors as well as "Hear the Authors Read" which is our late-night autograph session on Thursday!

As you move through these exciting conference days, you will also notice hundreds of volunteers who donate their time taking tickets at a meal function, registering attendees, putting up signs, guiding people to the right session room, or helping out in any way. Be sure to thank them! Special thanks to Carrie Sheridan, our Executive Director. She is the one who brings this all together for us each year.

In the conference sessions, you will find literacy SKILLS that work, STRATEGIES to help others learn, and how to encourage the JOY of reading and make MAGIC happen for ALL LEARNERS.

Have a great conference!

Melissa Stinnett
IRC President-Elect
2024 Conference Chair

Rosenblatt, Louise, M. (1988). *Writing and reading: The transactional theory*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

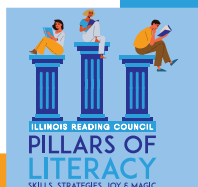


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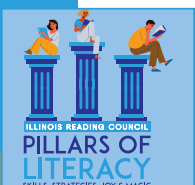
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Illinois Reading Council

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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Registration - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Welcome Reception - PAL Hotel Ballroom	7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Registration - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	7:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Orientation for New Participants - PAL Hotel Bond Room	7:00 AM – 7:45 AM
Thursday Breakfast - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>A.S. King</i>	7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Exhibits - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Hall of Councils - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Thursday Luncheon - Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom - <i>Jennifer Serravallo</i>	12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday Luncheon - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>Nic Stone</i>	12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday Lunch Sessions - Bank of Springfield Center	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	2:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Thursday PSA Banquet - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>Lesa Cline-Ransome</i>	6:15 PM – 8:15 PM
Hear the Authors Read and Autographing - Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom	8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Friday, March 15, 2024

Registration - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	7:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Friday Breakfast - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>John Schu</i>	7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Exhibits - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Hall of Councils - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Coffee Break with Savvas Learning Company - BOS Center Exhibit Hall	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Friday Luncheon - Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom - <i>Illinois Reads Authors</i>	12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday Luncheon - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>Timothy Rasinski</i>	12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday Lunch Sessions - Bank of Springfield Center	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	2:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
IRC Annual Membership Meeting - PAL Hotel Lincoln Room	4:45 PM – 5:15 PM
Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party - PAL Hotel Ballroom	5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special appreciation is extended to the following professionals for their extensive contributions to the success of the 2024 IRC Conference.

PUBLISHERS & BUSINESSES

Anderson's Bookshops

Illinois Reads Author Luncheon
Hear the Authors Read
Featured Speaker Books
New & Notable Books with Becky Anderson Wilkins

Crossland Literacy

Illinois Reads Author Luncheon
Jennifer Serravallo
Andrew P. Johnson
Paul L. Thomas

Heinemann

Featured Speaker Books

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA)

Tote Bags

Imagine Learning

Name Tag Lanyards

Lake-Cook Distributors

Student Helpers

Savvas Learning Compan

Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall on Friday Morning

Visit Springfield/SCVB

Hear the Authors Read

Zaner-Bloser

Lynne Dorfman

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS & STAFF

Melissa Stinnett, *2024 IRC Conference Chair*
Cindi Koudelka, *Assistant Chair & 2025 Chair*
Deb Augsburger, *Autographing*
Pat Braun, *Meal Tickets*
Barb Chrz-White, *Registration*
Lynette Evans, *Preservice Pizza Party*
Karen Kortkamp, *Exhibits*
Cindi Koudelka, *Greeters/Hospitality*
Brenda Kraber, *Autographing*
Kelly Mangan, *Marketing*

Roxanne Owens, *Autographing*
Carol Owles, *Preservice Pizza Party*
Sheila Ruh, *Technology*
Sherry Sejnost, *Technology*
Carrie Sheridan, *Executive Director*
Kristen Stombres, *Student Helpers*
Joy Towner, *Student Helpers*
Alaina Weatherford, *Signs*
Melissa Wheeler, *Meal Tickets*
Jennifer Young, *Special Events*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks are extended to the exhibitors for their continued support and sponsorship of presentations at the 2024 Conference.

EXHIBITORS

3ClicksSpelling.com

Dick Briggs

95 Percent Group

Cassandra Novack

AISLE

Liza Wiemer

Amplify

Karen Venditti

Crossland Literacy

Berit Gordon, Katherine McKnight

EPS School Specialty

Julie Ross

Great Minds

Meg Edwards

hand2mind

*Jennifer Burchfiel, Debby Spitzer
Karyn Tomkinson*

Hatch Early Learning

Kylie Rymanowicz

Heritage Schoolhouse Press

Michael Lockett

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

*Kevin Daugherty, Janice Harrington
Lee Deal, Stephanie Hospelhorn,
Chris Wyant*

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Lorna Shuman

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA)

Stefanie Crawford

Imagine Learning

*Alana Benoit, Anita Parsotan
Karen DeSchryver, Susan Jones*

Learning A-Z

Nicole Nelson

Reading Horizons

Ethan Lynn

ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois

Carrie Brockway, Kimberlee Wagner

Savvas Learning Company

Neilie Dobogai

SCBWI Illinois

Alice McGinty

Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant

Shelley Kenow

SLANT System for Structured Language Training

Beth Hatlen, Karla O'Brien

SLD Support Project

Tari Jansen, Kellyn Sirach

Zaner-Bloser

Angela Cammarata, Emily Larsen

Illinois Reading Council 2023 - 2024 Executive Committee



Julie Hoffman
President



Melissa Stinnett
President Elect



Cindi Koudelka
Vice President



Leslie Forsman
Past President



Melissa Wheeler
Recording Secretary



Amy Davis
ILA State Coordinator

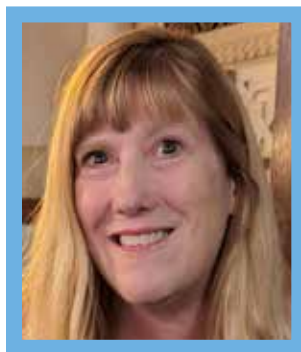


Donna Herman
Director of
Membership Development

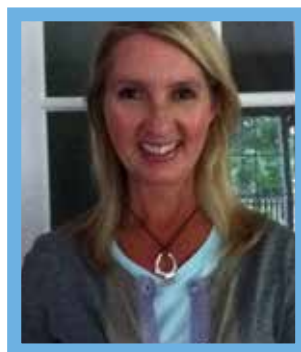


Diana Wilkie
Treasurer

Illinois Reading Council Office Staff



Carrie Sheridan
Executive Director



Karen Kortkamp
Public Relations Coordinator



Kelly Mangan
Marketing Coordinator

Illinois Reading Council Board of Directors

Regional Directors

Region 1
Alaina Weatherford

Region 2
Becky McTague

Region 3
Sherry Sejnost

Region 4
Lynn Keck

Region 5
Pat Braun

Region 6
Katie Russell

Region 7
Melissa Wheeler

Region 8
Amy Hewing

Region 9
Teresa Burdin

Region 10
Camille Lutz

Special Committee Chairs

AISLE Liaison
Leslie Forsman

Advocacy
Cindi Koudelka

Book Club
Stephanie Benson

Educational Media
Sheila Ruh

Family Literacy
Barbara Ashton

ILA Exemplary Reading Program
Diana Wilkie

Illinois Reads
Sherry Sejnost

International Projects
Carol Owles

IRC Communicator Editor
Marjorie Henseler

IRC Journal Editor
Roxanne Owens

IRC Literacy Support Grants
Pat Braun

ISBE Liaison
Kimberly Johnson

Jerry Johns Reading Educator
of the Year
Melissa Wheeler

Obama Literacy Fund
Jen Brooks

Prairie State Award
Cindy Wilson

Professional Learning
Laura Beltchenko

Publicity and Publication
Sherry Sejnost

Rebecca Caudill Rep
Ruth Gheysen

Council Presidents

Blackhawk - **Michael Carton**

Central Illinois - **Andrea Trexler**

Chicago Area (CARA) - **LaVerne Wright**

East Central-EIU - **Tim Wheeler**

Fox Valley - **Camille Lutz**

Illini - **Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley**

Illinois Valley - **Regetta Wharram**

Lake Area - **Stacie Noisey**

Lewis & Clark - **Andy Mayer**

Macon County - **Cara Burkhart**

MID-State - **Elana Heinonen**

Mississippi Valley - **Leslie Forsman**

National Road - **Amy Hewing**

Northern Illinois - **Jacqueline Clevon**

Northwestern Illinois - **Janell Hartman**

Prairie Area - **Sheila Ruh**

Sauk Valley - **Kimberly Bork**

South Eastern - **Tambree Krouse**

South Suburban - **Terri Campos**

Southern Illinois - **Leslie Small**

Starved Rock - **Alaina Weatherford**

SCIRA - **Sophie Degener**

Two Rivers - **Open**

Vermilion Valley - **Lynette Evans**

West Suburban - **Kari Pawl**

Western Illinois - **Jennifer Young**

Will County - **Donna Herman**

CIRP - **Shadrack Msengi**

ICARE - **Roxanne Owens**

ILLC - **Leslie Forsman**

SRL - **Renee Yunker**

Standing Committee Chairs

Budget, Finance, and Strategic Planning
Julie Hoffman

Bylaws, Policies & Procedures
Cindi Koudelka, Leslie Forsman

Conference
Melissa Stinnett

District PD
Leslie Forsman

Membership
Donna Herman

Nominating
Leslie Forsman

Organization/Council Bylaws
Amy Davis

Personnel and Grievance
Julie Hoffman

IRC Reading Hall of Fame

Robert Hillerich,	Peter Fisher, 1997
P. David Pearson, 1983	Margaret Richek, 1998
William Durr,	Susan Davis Lenski, 1999
Dolores Durkin, 1984	Timothy Shanahan, 2002
David C. Rhoads,	Pamela J. Farris, 2006
Kathryn Ransom, 1985	Larry Pennie, 2009
Dale D. Downs, 1986	Steven L. Layne, 2010
Donna Ogle, 1987	Lou Ferroli, 2011
William Powell, 1988	Roxanne Owens, 2012
Jerry Johns, 1989	Pamela Nelson, 2013
Jane Davidson, 1990	Becky Anderson Wilkins, 2014
Gene Blair, Gene Cramer, 1991	Roberta Sejnost, 2014
Carol Winkley, 1992	Kathy Barclay, 2015
Taimi Ranta, 1993	Maria Walther, 2016
Roberta Berglund, 1994	Pat Braun, 2017
Camille Blachowicz,	Joyce Jennings, 2021
Marrietta Castle, 1995	Kathleen Sweeney, 2024
John Logan, 1996	

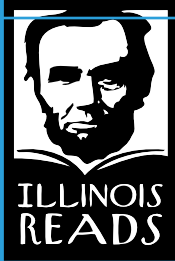
IRC Service Award

(Formerly known as the IRC Certificate of Recognition)

Carol Winkley, Don Meints,	Jack Barshinger, Barbara Chrz-White, 1995
Kathryn Ransom, Jeanette Massey,	Paula Schoenfelder, 1996
Peg Livesay, David Rhoads, 1981	Barbara Johnson, 1997
Marian Oleson, Agnita Wright,	Joyce Jennings, 1998
Mary Christopherson, 1982	Sheila Diaz, 1999
Geneva Andrews, Mary Williams, 1983	Laura Megown, 2000
Gene Cramer, Barbara Wyne, 1984	Lynette Mehall, 2003
Donna Ogle, Jerry Johns, 1985	Pat Carlson, 2006
Ottillie Womack, Taimi Ranta,	Roberta Sejnost, 2007
Kay Spalding, 1986	Patti Foster Baker, 2010
Hattie Miller, Jane Davidson, 1987	Carol Owles, Cheryl Walker, 2012
Jim Coe, Evelyn Jackson,	Susan Cisna, Ronda Brown, 2013
Larry Pennie, 1988	Tammy Swinford-Potts, 2014
Gene Blair, Anna Sanford, 1989	Sheila Ruh, Sheryl Sejnost, 2014
Wilma Deal, James Walker,	Leslie Forsman, 2016
Arlene Pennie, 1990	Melinda Grimm, 2017
Nancy Venegoni, 1991	Boomer Crotty, 2018
Roberta Berglund, 1992	Gail Huizinga, 2019
Marlene Fletcher, Eunice Greer,	Joyce Jennings, 2021
Barbara Seaman, Tom Sexton, 1993	Christy Ziller, Steven L. Layne, 2022
Lynne Rauscher-Davoust,	Stephanie Benson, 2023
Kathleen Sweeney, 1994	Kevin Daugherty, Bonnie Matheis, 2024

Illinois Reading Council Past Presidents

1968 - 1969 William Powell	1986 – 1987 Sharon Neste	2004 – 2005 Ronda Mitchell
1969 – 1970 Mary Serra	1987 – 1988 Jean Clem Bailey	2005 – 2006 Steven Layne
1970 - 1971 Mary Ellen Batinich	1988 – 1989 Gene Cramer	2006 – 2007 Pam Nelson
1971 – 1972 David Bear	1989 - 1990 Linda Fuller Farruggia	2007 – 2008 Donna Monti
1972 – 1973 Wilson Stone	1990 – 1991 Kathleen Sweeney	2008 – 2009 Roxanne Owens
1973 – 1974 David Rhoads	1991 – 1992 Lorri Davis	2009 – 2010 Christine Boardman Moen
1974 – 1975 Kathryn Ransom	1992 – 1993 John Logan	2010 – 2011 Susan Cisna
1975 – 1976 Sister Cor Marie	1993 – 1994 Paula Schoenfelder	2011 – 2012 Cindy Wilson
1976 – 1977 Robin Carr	1994 – 1995 Susan Hanks	2012 – 2013 Pat Braun
1977 – 1978 Agnita Wright	1995 – 1996 Jeff Hildreth	2013 – 2014 Tammy Swinford-Potts
1978 – 1979 Gene Blair	1996 – 1997 Susan Davis Lenski	2014 – 2015 Cindy Gerwin
1979 – 1980 Donna Ogle	1997 – 1998 Claudia Anne Katz	2015 – 2016 Lou Ferroli
1980 – 1981 Lawrence Pennie	1998 – 1999 Barb Haas Bender	2016 – 2017 Patricia Tylka
1981 – 1982 Jerry Johns	1999 – 2000 Hattie Spires	2017 – 2018 Janel Sebeny
1982 – 1983 James Coe	2000 – 2001 Marsha Strader	2018 – 2019 Priscilla Dwyer
1983 – 1984 Dale Downs	2001 – 2002 Mike Ellerman	2019 – 2021 Stephanie Benson
1984 – 1985 Nancy Venegoni	2002 – 2003 Beth Arthur	2021 – 2022 Katie Russell
1985 – 1986 Anna Sanford	2003 – 2004 Barb Vines	2022 – 2023 Leslie Forsman



Sponsored by



ILLINOIS READS LUNCH

Join the authors of the **2024 Illinois Reads Books** at the Friday Luncheon! Participants will get to **have lunch with an Illinois Reads Author** and receive a **FREE Illinois Reads book** (choices will be on a first-come, first-served basis). Following lunch, participants will spend the next hour moving from table to table, meeting other authors, and discussing their books. After the luncheon, there will also be an additional autograph session with the authors from 2:15 to 3:15 PM in the BOS Center Exhibit Hall. Books will be available for purchase at the luncheon and in the exhibit hall.

**LUNCHEON TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT AT THIS TIME.
AUTHORS WILL BE AUTOGRAPHING IN EXHIBIT HALL FROM 2:15 TO 3:15 PM!**



Adi Alsaid
Grades 6-8



Neil Bradbury
Adult



Ivan Brunetti
Grades K-2



Amelia Brunskill
Grades 9-12



Darcy Day Zoells
Grades K-2



Zetta Elliott
Grades 3-5



Reese Eschmann
Grades 3-5



Jacob Grant
Birth to 4



Claudia Guadalupe Martínez
Grades K-2



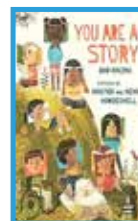
Kate Hannigan
Grades 3-5



Daniel Kraus
Grades 9-12



Laurie Lawlor
Grades 6-8



Bob Raczka
Grades K-2



Jean Reidy
Birth to 4



Ruth Spiro
Grades K-2



John Sullivan
Birth to 4



Miranda Sun
Grades 9-12



Emi Watanabe Cohen
Grades 6-8



Mary Winn Heider
Grades 3-5

AUTOGRAPH SCHEDULE

Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall

Prior to each autographing session, please purchase the books you wish to be autographed. Books are available at each author's publisher's booth or Anderson's Bookshops booths in the exhibit area. Most authors will be signing in the designated area located at the back of the exhibit hall. A separate line will be formed for each author.

Due to the number of authors and scheduling, **it will not be possible for books to be left for later autographing.** Some authors will sign only their name and do no personalizing.

Each author will sign a maximum of three books per person when that person is in the author's line. If an individual would like to have more than three books signed by an author, there are two options:

- Bring purchased books to Authors Signing Booth and ask for bookplates. (There are limited quantities.)
- Go to the end of the line and wait to have three more books signed by the author. The author may or may not have time to sign additional books because authors agree to sign for specific time periods.

Presentations by authors are listed on the Conference APP.

Thursday

9:00 – 10:00 AM
A.S. King

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sarah Aronson
Jan Miller Burkins
J. Richard Gentry
Jennifer Serravallo (*Booth 328*)
Clare Vanderpool

1:00 – 2:00 PM
Andrew P. Johnson

2:15 – 3:15 PM
Nic Stone

3:30 – 4:30 PM
J. Richard Gentry
A.S. King
John Schu
Clare Vanderpool

Friday

9:00 – 10:00 AM
John Schu

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Lesa Cline-Ransome
Lynne Dorfman
Paul L. Thomas

1:00 – 2:00 PM
Andrew P. Johnson
Pam Muñoz Ryan

2:15 – 3:15 PM
Illinois Reads Authors (*list on page 12*)
Sarah Aronson
Timothy Rasinski

Locations

Autographing on Thursday and Friday will take place at the back of the Exhibit Hall or at the noted exhibitor's booth in the BOS Center.

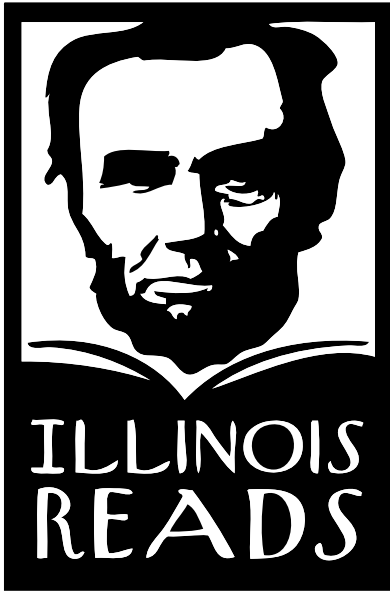
Books will be available for purchase at the conference from Anderson's Bookshops (*Booth 409*) or Heinemann (*Booth 328*).

A special autograph session after the Hear the Authors Read will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 PM on Thursday, March 14, 2024 in the Wyndham Ballroom. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

A special autograph session will take place for the Illinois Reads Authors from 2:15 – 3:15 PM on Friday, March 15, 2024 in the Autograph Area. Books will be available for purchase at Anderson's Bookshops (*Booth 409*).

ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND



Join the statewide literacy initiative!
Six books in each age band, birth to adult, with fun activities, book clubs, author events, and more!
Pick up bookmarks and posters in the Exhibit Hall – Booth 431 today!

Visit our website for more information
www.illinoisreads.org

Birth-4

- My Hair Is Like the Sun*
by St. Clair Detrick-Jules and
illustrated by Tabitha Brown
- Mine!*
by Candace Fleming and
illustrated by Eric Rohmann
- No Fair!*
by Jacob Grant
- You Are New*
by Lucy Knisley
- A Book About You and All the World Too*
by Jean Reidy
- Ethan and the Strays*
by John Sullivan

K-2

- Lila Greer, Teacher of the Year*
by Andrea Beaty
- 3x4: TOON Level 1*
by Ivan Brunetti
- The New Bicycle*
by Darcy Day Zoells
- Not a Monster*
by Claudia Guadalupe Martínez
- You Are A Story*
by Bob Raczka
- How to Explain Coding to a Grown-Up*
by Ruth Spiro

3-5

- Cornbread & Poppy at the Museum*
by Matthew Cordell
- The Enchanted Bridge*
by Zetta Elliott
- Etta Invincible*
by Reese Eschmann
- Josephine and Her Dishwashing Machine*
by Kate Hannigan
- Mayor Good Boy Turns Bad*
by Dave Scheidt and Miranda Harmon
- The Stupendous Switcheroo: New Powers Every 24 Hours*
by Mary Winn Heider and Chad Sell

6-8

- The Bravest Warrior in Nefaria*
by Adi Alsaid
- It Found Us*
by Lindsay Currie
- Restoring Prairie, Woods, and Pond: How a Small Trail Can Make a Big Difference*
by Laurie Lawlor
- Lo & Behold*
by Wendy Mass and
illustrated by Gabi Mendez
- World Made of Glass*
by Ami Polonsky
- The Lost Ryū*
by Emi Watanabe Cohen

9-12

- Messenger: The Legend of Muhammad Ali*
by Marc Bernardin
- Wolfpack: A Novel*
by Amelia Brunskill
- Saint Juniper's Folly*
by Alex Crespo
- Whalefall: A Novel*
by Daniel Kraus
- Graceland Cemetery: Chicago Stories, Symbols, and Secrets*
by Adam Selzer
- If I Have To Be Haunted*
by Miranda Sun

Adult

- Good Night, Irene: A Novel*
by Luis Alberto Urrea
- A Taste for Poison: Eleven Deadly Molecules and the Killers Who Used Them*
by Neil Bradbury, Ph.D.
- King: A Life*
by Jonathan Eig
- I Have Some Questions for You: A Novel*
by Rebecca Makkai
- Ghostly: A Collection of Ghost Stories*
by Audrey Niffenegger
- On Rotation: A Novel*
by Shirlene Obuobi



**ALL CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES ARE
INVITED
TO ATTEND!**

Welcome Reception

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 PM
PAL Hotel Ballroom**

Complimentary appetizers will be served!

Conference Sessions

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

1. 7:00 – 8:30 PM Welcome Reception

All Conference Attendees are invited to attend the opening reception and connect with other conferees. Light appetizers will be served. What a great way to start the IRC Conference!

Audience: All

Location: PAL Ballroom

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CONFERENCE STRANDS



ADMINISTRATION



COACHING



EARLY CAREER



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



EQUITY & DIVERSITY



LIBRARIANS



RELUCTANT READERS



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING



SCIENCE OF READING



STEAM



TECHNOLOGY



WRITING



BOOK CLUB

To register, return this form by March 24, 2024 to the Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2, Normal, IL 61761 or register online at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org or fax to 309-454-3512

Join educators from all over the state in the online **Spring 2024 IRC Book Club!** Choose one, two, or all three book clubs!

Beginning March 24, participants will be reading, reflecting on, and responding in the *Shifting the Balance* book club, the *Illinois Reads* book club, and/or the *La enseñanza en el aula bilingüe* book club during the seven-weeks of online discussions. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive **15 PD clock hours** for each book club.

For the *Shifting the Balance* book club, participants can choose either the **K-2** or the **3-5** version. *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom (K-2)* was written by Jan Burkins and Kari Yates and *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Upper Elementary Classroom (3-5)* was written by Katie Egan Cunningham, Jan Burkins, and Kari Yates. For the *Illinois Reads* book club, participants will be selecting books from one of the age bands of the 2024 Illinois Reads list to prepare lessons plans and activities. For Birth to 2nd Grade, participants will select a new book each week for a total of seven books; for 3rd to 5th Grade, participants will select three books; for 6th to 8th Grade, participants will select two books; and for 9th to 12th Grade or the Adult age band, participants will select one book. For the *La enseñanza en el aula bilingüe: Content, Language, and Biliteracy* book club, the book was written in Spanish (and not translated to English) by Sandra Mercuri, Sandra Musanti, and Alma Rodriguez. This book club will be held completely in Spanish and provide a ton of ideas for bilingual teachers.



Required for participation:

- Gmail address (free at <https://mail.google.com/>). The Book Club uses Google Classroom, which does not work with Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc.
- Texts: Books can be purchased from the bookseller of your choice.

Register by March 24, 2024, to participate in the book clubs. Registration is FREE for IRC Members. The cost for non-members is \$50, which includes IRC membership for one year. PLEASE NOTE: The cost of the books is not included.

ONE NAME ON EACH FORM Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone () _____ Gmail Address Required _____
 Are you an IRC member? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Membership Number _____ IEIN _____

BOOK CHOICE (Check one, two, or all three book clubs):

_____ **SHIFTING THE BALANCE** _____ **ILLINOIS READS** _____ **LA ENSEÑANZA EN EL AULA BILINGÜE**

REGISTRATION (Check one):

IRC Members:

_____ **BOOK CLUB** **FREE FOR IRC MEMBERS**

Non-Members:

_____ **BOOK CLUB AND IRC MEMBERSHIP** **\$50.00**

(From IRC Membership Form, indicate local council choice _____)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

(\$2 service charge is added if paying by CC!)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Check (payable to IRC)

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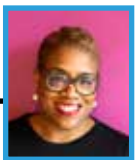
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Credit Card Expiration Date Mo. Yr.

Cardholder's Name _____ Address of Cardholder _____

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Registration - Bank of Springfield Center Lobby	7:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Orientation for New Participants - PAL Hotel Bond Room	7:00 AM – 7:45 AM
Thursday Breakfast - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>A.S. King</i>	7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Exhibits - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Hall of Councils - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Thursday Luncheon - Wyndham Hotel Ballroom - <i>Jennifer Serravallo</i>	12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday Luncheon - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>Nic Stone</i>	12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday Lunch Sessions - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops	2:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall	3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Thursday PSA Banquet - PAL Hotel Ballroom - <i>Lesla Cline-Ransome</i>	6:15 PM – 8:15 PM
Hear the Authors Read & Autographing - Wyndham Hotel Ballroom	8:30 PM – 10:30 PM



Sarah Aronson, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, Lesla Cline-Ransome, A.S. King, Pam Muñoz Ryan, John Schu, Nic Stone, and Clare Vanderpool

- Sponsored by **AB ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOPS**



Conference Sessions

Thursday, March 14, 2024

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7:00 – 7:45 AM

2. 7:00 - 7:45

Orientation

Sherry Sejnost
Sheila Ruh

You just downloaded the Conference APP and/or the digital IRC Program Book. There are over 200 sessions, meal functions, special events, exhibits, and author autographing. How do you begin to plan to attend all that is offered? Attend this special session by seasoned IRC conference attendees. They will share their tactics, tricks, and survival skills for an IRC conference.

Audience: All

Location: PAL Bond

8:30 – 9:30 AM

4. 8:30 – 9:30

Books I've Loved and I Swear Loved Me Back – The Transformative Power of Story

Clare Vanderpool
Author
Wichita, Kansas



We've all heard that to be a writer, you must first be a reader. And we know from experience that stories have power—to touch, to heal, to transform. Join us for a journey into our reading past, to the books that provided joy, comfort, even friendship in our younger years, and discover how stories become stepping stones in the writing life.

Audience: All

Location: BOS Center B-11A

7:00 – 8:30 AM

Thursday Breakfast

3. 7:00 – 8:30

Teen Literacy Is the Solution to Everything

A.S. King
Author
Reading Pennsylvania



In these times of widespread violence, hate, and fear, we look to teenagers as harbingers of a brighter future. Teen literacy has always been important, but as fifteen generations of unresolved shame and dishonesty splits our nation into factions and leaves more than half of the adult population more pliable due to limited literacy skills, teen literacy is the only way out. The truth is the solution—but how do teens find it when so many adults pedal their own version?

Audience: Ticket Required

Location: PAL Ballroom

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

*Refreshments will be served
from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and
3:00 – 4:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall*

DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE



5. 8:30 – 9:30**Bringing Strategies to Life: Reading with Accuracy and Fluency**

Jennifer Serravallo
Educator/Author
South Orange, New Jersey



Drawing from Jen's bestselling resources on the teaching of reading, this workshop will help you to become adept at assessing and teaching to support students' accuracy and fluency through conferences and small group instruction. You will explore strategies for supporting reading with accuracy and fluency using skills progression for thinking about how the work becomes more sophisticated over time. Video and text examples will be used to show, not just tell. With an emphasis on practicality, you'll be able to turn what you learned around into action immediately.

Audience: PreK-9**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC**7. 8:30 – 9:30****7 Essential Neurologically Based Practices to Make Your Beginning Readers Soar!**

J. Richard Gentry
Educator/Author
Mobile, Alabama



This engaging, practical hands-on session for teachers and administrators clarifies best classroom practices backed by neuroscience and developmental psychology for developing reading circuitry and comprehension in all beginning readers. Participants leave with the following: 1) A clear understanding of the essential role of structured literacy instruction for beginners along with 1 pitfall of popular practices to avoid. 2) Essential elements of a well-designed science-based word study curriculum. 3) Examples of multi-sensory activities for word study that really work. And much more..

Audience: PreK-3**Location:** Wyndham Rendezvous**6. 8:30 – 9:30****Welcome to the Writers' Sandbox! Ten Fun Tools for Bringing the Power of PLAY to Your Classroom!**

Sarah Aronson
Author
Chicago, Illinois



Mr. Rogers said, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." And he was right! So let's take his advice and bring play to your classroom—no matter how old your students are. In this presentation, Sarah Aronson will offer ten tips for bringing a playful mindset to the creative classroom! Together, we will examine how play can facilitate creative risk taking, social emotional learning, and decrease anxiety for students of ALL ages. (It has definitely worked for Sarah's writing life.) Bring paper and pencil and your child's eye!

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11D**8. 8:30 – 9:30****Shifting the Balance: Ways to Bring into the Science of Reading into the K-2 Classroom**

Jan Miller Burkins
Educator/Author
Athens, Georgia



In this workshop, you'll be invited to take an honest second look at current literacy practices, bravely considering the question, "What needs to shift?" If you are a teacher, coach, or school leader who wants to make sure daily practices are actually making it easier, not harder, for children to learn, this workshop is for you. This is a humorous, engaging, and science-filled hour of learning based on Jan's best-selling book, *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom*, coauthored with Kari Yates. You will leave this session with a high-level overview of the FIRST 6 shifts described in their book.

Audience: K-2**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3

9. 8:30 – 9:30

Quick Writes

Vicki Kay

SD #95, Lake Zurich

Carrie Werner

Seth Paine School, Lake Zurich

Learn how Quick Writes can be implemented in fourth and fifth grades.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-1

10. 8:30 – 9:30

Let's a Go!

Keta Foltz

Eastland SD #308, Shannon

Amber Findlay

Watseka School District, Watseka

Christa Curley

West Carroll SD #314, Savanna

Dadadada, Let's-a-go! Follow us down the green pipe for a Mario-riffic time. Learn how to level up your school with fun new ways to get your students writing, banking new words, and scoring with author visits! Who knows, we might even have our own version of Tanooki, or maybe it's just Rocky!

Audience: All**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-2

11. 8:30 – 9:30

Connecting Visual Literacy and Artistic Expression: Using Picture Books to Inspire Creativity

Becky Griffith

Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

Picture books can be powerful tools to introduce and reinforce art, science, and social emotional concepts. In this workshop, we will showcase how integrating picture books into your curriculum with hands-on exploration projects can enhance student observation and artistic investigation skills. Participants will leave with 4 complete lesson activities pairing a picture book with an art technique.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Librarians**Location:** BOS Center B-3

12. 8:30 – 9:30

Rope More Students into Reading at the Secondary Level

Laura Johnson

Glenbard SD 87, Lombard

Participants will be introduced to Scarborough's Reading Rope and learn ways to increase comprehension at the secondary level through word attack skills and knowledge of SAT/grade-level vocabulary. Additionally, teachers may access a literary newsletter containing the session's strategies and resources.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-4

13. 8:30 – 9:30

Rediscover the Joy of Reading Through the Magic of Reading Communities

Kim Hollis

CUSD 304, Geneva

Kathryn Dages

Geneva Middle School South, Geneva

Brenda Engelhardt

Geneva Middle School North, Geneva

Ashley Falkos

Geneva Middle School North, Geneva

How do you build students' reading identities when they don't identify as readers? This interactive presentation addresses the building blocks for a reading community: Choice, Access, and Time. Walk away with ideas/resources to build your classroom reading community.

Audience: 4-12, ELL, Lib**Strand:** SRL**Location:** BOS Center B-6

14. 8:30 – 9:30

Blended/Flipped/Personalized! Using Technology to Differentiate Literacy Lessons While Improving Teacher/Student Relationships!

Tim Wheeler

Riddle Elementary School, Mattoon

In a Tiktok and Youtube shorts world, how can we use simple, short videos to flip the literacy classroom? What if this could give teachers the opportunity to give more personalized feedback and build relationships? Come see examples and hear concrete ideas for taking ideas from start to finish!

Audience: PreK-9, ELL**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-7

15. 8:30 – 9:30
Reaching Social Emotional Learners through Picture Books

Rebecca Meisinger
 Lincoln Elementary, Oak Park
 Katie Noonan
 Irving Elementary, Oak Park

Looking to supplement your SEL curriculum? Or create one? Make an impact on your K-5 students by using picture books to teach your social emotional lessons. Picture books are the perfect avenue to teach SEL standards so that students are able to manage their emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, handle challenging situations, and understand the neurodiversity in themselves and others. We will share some of our favorite books and have lists related to SEL topics for each grade level. Participants will be able to browse the books after the presentation.

Audience: PreK-6, Lib

Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Location: BOS Center B-8

16. 8:30 – 9:30
Best Practice for Reading Instruction in K-5 Including the Bilingual Perspective

Gabriela Escobedo Garcia
 Mannheim District 83, Northlake
 Jacqueline Curiel
 Roy Elementary School, Northlake

We are bilingual elementary teachers currently enrolled in a Reading Specialist program and are passionate about best practices in literacy instruction and assessment. We will be taking a look at the Five Pillars of Literacy and the importance of systematic phonics in cooperation with whole language to foster skilled reading in young children. We will explore using action research to examine and target areas of need. In addition, we will highlight the benefits of strategy-based small-group reading instruction.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Adults, Admin

Strand: English Language Learners

Location: BOS Center B-9



IRC WEBINAR SERIES
 Members don't miss
 the 10 live or recorded
 webinars in the series!

Illinois Reading Council
 Empowering Lives
 Through Literacy

17. 8:30 – 9:30 **CANCELED**
Reading the BIG Words: Developing a Routine for Attacking Multisyllabic Words

Shawn Huisinga
 Illinois Specific Learning Disability Support
 Project, Charleston
 Christie Johnson
 Illinois Specific Learning Disability Support
 Project, Charleston

As students advance through school, they must be able to decode unfamiliar, multisyllabic words encountered in text. Strong research evidence exists for providing older students (Grades 4-9) with interventions focused on decoding multisyllabic words with a recommendation of a decoding routine (Vaughn et al., 2022). This session will provide general and special educators with syllabication, morphological, and flexible strategies that can be used to teach students a routine for decoding the BIG words.

Audience: 4-9, Spec

Strand: Science of Reading

Location: BOS Center B-10

18. 8:30 – 9:30
Maximizing the Impact of Instructional Coaches: Strategies, Models, and Tools

Stefane Beddard
 ImpactEdu, Wilmington, NC

This workshop offers an in-depth exploration of diverse coaching models, partnership strategies, coaching tools, and assessment methods. Participants will closely examine various coaching models and their real-world applications in educational settings, gaining insights into how these models adapt to different learning environments, empowering coaches to use them more effectively. Attendees will learn to develop strategies fostering strong coaching partnerships. They'll uncover the key elements of building rapport, trust, and collaboration between coaches and educators, setting the stage for impactful coaching experiences. The session will also showcase coaching tools, demonstrating how these tools enhance coaching effectiveness and accessibility. Participants will also learn how to implement a coaching assessment and feedback framework, promoting a culture of continuous improvement vital for ongoing growth in educational contexts.

Audience: All

Strand: Coaching

Location: BOS Center VIP Room



**Register today for
 the Spring 2024
 IRC Book Club**

SHIFTING
 THE
 BALANCE

6
 How to Bring the Science of Reading
 into the Real World Classroom

Jan Burkins • Kari Voss

19. 8:30 – 9:30**Read, Write, Action! Exploring the Multimedia Memoir with Young Adolescents**

Kristen Walsh

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Donna Werderich

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

In this session, we describe how teachers can support adolescents' digital writing by examining a framework for how students can read, write, and produce multimedia memoirs. Examining traditional and digital mentor texts can afford opportunities for students to examine the role of modes such as narration, sound, images, and structure to guide their own compositional choices for digital memoir writing. The multimedia memoir also creates opportunities for diverse expression, and establishes a safe, respectful, and trusting environment in which students share personal stories.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec, Admin**Strand:** Writing**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB**20. 8:30 – 9:30****Conjure The Magic Of All Students Seeing Themselves Represented in Enchanting Literature**

Niki Woodruff

Alice Gustafson School, Batavia

Katie Hoving

Hampshire High School, Hampshire

Enchanting stories, representative of all students, await a place in your classroom. Individuals from kingdoms of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and ability deserve seats at the throne of literature. Experience inclusive literature book talks and strategies for tough discussions.

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** PAL Altgeld**21. 8:30 – 9:30****Prediction Activities for Pre-Reading in Secondary ELA Classes**

Heather Crivilare

Virginia Jr. Sr. High School, Virginia

When students make predictions about the plot and characters of a text prior to reading, it increases their comprehension and engagement with the text. While this is a common practice in elementary reading, it is no less valuable in secondary ELA classes. This session will model engaging, low-prep prediction activities for challenging high school texts, including Shakespeare's plays. Presenters will come away with templates and ideas for adding prediction activities to their own pre-reading lessons.

Audience: 9-12**Location:** PAL Bond**22. 8:30 – 9:30****Vocabulary Deep Dive: The Importance of Using Vocabulary to Build Language Comprehension Across Disciplines in Early Childhood-Primary Grade Classrooms**

Kari Pawl

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest

Annette VanAken

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest

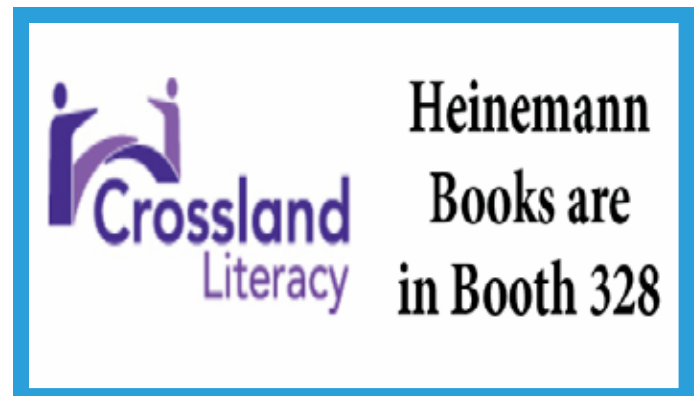
Join us for an exciting vocabulary deep dive! Explore research on vocabulary development and learn engaging and effective research-based practices to support all students. During this interactive session, participants will strengthen their understanding of why vocabulary matters, the role of background knowledge, and how to embed instructional practices to develop language comprehension across the disciplines. A variety of instructional activities and resources will be shared.

Audience: PreK-3, Univ**Location:** PAL Freeport AB**23. 8:30 – 9:30****The Needs of Seasoned Educators in Today's Literacy Classrooms**

Carrie Brockway

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

Trying to see where your current practices meet science? Elevate your expertise with evidence-based insights into phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. We will discuss the cognitive science underpinning reading instruction and how this comes to life in our classrooms. With an introduction to the nuanced strategies of structured literacy, we will restock your teaching toolkit with science-backed methods and takeaways that complement your lived-experiences as an educator.

Audience: All**Location:** PAL Freeport C*Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois*

24. 8:30 – 9:30**The Heart of a Literacy Community**

Anastasia Gruper

SD #47, Crystal Lake

Join us as share examples of how to provide opportunities for students, staff, families, and community members to grow a school-wide literacy community. Anastasia Gruper, principal of a PreK through 5th grade school, will share specific examples of how her school provides opportunities to engage in literacy activities and access to literature as they grow their school-wide reading community.

Audience: PreK-6, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Administration**Location:** PAL Yates**25. 8:30 – 9:30****5 Finger Syllables and SPORGLE: A New Way of Chunking Syllables and Flexing the Vowels**

Dick Briggs

Educational Consultant, Bloomington

Research has recently questioned the need to explicitly teach the most common six syllabication rules for decoding polysyllabic words (Moats). This presentation will review that research, review new trends (Kearns and Seidenberg) and present a model that addresses the chunking trend as well as demonstrate a statistical model for vowel flexing. As part of the discussion, the infamous schwa may take the center stage. Many presentations leave the audience with concepts and/or theories. This presentation will discuss multiple sources to put the chunking and vowel flexing strategies into teaching activities.

Audience: All**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1**Sponsored by** 3ClicksSpelling.com**QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME**

Complete your **GAME SHEET** for a
chance to win a **FREE REGISTRATION**
to the **2025 IRC Conference!**

9:45 – 10:45 AM**26. 9:45 – 10:45****Writing in the Crossroads**

Clare Vanderpool

Author

Wichita, Kansas



Craft and Creativity. Fits and Starts. Beginnings, Middles, and Ends. The writing life is full of crossroads, detours, and switchbacks. This talk is a reflection on the writing life from one midwesterner's perspective.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11A**27. 9:45 – 10:45****Teaching Writing in Small Groups**

Jennifer Serravallo

Educator/Author

South Orange, New Jersey



Drawing from Jennifer Serravallo's *Teaching Writing in Small Groups* as well as *The Writing Strategies Book*, this workshop will show how just a few minutes of purposeful, responsive teaching can have a big impact with your students. The emphasis will be in essential practices for optimizing small groups that will help you value each child's language and literacy practices, develop relationships with your writers, teach with efficiency, improve independence, and more. The engaging videos and Jen's ability to break down complex concepts into actionable, doable steps will equip participants to be able to try out the ideas right away.

Audience: PreK-9**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC

28. 9:45 – 10:45**How to Get Unstuck: From a Writer Who Has Been There!**

Sarah Aronson
Author
Chicago, Illinois



Everyone gets stuck! No matter how hard we try, no matter how thoughtful we are, all of us at some point in our writing journey, have found ourselves staring at the page with no clue what to do next. Being stuck can make us question ourselves. And our abilities. It can ruin our self esteem. For new writers, being stuck can make them question if they have anything to say. (And we know they do!). So how can we help? In this interactive workshop, Sarah Aronson will give you strategies to help you and your students get unstuck and producing pages. (She has needed them all—so she knows they work!) Get ready to explore the craft of writing with tools like drawing, list making, movement and stillness, improv, play, and Sarah's sparkly side writing prompts! Together let's make this the year we advocate for our imaginations and enjoy writing. Trust me, this will be fun!

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11D**29. 9:45 – 10:45****Best Research-based Practices for Teaching Spelling in Grades 3-8**

J. Richard Gentry
Educator/Author
Mobile, Alabama



English spelling is complex yet spelling knowledge is essential for reading comprehension and meaningful writing in grades 3-8. Learning English spelling is often the missing link for students who are struggling. Find out what a research-based spelling curriculum looks like. This session clarifies what resources teachers need along with best practices for teaching spelling. Survey specific word study lessons for syllable types, prefixes and affixes, word roots, and base words and the role of phonics and morphology. Leave with key word study practices you can take back to your classroom the very next day.

Audience: PreK-9**Location:** Wyndham Rendezvous**30. 9:45 – 10:45****Shifting the Balance: Ways to Bring into the Science of Reading into the K-2 Classroom**

Jan Miller Burkins
Educator/Author
Athens, Georgia

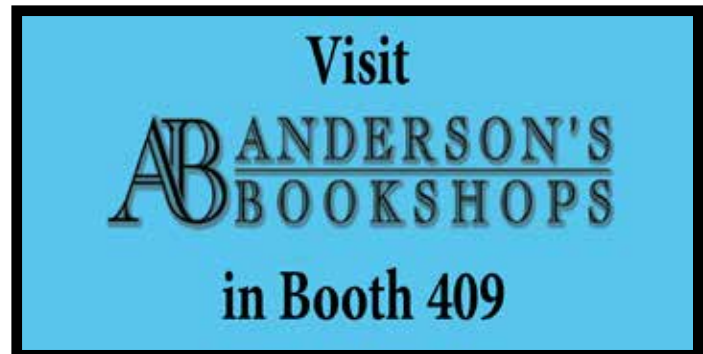


In this workshop, you'll be invited to take an honest second look at current literacy practices, bravely considering the question, "What needs to shift?" If you are a teacher, coach, or school leader who wants to make sure daily practices are actually making it easier, not harder, for children to learn, this workshop is for you. This is a humorous, engaging, and science-filled hour of learning based on Jan's best-selling book, *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom*, coauthored with Kari Yates. You will leave this session with a high-level overview of the FIRST 6 shifts described in their book.

Audience: K-2**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3**31. 9:45 – 10:45****How to Match Your Student to the Right Book**

Dawn Taylor
Carbondale Community High School

After years of being a middle school reading teacher and a high school librarian, I have perfected the art of matching students to the right book. You will leave this session with a variety of ideas of how to put that "just right" book in the hands of even your most reluctant reader.

Audience: 6-12, Adults, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-1

32. 9:45 – 10:45**Using the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) to Foster Student Thinking and Collaboration**

Laura Beltchenko

ELA Consultant, Libertyville

The Question Formulation Technique (QFT) provides a structured approach to assist students in asking questions not just answering them. QFT works in concert with inquiry based learning and promotes learning engagement and meaningful discussions. QFT initiates the development of thought-provoking questions that help educators understand how much their students know about a topic of study. It supports critical and creative thinking and fosters students' natural curiosity, motivation, and engagement in learning. It is an excellent strategy for social studies and science studies for K-12 grade students. This is an interactive session so get ready to collaborate!

Audience: All**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** BOS Center B-2**33. 9:45 – 10:45****Unmasking Your Students: Using Strategies to Support Student Joy**

Jennifer Lancaster

SD #129, Aurora

Based on work by Cris Tovani, this updated session will inform participants about 4 types of masks students wear to hide lack of confidence, motivation, and skill set to be engaged. Participants will learn strategies that can be used in all content areas, quick shifts to adjust instruction and planning strategies that help teachers connect content.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Adults, Admin**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-4**34. 9:45 – 10:45****Picture Books and Strategies for Developing Visualization Skills in Young Learners**

Amy Davis

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Visualization is the cognitive process in which images are retrieved from memory without retinal input and based on readers' perception and experiences. Skilled readers create images while reading while others may struggle. The purpose of this paper is to introduce practitioners to five picture books that lend themselves to teaching visualization. I paired each book with a specific instructional strategy to introduce the skill, grades Kindergarten to third grade, or to use with struggling readers. This presentation will feature five picture books and accompanying strategies to reinforce this skill.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-6**35. 9:45 – 10:45****What is Reading? A Renewed Focus for Professional Development to Support Students with Intersectionality of Dyslexia, Language, and Culture**

Donna Herman

University of St. Francis, Joliet

Deb Augsburg

Lewis University, Romeoville

Typical fluency instruction, assessment, and interventions reinforce the importance of speed and accuracy, but students continue to struggle to comprehend. This dilemma is enhanced for students with dyslexia, ELL learners, and culture. Join us as we consider and share a professional development framework that challenges and supports educators to go beyond typical practices.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-7**36. 9:45 – 10:45****Choosing and Using Texts for Beginning Readers**

Amy Butler

Berwyn South SD #100, Berwyn

Melanie Walski

Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, Indiana

This session aims to accomplish three things regarding texts for beginning readers: describe the qualitative dimensions of and purposes for controlled texts, explain criteria for choosing texts, and demonstrate effective methods for instruction with these types texts. Participants will learn the affordances and limitations of controlled texts and how to use each type to support beginning readers in various instructional contexts. This presentation will provide an evidence-based step-by-step approach for determining which texts to use, how to align texts to standards, and how to use them as instructional tools grounded in student assessment data.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-8**37. 9:45 – 10:45****Using Humorous Books: Making Serious Connections Through the Funny Bone**

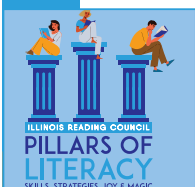
Alice McGinty

Author, SCBWI-Illinois

Julie Hoffman

Springfield Public Schools, Springfield

Humor. It's the left-out genre. The always-the-bridesmaid and never the award-winner genre. Yet, higher level thinking is used in understanding humor and it can create a pathway to the language of dealing with tougher topics and a bridge to new topics and interdisciplinary learning. In this session, we share many favorites as well as techniques that are used in humorous writing, and we share how humor can engage students k-12 in across disciplines.

Audience: PreK-12, Lib**Location:** BOS Center B-9*Sponsored by SCBWI Illinois*

38. 9:45 – 10:45**Writing Woes: Searching for Focus in Student Writing**

Steven Layne

Wheaton College, Wheaton

Have you reviewed a piece of student writing and thought, “I have no idea what this is even about?” Award-winning author and educator Steven Layne will share his specific lesson sequence for teaching the skill of writing “focus” to students.

Audience: 4-12, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-10**39. 9:45 – 10:45****Generation Z: Who Are They and How Can We Reach Them?**

Julie Bullard

Regional Office of Education #30, Murphysboro

Have you ever thought kids are just different these days? Well, you are right. In this session, you will learn the characteristics of Generation Z and how you utilize their strengths to teach and lead them.

Audience: 4-12, Adults, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Administration**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room**40. 9:45 – 10:45****The Joy and Magic of the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award**

Ruth Gheysen

CCSD #46, Grayslake

Come hear about the new books on the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award 2025 Master List! We'll book talk the 20 new titles on our list, discuss ways you can incorporate the Caudills within your school, and share how you, too, can become a reader/evaluator of the nominated books.

Audience: 4-9, Univ, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Librarians**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB**41. 9:45 – 10:45****Read-Aloud Revival: Awaken Reading Joy By Making It Come Alive**

Katie Hoving

Hampshire High School, Hampshire

Niki Woodruff

Alice Gustafson School, Batavia

As kids age, read-alouds tend to dwindle. However, stories have the power to revive literacy communities immersed in the emotional landscape of life. Discover benefits, tips, and titles to implement passionate read-alouds with students of all ages.

Audience: All**Location:** PAL Altgeld**42. 9:45 – 10:45****Science of Reading Only: What About Other Literacy/Reading Stances?**

Shadrack Msengi

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

This presentation examines science of reading strand in relation to other literacy stances. The findings demonstrate ways in which K-6 literacy instructional practices reciprocate and infuse other reading stances based on students literacy strengths and needs.

Audience: PreK-9, Spec, Univ**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** PAL Bond**43. 9:45 – 10:45****Transforming Teachers Into Formative Practitioners Using Formative Assessment Best Practices**

Annette VanAken

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest

Gena Lewis

Concordia University Chicago, River Forest

The program will involve teachers in a conversation about the ways to implement formative feedback in their classrooms based on the best practices examined through the analysis and results of a study by the presenters. This will help teachers to examine how the use of formative teaching can impact their students learning as well as allow them to use a rubric to continue to examine their own use of formative assessment practices P-12 as well as in Higher Education. This will assist in transforming teachers into formative practitioners.

Audience: All**Location:** PAL Freeport AB**44. 9:45 – 10:45****A Picture is Worth 1000 Words: Creating and Finding Visuals to Support Multilingual Learners**

Maggie Essig

Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Visuals are a key linguistic support for multilingual learners, but educators don't have unlimited time to search the internet for the perfect visual! This session focuses entirely on where and how educators can create or find quality visuals to use in a range of contexts and content areas. Participants will leave with a resource list of tools, all free to educators, that you can implement tomorrow.

Audience: All, ELL**Strand:** English Language Learners**Location:** PAL Freeport C

45. 9:45 – 10:45

Read Aloud in the Time of Trauma

Amy Cooley

Reinberg, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago
Jennifer Henderson

Springman Middle School, Glenview

We utilize read alouds in our middle school classrooms to build community, address Social-Emotional Learning standards, and enhance the curriculum. Ways to incorporate read aloud in ELA classes will be discussed and titles will be shared.

Audience: 4-9, ELL, Spec, Admin**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** PAL Yates

46. 9:45 – 10:45

Let's Talk Narrative

Paige Timmerman

Salem Community High School, Salem
Kourtney Hake

Sparta Lincoln School, Sparta

Personal narrative is often overlooked because teachers must focus on test-prep. However, authentic writing is often blended with other genres. We will focus on incorporating personal stories to answer questions and feature lessons and activities from our upcoming book.

Audience: 6-12**Strand:** Writing**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1**VISIT THE EXHIBITS**

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 14, 2024
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

*Refreshments will be served
from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and
3:00 – 4:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall*

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

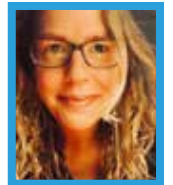
47. 11:00 – 12:00

New and Notable Books for Grades K-3Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson's Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois

This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: PreK-3**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

48. 11:00 – 12:00

We Are MentalA.S. King
Author
Reading, Pennsylvania

In this multi-media master class for educators, Amy talks about teaching students who have experienced trauma, self-care writing for educators, and how emotions and effective writing have always been tied to each other. This is a hands-on talk, and attendees will experience the "A.S. King Character Creation Wizard." This is perfect for professional development and other educator events.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC

**Visit Booth 432 to see
if your key unlocks
the Treasure Chest
for a prize!**

**DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE**

49. 11:00 – 12:00
How to Embed the Seven Essential Literacy Skills into Your Content Area

Peg Grafwallner
 Educator/Author
 Germantown, Wisconsin



All learning is based on the mastery of essential literary skills, and in this interactive presentation, educators will discover tools they need to embed literacy into all subjects. We know comprehension is based on skill-building strategies that encourage purpose and engagement; as a result, educators can effectively teach those literacy skills to support developing students as they learn to read, write, and think critically. In this presentation, educators will discover how to: expand their teaching methods to include literacy skills, introduce literacy into daily lesson planning, embed reading comprehension into any subject area, and scaffold instruction using literacy strategies to boost subject-area comprehension. (Based on Peg's book: *Clearing the Path for Developing Learners: Essential Literacy Skills to Support Achievement in Every Content Area.*)

Audience: 4-12
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

50. 11:00 – 12:00
What's the Deal with the Science of Reading?

Andrew P. Johnson
 Educator/Author
 Minnesota State University
 Mankato, Minnesota



Science of Reading advocates seem to be putting out a great deal of misinformation about reading instruction. Literacy experts are being ignored in favor of radio journalists. For-profit entities are promoting ideas that serve only to enhance their profit at the expense of our students. This presentation will explain exactly what the science of reading is and isn't. It will provide a simple understanding of balanced literacy, the three cueing systems, evidence-based practices, eye movement during reading, word identification, word recognition, phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, direct instruction, and educational research.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

51. 11:00 – 12:00
How to Turn your School Library into the Most Valued Place in your School

Dawn Taylor
 Carbondale Community High School,
 Carbondale

Five years ago I was tasked with turning my library into the hub of the school. By the end of the first year, we were well on track to achieving that goal and are now one of the most valued space in the school with students, teachers, and administration! In this session, I will tell you how I did it!

Audience: 6-12, Admin, Lib
Strand: Librarians
Location: BOS Center B-1

52. 11:00 – 12:00
The Development of Literacy for Young Literacy Learners

Laura Beltchenko
 ELA, Assessment and Gifted Education
 Consultant, Libertyville

This session will focus on the early literacy learners of Pre-Kindergarten - 2nd grade with an emphasis on the Illinois ELA Standards. It will delve into the nuances of the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan's "7 Components of Literacy" and how they are an integral part of an early learning literacy program. Through the use of picture books and integration of the ELA Standards, together, we will take a joyful early learning literacy journey using a plethora of picture books and materials to support meaning driven instructional practices.

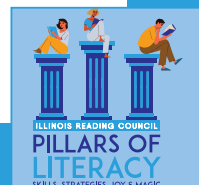
Audience: PreK-6, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib
Strand: Administration
Location: BOS Center B-2

53. 11:00 – 12:00
The Decoding Triangle: The Key to Mastering Foundational Skills

Tracy Beling
 CUSD #428, DeKalb
 Jill Springer
 CUSD #428, DeKalb

In this session, educators will learn about the importance of the three parts of the decoding triangle: alphabet knowledge, phonemic awareness, and phonics and the need to teach these skills to mastery. Attendees will learn how to use small group instruction, formative assessments, and reteaching to guide their students to mastery of foundational skills, and will see how it fits into the holistic view of literacy.

Audience: PreK-6, Univ, Admin
Location: BOS Center B-3



54. 11:00 – 12:00
Reclaiming Our History: Books, Bans, and Continued Attacks on Public Education

Jennifer Martin
 University of Illinois, Springfield
 Jen Brooks
 Illinois State University, Normal

We continue to reflect on the current state of education by sharing recent attacks on the teaching of race and the banning of books in various US states. We share the implications of such restrictions and strategies for teachers to combat them. According to Freire, if teachers are to serve as “role models” for democracy, they must: struggle collectively, unify with other teachers, and advocate for curriculum grounded in praxis. Teachers must, especially now, band together to insist upon the value of their own knowledge to create curricula, in conjunction with their students, for the purpose of empowerment and freedom.

Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-4

55. 11:00 – 12:00
Tasty Books for Young Readers: Great Graphic Novels About Food and Agriculture

Stephanie Hospelhorn
 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom,
 Bloomington
 Chris Wyant
 Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom,
 Bloomington

Engage reluctant readers with engaging graphic novels about the agriculture all around us. By pairing graphic novels with cross-curricular texts, students will be challenged to improve a variety of literacy skills, and their love for reading will blossom!

Audience: 4-9
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6

Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

56. 11:00 – 12:00
Reach for the Books: Reenergize Daily Reading Routines

Maria Walther
 Maria P. Walther LLC, Aurora

Looking for practical, evidence-based practices to refresh your students’ reading routines? In this session, you will learn easy-to-implement ideas to elevate read-aloud experiences and motivate independent readers. Leave with a list of must-have children’s books that your students will love!

Audience: PreK-3
Location: BOS Center B-10

57. 11:00 – 12:00
Equitable Foundations: Addressing Dyslexia in Tier 1 Instruction for Educators

Kellyn Sirach
 Illinois SLD Support Project, Champaign
 Anne Brewster
 The Reading League-Illinois and Children’s
 Dyslexia Center, Springfield

This professional development session aims to provide educators with a comprehensive understanding of dyslexia and equip them with practical strategies to enhance Tier 1 instruction for students with dyslexia. Participants will gain insights into the characteristics of dyslexia, early identification, differentiated instruction techniques, and creating inclusive classroom environments to ensure all students learn to read.

Audience: All
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-7
Sponsored by Illinois SLD Support Project

58. 11:00 – 12:00
Moving From Decoding to Comprehension: Evidence Based Practices In Fluency

Karla Boehnke
 Pleasantdale SD #107, LaGrange
 Jolene Lorimer
 Literacy Consultant, Frankfort

When fluency is assessed it becomes - how many words the student reads per minute. Rate alone does not create fluency. When you combine accuracy, expression, and prosody in addition to rate, comprehension increases. Come and learn some practical activities to incorporate these skills with the resources you are using in your daily reading instruction.

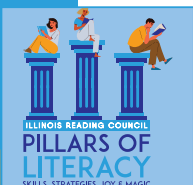
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-8

59. 11:00 – 12:00
New YA Titles to Booktalk: AISLE’s Lincoln Book Award

Jennifer Jazwinski
 Algonquin Area Public Library District
 Amy Phillips
 Riverside Brookfield High School, Riverside

Lincoln Award committee members will book talk the 2025 master list of nominees. We will give you keys to participating in and promoting the program in your school, ideas for collaboration with public librarian partners, plus unlock ways for you and your students to help in the selection process.

Audience: 9-12, Lib
Strand: Librarians
Location: PAL Ottawa AB



60. 11:00 – 12:00

Building Allyship Through Literature: Counteracting Popular Culture and Social Media's Impact on Bias and Hatred

Liza Wiemer

Author, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Liza Wiemer, author of the Lincoln Award nominee novel, *The Assignment*, will share her extensive research on the impact of popular culture and social media on students' beliefs and behavior and how educators can utilize literature to promote allyship within and outside the classroom. We'll delve into why most people are bystanders and how to foster upstander action against bullying, bigotry, hatred, and injustice. Liza will share effective literature perfect for middle grade and high school students and how to utilize them in the classroom. Participants will receive helpful resources through a Google doc. After the session, you can also visit with Liza in the AISLE - Association of Illinois School Library Educators Exhibit Booth #322 on Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-9**Sponsored by AISLE**

61. 11:00 – 12:00

The Book Talk: Make it a Daily Routine

Julie DeMicco

City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago

How do you shore up motivation and engagement in your students who may come to you reading less than ever, who can't name a favorite author or genre, and who perhaps have either lost or never had the habit of reading? Book Talks! A daily book talk will expose your students to many good books across the school year, and can absolutely generate interest in reading. I will discuss all the different ways I talk about books in my classroom to promote student engagement with reading.

Audience: 4-12, Univ**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Altgeld

62. 11:00 – 12:00

Reading in Scientific Thinking: Engaging Concept Development

Abha Singh

Western Illinois University, Macomb

The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize educators with how science nonfiction reading was incorporated in a new online science course for undergraduate teacher candidates. The scientific reading implemented the development of different levels in comprehension to gauge the learner to deeper thinking and application ideas in the scientific concepts with big ideas introduced. The goal was to use the scientific reading with the learner in furthering scientific thought to be more progressive and engaging.

Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Adults**Strand:** STEAM**Location:** PAL Bond

63. 11:00 – 12:00

Teacher Teams Improving Student Learning through Learning Cycles

Lisa Skelly

Regional Office of Education #17, Bloomington

Stacie France

Regional Office of Education #17, Bloomington

In this session, school/grade level teams, teachers, teacher leaders, and administrators will learn about a research-based learning cycle that explicitly addresses the root cause of student learning problems. Learning cycles is a systemic approach to teacher teams collaborating to improve student learning by using data to identify a specific responsive strategy to improve student learning. This includes analysis of trend and learning gap data. Learning cycles promote distributed leadership throughout the teacher team and addresses comprehensive data analysis and review, identifying needed resources, professional learning, and setting SMART goals to measure the effect of the selected responsive strategy.

Audience: All**Strand:** Administration**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room

64. 11:00 – 12:00

New Uses for Music in the Language Arts and Literacy Classroom

Kristin Lems

National Louis University, Chicago

The power of music and song to "cascade" through many parts of the brain is well known, from its role in building phonological awareness to its strongly motivating properties. Young people use and enjoy music in new ways now – as a soundtrack to their lives, through musical influencers, and through movies and gaming. But it is still a powerful resource for teacher-organized curricular activity. The workshop will share research-based activities to try. Focus is on Grades 1-12 and includes special focus on English language learners.

Audience: All**Strand:** English Language Learners**Location:** PAL Freeport AB


Register today for
the Spring 2024
IRC Book Club

IRC AWARDS

Barack Obama Library Award

Michael Kennedy
St. Catherine-St. Lucy School
Oak Park, Illinois

*Thursday Luncheon at the PAL
Ballroom with Nic Stone*

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Children's Writing

Sarah Aronson
*Thursday PSA Banquet at the PAL
Ballroom with Lesa Cline-Ransome*

IRC Service Award

Kevin Daugherty
Bonnie Matheis
*Friday Breakfast at the PAL Ballroom
with John Schu*

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award

Kevin Frederick
Dr. Howard Elementary School
Champaign, Illinois
*Friday Luncheon at the PAL Ballroom
with Timothy Rasinski*

Static Sticker Decal Contest

Jameson Lundy
Moye Elementary School, O'Fallon
*Friday Luncheon at the Wyndham
Ballroom with Illinois Reads Authors*

65. 11:00 – 12:00 Let's Talk About Dyslexia

Heather Johannes
Springfield Ball Charter School
As Educators we need to be aware of the current legislation that affects 20% of our school population. We will look at the new laws in Illinois regarding dyslexia. In this session, dyslexia will be defined and discussed to help educators have a better understanding of this disability. The characteristics, strengths, and myths will be discussed. Participants will look at possible accommodations and supports that could be provided in the classroom setting. The view of dyslexia is changing in our society and we need to be prepared to effectively support all the students in our classroom.

Audience: All
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: PAL Freeport C

66. 11:00 – 12:00 Changing Literacy Trends One Child at a Time

Becky McTague
DePaul University, Cary
Miyoshi Brown
Salem Baptist Church of Chicago
Many school-age children need to succeed with literacy in school at a greater rate of success. Twenty-five million students need to be reading at proficient levels in the US. This presentation will share two types of summer and after school programs to support students' literacy learning, especially for black boys. The presenters will describe how two different community organizations support children's literacy learning. Then, the presenters will show how to create a summer or after-school program to improve student literacy in your community. Some of these elements include access to books, training tutors, selection of books, and other resources.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Yates

67. 11:00 – 12:00 Engaging 21st Century Learners with Graphic Novels

Amy Bender
Prairie Knolls Middle School, Elgin
Teaching with graphic novels helps with engagement, meaning making, and higher level thinking. In this session, participants will learn about graphic novels to better understand the complexity of them, how to integrate them with the Common Core Standards, and how to build an understanding of how students make meaning using graphic novels. This session will give you an up-to-date list of graphic novels that can be used in the classroom.

Audience: All
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: Wyndham Plaza 1



12:15 – 2:00 PM

Thursday Luncheon

68. 12:15 – 2:00

On Being Human: Why Stories Matter

Nic Stone
Author
Atlanta, Georgia



In a world where headlines are dominated by news of war, overt inhumanity, and political strife, it can be difficult to stay hopeful about a better future, let alone muster the energy to try and create one. But what if the key to a brighter tomorrow was already within reach? Better yet: what if it lives inside each and every one of us? Using a combination of philosophical and anthropological concepts, Nic Stone will explain how understanding the past, perceiving the present, and framing the future all have the same foundation: storytelling. Which means hope burns bright: if shared narratives have shaped our current world, we can use story to remake it.

Audience: Ticket Required

Location: PAL Ballroom

Obama Literacy Fund Award

will be presented at the Thursday Luncheon to

Michael Kennedy

Award will be presented by Jen Brooks, Chair

Thursday Luncheon

69. 12:15 – 2:00

Reading Strategies: Essential Teaching for Every Classroom

Jennifer Serravallo
Educator/Author
South Orange, New Jersey



Drawing from the newly-released *The Reading Strategies Book 2.0*, a revised and reimagined update to the NYT bestselling resource, this keynote will help you use strategies effectively in your instruction – no matter what approach to literacy you use, the grade level, the developmental levels, or the ages of the students you teach. You'll learn about the broad research base for strategy instruction in reading, ways to choose the right strategies for each reader based on reading goals and skill progressions. This keynote is designed to be highly practical with immediately applicable information.

Audience: Ticket Required

Location: Wyndham Ballroom

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HUNGRY?

The BOS Center Concession Stand is Open!

Purchase lunch and take it to one of the lunch time sessions planned from 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the BOS Center

Concessions are Open:

Thursday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM



DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE

1:00 – 2:00 PM

70. 1:00 – 2:00

Book Gossip

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson's Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois



What are the hottest new adult titles for your reading pleasure? Come to the Book Gossip to hear about great reads for grown ups!

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

71. 1:00 - 2:00

Unlocking Learning Potential: The Art and Science of Explicit Instruction

Tari Jansen

SLD Support Project, Charleston

In a landscape where educational reform remains a topic of debate, it is vital to heed the wisdom of prominent researchers who assert that “explicit instruction is a fundamental component of effective schooling.” However, as the article *Education Reform Hasn't Failed Yet... 3 Overlooked Instructional Strategies* suggests, these pivotal components, including explicit instruction, often remain underutilized in our schools. This presentation seeks to bridge this gap by providing attendees with a comprehensive overview of the components of explicit instruction. Participants will explore the impact of explicit instruction, a systematic, teacher-centered approach. In addition, explicit instruction will be defined, research validating its efficacy will be presented, and key principles including application into lesson planning and instructional delivery will be outlined. Key examples of explicit instruction and its application to literacy instruction will be provided along with a discussion of assessment's role, decision-making, and generalization planning. Participants will leave with a practical instructional toolbox, primed to elevate teaching and promote inclusive learning. This presentation invites questions and offers additional resources for further exploration. Participants will gain practical insights into applying these strategies within the classroom, ultimately aiming to usher in an era of more effective and impactful teaching.

Audience: PreK-6, Spec, Admin**Location:** BOS Center B-3**Sponsored by SLD Support Project**

72. 1:00 - 2:00

The Science of Reading: What Is It and How to Apply It?

Ethan Lynn

Reading Horizons, Peoria

The purpose of this session is to provide educators with an overview of the science of reading from a practical perspective. To begin, we will define the science of reading and discuss the processes involved with learning to read. Next, we will demystify and unlock the English language by learning seven decoding patterns: five for single-syllable words and two for multi-syllable words. We will conclude with a focus on how to structure lessons by emphasizing multi-sensory dictation practice and the transfer of skills to connected texts.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-1**Sponsored by Reading Horizons**

73. 1:00 - 2:00

The Heavy Hitters of Intermediate Literacy: Multisyllabic Decoding and Morphology

Cassandra Novack

95 Percent Group, Lincolnshire

Not only do upper elementary and middle school students need to be adept at decoding multisyllabic words, they must also have strategies for unlocking the meanings of unfamiliar words. To equip our students with the rigorous demands of complex text in these grades, we need to bring out the “heavy hitters” of Intermediate Word Work: Multi-syllabic Decoding Routines and Morphology. This session will showcase efficient instruction to get the job done: replicable, reliable routines to teach our students to fearlessly attack big words while building morphological understandings to accelerate vocabulary growth.

Audience: 4-9, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-2**Sponsored by 95 Percent Group**

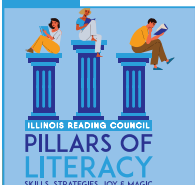
74. 1:00 - 2:00

New and Overwhelmed Literacy Teachers Deserve to Feel and BE Successful – 1 Approach with 20 + Strategies

Berit Gordon

Heinemann, Maplewood, NJ

We love our students and care deeply about our jobs. And we are stressed and overwhelmed. There is another way. With a choice-based approach and innovative tips for literacy instruction, this workshop will help you avoid burnout and boost teaching joy.

Audience: All**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** BOS Center B-4**Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Heinemann****DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE**

75. 1:00 - 2:00**Accelerating your Literacy Instruction with a Hands-On, Multisensory Approach**

Jennifer Burchfiel

hand2mind, Dallas, Texas

Enhancing small group instruction with multi-sensory learning opportunities will lead early readers to master sound and spelling relationships and decoding strategies to become fluent readers. This session will provide educators with tools to help readers build language and literacy through the use of engaging phonemic awareness and phonics strategies in their small group instruction.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-6**Sponsored by** hand2mind**76. 1:00 - 2:00****Building Inclusive Classrooms – Designing Neurodiverse-Friendly Learning Spaces**

Stefanie Crawford

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance, Peoria Heights

Neurotypical expectations and environments unintentionally create barriers that exclude and isolate neurodivergent individuals. Through discussions and activities, we will uncover strategies and techniques to cultivate truly inclusive spaces that celebrate and embrace all neurotypes. See how small changes in our approach can lead to significant positive impacts, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment for everyone in our learning community.

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-7**Sponsored by** Illinois Digital Educators Alliance**77. 1:00 - 2:00****Unlocking the Magic: Making Trade Books the Heart of ELA Instruction**

Anita Parsotan

Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, Arizona

Alana Benoit

Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, Arizona

Educators recognize that literacy extends far beyond decoding words, into the engineering of a lifelong love of reading and intellectual exploration of ideas and experiences. This proposal seeks to explore the power of trade books at the center of core ELA education as a transformative experience for students. Trade books can be used to extend the study of literature from academic achievement to molding our students into empathetic individuals capable of critical thinking and effective communication. Through diverse texts, educators can provide an integrated experience that promotes inclusivity, independent reading, and effective assessment.

Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Lib**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-8**Sponsored by** Imagine Learning**78. 1:00 - 2:00****Good Questions + Good Reading = Awesome Thinking**

Katie McKnight

Short, Short, Big, Antioch

Over two-thirds of adolescent students are unable to read at grade level (NAEP 2022). When students are unable to read complex subject-specific text, the tendency is to offer them easier, more literal questions and tasks. Yet, the science of reading research indicates that this is not the right approach. Learn how to create deep inferential and evaluative questions to motivate students to read and drive deeper reading comprehension. Strategies and critical research will be shared.

Audience: 4-12**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-9**Sponsored by** Crossland Literacy and Short, Short, Big**79. 1:00 - 2:00****Enhancing Educational Access for Students with Dyslexia: Understanding Learning Strategies and Classroom Implementation**

Karla O'Brien

Classmates Educational Group, Inc., Downers Grove

Beth Hatlen

Classmates Educational Group, Inc., Downers Grove

In this presentation, we will explore vital aspects of supporting students with dyslexia. We will delve into how the brain learns to read and the intricate cognitive processes and neural pathways involved. Learn how to recognize the early "red flags" that may signal potential reading difficulties or dyslexia in students, allowing for timely intervention. Walk away with a variety of instructional strategies that can be seamlessly integrated into any classroom environment to support students with dyslexia. Learn how to provide accessibility for struggling readers and foster an inclusive classroom atmosphere that nurtures the diverse needs of all students.

Audience: All**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-10**Sponsored by** SLANT System for Structured Language Training**80. 1:00 - 2:00****Story Play: Making Stories Memorable for Students**

Michael Lockett

Author/International Storyteller, Normal

Plan to laugh as you learn stories you can effectively retell after this workshop. The concept of Story Play helps improve students' vocabulary, speech, listening, reading comprehension and more. Use this enjoyable technique to raise scores in your classroom.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Lib**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room**Sponsored by** Heritage Schoolhouse Press

2:15 – 3:15 PM

81. 2:15 – 3:15

**Books I've Loved and I Swear Loved Me Back
– The Transformative Power of Story**

Clare Vanderpool
Author
Wichita, Kansas



We've all heard that to be a writer, you must first be a reader. And we know from experience that stories have power—to touch, to heal, to transform. Join us for a journey into our reading past, to the books that provided joy, comfort, even friendship in our younger years, and discover how stories become stepping stones in the writing life.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11A

82. 2:15 – 3:15

ArtPhone

A.S. King
Author
Reading Pennsylvania



In this high-energy assembly program, Amy talks to students about the science of smartphone addiction, and how to shift phone usage from the endless scroll into something more creative and useful – art! With the rise of TikTok and other creative social media, the youth of today know the power of creativity – Amy aims to get them to think bigger into the world of visual art, film, music composition/performance, and writing available right there on their phones.

Audience: 6-12
Location: BOS Center B-11BC

83. 2:15 – 3:15

**This Is a Story: Connecting Hearts and
Communities through Booktalks**

John Schu
Educator/Author
Chicago, Illinois



The best booktalks are those delivered from the heart. It's the way we share our love and passion for favorite titles and books that inspires students and colleagues. Join children's book author and librarian John Schu as he invites us to imagine the many ways books can foster connection and understanding. He'll share some of the best new books and ways to easily incorporate them into your school reading culture to increase reading motivation, stamina, and growth.

Audience: PreK-6
Location: BOS Center B-11D

84. 2:15 – 3:15

**Understanding and Supporting Children with
Dyslexia in Light of Reading Science**

J. Richard Gentry
Educator/Author
Mobile, Alabama



Every teacher likely has dyslexic children in his or her classroom. This 2023 up-to-date session informed by today's neuroscience helps participants understand, identify, and deal with reading and spelling problems associated with dyslexia. As a lifelong dyslexia survivor himself, Dr. Gentry provides a unique perspective including how new science supports the unexpected idea that dyslexia may include cognitive strengths and even life-enhancing gifts for achievement and success.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous



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if your key unlocks
the Treasure Chest
for a prize!**



**Heinemann
Books are
in Booth 328**



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85. 2:15 – 3:15

Shifting the Balance: Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the 3-5 Classroom

Jan Miller Burkins
Educator/Author
Athens, Georgia



It seems that talk about the science of reading and the call for changed practices in the literacy classroom is everywhere these days. But so much of this conversation has focused on beginning readers. If you're an educator supporting upper elementary readers--or even younger readers who have grown beyond their peers--you've likely wondered, "What about us? What does the current body of research reveal about practices in intermediate classrooms?" In this workshop, a companion to, *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom* (Burkins & Yates), Jan Burkins will introduce six shifts for upper elementary teachers to consider as they work to make reading success more accessible for all students. Across the hour-long workshop, Jan will provide a high-level overview of the NEW 6 shifts described in the book.

Audience: 3-5**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3

87. 2:15 – 3:15

Illinois Literacy Plan: Its Development and What It Means For Illinois Schools

Laura Beltchenko

ELA, Assessment and Gifted Education
Consultant, Libertyville

This session will support understanding and use of the ISBE approved Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and its implications for providing districts and schools "flexibility and local autonomy" with its use. The focus will be on the 3 overarching goals cited for students, educators and leaders as well as the newly designed "7 Competencies of Literacy": Oracy, phonological awareness, word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. An overview of the 5 Sections will be highlighted as well as methods for navigation and implementation of the Plan.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-2

88. 2:15 – 3:15

CANCELED**Enhancing Early Sequencing Skills through Coding and Robotics**

Stephanie Dietrich

Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

Becky Griffith

Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

In this workshop, participants will learn how robotics and coding can be utilized to enhance early literacy sequencing skills. Learners will have the opportunity to explore different robots that can be used to support sequencing skills and will leave with the resources to easily integrate robotics into their early literacy programs.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Librarians**Location:** BOS Center B-3

89. 2:15 – 3:15

Motivation Managed! Getting the Best From Your Students Because They Want To!

Jennifer Lancaster

SD #129, Aurora

Let's face it ... student motivation has ALWAYS been a problem. The pandemic simply put a spotlight on what we already knew: the dire consequences when students are not actively engaged in their own learning. Research shows that when students are actively engaged in the classroom, learning rates increase. By building teacher-student routines, everyone in the classroom benefits! Participants in this session will walk away with both research-based ideas as well as actionable strategies to motivate students within the classroom.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-4

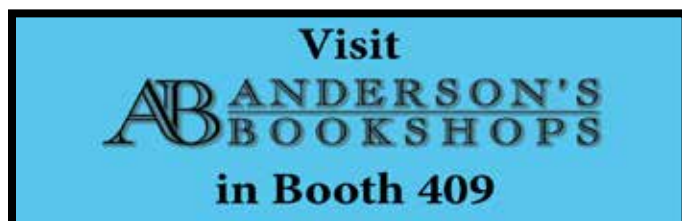
86. 2:15 – 3:15

Handwriting is the Key!

Emily Larsen

Zaner-Bloser, Columbus, Ohio

Research has shown that automaticity with physically forming manuscript and cursive letters will allow students to be more proficient in reading and math skills and achieve greater growth. Students can be affected by the research proven phenomena of the reader effect and writer effect. Understanding the importance of fluent and legible handwriting is a must for educators. We must acknowledge the need to teach transcription skills specifically focusing on the automatization of handwriting in the elementary grades.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-1*Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser*

90. 2:15 – 3:15

CANCELED**Growing Learners with Co-Teaching**

Erin Metaxas

Lake Zurich Middle School North, Hawthorn Woods

Jennifer Lippert

Lake Zurich Middle School North, Hawthorn Woods

Brian Hefferan

Lake Zurich Middle School North, Hawthorn Woods

Utilizing co-teaching strategies along with SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) techniques we will discuss how all students can grow as readers, writers, and learners and find success in their classes. We will also explore how John Hattie's research on Visible Learning relates to and supports these strategies.

Audience: 4-12, ELL**Location:** BOS Center B-6

91. 2:15 – 3:15

Enhancing Your Curriculum: IDNR Science Resources

Lorna Shuman

IDNR, Springfield

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Education provides Illinois-specific materials and programs to the teachers in the state. On a tour using our website, we will explore ways to enhance the science curriculum with grants, lessons, professional development, publications, items for loans, and videos and podcasts. All of these resources assist educators in implementing the topic immediately into the existing curriculum to provide supplemental, Illinois-specific information.

Audience: All**Strand:** STEAM**Location:** BOS Center B-7*Sponsored by Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

92. 2:15 – 3:15

Empowering Leaders to Advance Academic Equity and Excellence through Science of Reading

Karen DeSchryver

Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, AZ

Susan Jones

Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, AZ

Science of Reading (SOR) encompasses decades of scientific research behind the process of learning to read. But is there really a difference between Learning to Read and Reading to Learn? Does Science of Reading apply to adolescent readers? Join this session to discuss! During our time, we will explore the Science of Reading research and discuss strategies for incorporating the research into your literacy initiatives.

Audience: All**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room*Sponsored by Imagine Learning*

93. 2:15 – 3:15

Supporting Diverse and Language Learners To Become College Ready Readers and Writers

Jacqueline Keeley

SD #214, Elk Grove Village

Alissa Prendergaast

SD #214, Elk Grove Village

Amanda Baran

SD #214, Elk Grove Village

Emily Mikuzis

SD #214, Elk Grove Village

If students feel confident, they will be empowered to make ambitious plans for their futures. Showing students they can do hard things is the start of their success. In this session, we'll share methods and strategies to help diverse and language learners master the reading and writing skills necessary for post secondary success.

Audience: 9-12, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-9

94. 2:15 – 3:15

Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Representation of Black Joy Matters

Melissa Wheeler

Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon

Julie Hoffman

Springfield Public Schools, Springfield

Jen Brooks

Illinois State University, Normal

Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Black Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black-owned independent book stores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-10

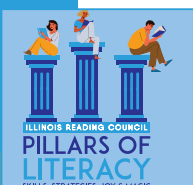
95. 2:15 – 3:15

Why They Hate to Write ... And What We Can Do About It

Kristen Walsh

Murphy Junior High, Oswego

How many times have you heard, "I hate writing?" This session addresses student views on writing, current practices in the writing classroom, and ways to implement change to allow students to regain their writing voices and develop agency and identity as writers. Participants will leave with practical applications for the classroom.

Audience: 4-12, ELL, Spec, Admin**Strand:** Writing**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB

96. 2:15 – 3:15

When They Choose – They Read!

Niki Woodruff

Alice Gustafson School, Batavia

Katie Hoving

Hampshire High School, Hampshire

By age 9, a child's joy of reading begins to decline. Independent reading time, for all ages, holds power to rejuvenate that essential joy. Increase students' reading volume and stamina by discovering benefits and tips to implement choice reading.

Audience: All**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Altgeld

97. 2:15 – 3:15

Read Allowed

Kristin Richey

Westmont Junior High School, Westmont

This session will be filled with tried and true middle level read alouds AND the endless benefits of using them. You'll leave with great new ideas for using read alouds to support your middle school classroom and all those nostalgic, "come to the carpet" feels!

Audience: 6-9**Location:** PAL Bond

98. 2:15 – 3:15

Developing Discussion-Based Practices to Cultivate Student Agency

Karen Schumpp

Leyden High Schools, Franklin Park

Paula Di Domenico

Leyden High Schools, Franklin Park

In the aftermath of the pandemic, a crucial lesson emerged – the key link between social-emotional learning (SEL) and literacy. This session merges the realms of SEL and literacy education. By integrating CASEL discussion strategies, we demonstrate an approach that not only enhances literacy skills but also cultivates student joy and agency. Witness the magic that unfolds when these once-separate constructs harmonize, creating an immersive experience where literacy learning becomes a conduit for both skill acquisition and emotional enrichment. Additionally, leaders will learn to apply session strategies for Tier 1 instruction, seamlessly integrating social-emotional learning and literacy throughout the school.

Audience: 6-12, Spec, Admin**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

99. 2:15 – 3:15

CANCELLED**Supporting Newcomer Students in your Classroom**

Carly Spina

Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights

Many of us are welcoming more and more newcomer students into our classrooms. This session will equip educators with tools, resources, and strategies to serve and support their students who are newer to their English language journey. We will discuss small moves that can have a big impact! Educators will have the chance to try out the strategies that will be shared, and leave with a virtual bank of tools and resources to not only use the next day, but also share with colleagues.

Audience: PreK-12, ELL**Strand:** English Language Learners**Location:** PAL Freeport C

100. 2:15 – 3:15

The Art of Teaching a Novel

Lisa Burgess

SD #118, Danville

Reading a novel immerses children in a place and/or a time outside their experiences, and over the lifespan of the book (and sometimes a series) empathy develops for characters and historical events that spills over into their worldview; it's so much more than reading an excerpt. This presentation will address everything about teaching a novel - from selecting, reading, and highlighting challenging vocabulary to reader's guides, supplemental books, assessment, and discussion strategies. Units for award-winning historical novels by both a central Illinois native and one of the conference's guest authors will be shared.

Audience: PreK-9, Univ, Admin, Lib**Location:** PAL Yates

101. 2:15 – 3:15

Keeping It Short and Sweet: Helping Students Find The Joy of Reading through Short Story Book Clubs

Courtney Eacker

Mannheim Middle School, Melrose Park

Theresa Ciupinski

Mannheim Middle School, Melrose Park

This session will detail the process of starting and maintaining student book clubs to help instill a love of reading for pleasure. The book club model features short stories and uses best practices for developing independent reading skills. From close reading to annotations to recognizing what a reader is and isn't enjoying, the book club project will help students find their reading personalities. Attendees will leave with resources and actionable tips and tricks for using book clubs in any classroom.

Audience: 4-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1

3:30 – 4:30 PM

102. 3:30 – 4:30

New and Notable Books for Grades 4-8

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson's Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois



This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: 4-9**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

103. 3:30 – 4:30

How to FRAME the First 10 Minutes of Class

Peg Grafwallner
Educator/Author
Germantown, Wisconsin



Educators spend a great deal of time lesson planning, creating the best opportunities for learning for students. But, those first 10 minutes of class - building relationships and creating the engagement and motivation for the lesson is as critical. In this interactive presentation, Peg will show you how to: Focus your class by writing a successful Learning Intention and Success Criteria; explore different ways to Reach each student prior to class; demonstrate how to teach students to Ask/Analyze the LI and SC, briefly Model the day's lesson to lower student concern and finally, describe ways to Encourage all students to be their best learning selves! (Based on Peg's book: *Ready to Learn: The FRAME Method for Optimizing Student Success.*)

Audience: 4-12**Location:** Wyndham Rendezvous

104. 3:30 – 4:30

What's the Deal with the Science of Reading?

Andrew P. Johnson
Educator/Author
Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota



Science of Reading advocates seem to be putting out a great deal of misinformation about reading instruction. Literacy experts are being ignored in favor of radio journalists. For-profit entities are promoting ideas that serve only to enhance their profit at the expense of our students. This presentation will explain exactly what the science of reading is and isn't. It will provide a simple understanding of balanced literacy, the three cueing systems, evidence-based practices, eye movement during reading, word identification, word recognition, phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, direct instruction, and educational research.

Audience: All**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3

105. 3:30 – 4:30

Overcoming PD Obstacles: A Lesson Study Protocol

Jill Springer
CUSD #428, DeKalb
Tracy Beling
CUSD #428, DeKalb

In this session, teachers and administrators will be introduced to one district's protocol for embedding literacy PD into the school day. This powerful tool decreases the need for substitute teachers and allows educators to work within their own realities to address the unique needs of their community of practitioners and students. The protocol amplifies collaboration and communication among classroom teachers, specialists, and administrators and is supported by data.

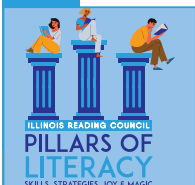
Audience: PreK-6, Univ, Admin**Location:** BOS Center B-3

106. 3:30 – 4:30

Go From Hand-Holding To Truly Independent Readers & Writers With These 12 Strategies

Berit Gordon
Heinemann, Maplewood, NJ

Readers and writers get better through practice. But simply giving them time and space isn't always enough. Here are 12 strategies and tips to boost students so they're working (happily) as hard as you are.

Audience: All**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-4*Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Heinemann*

107. 3:30 – 4:30**Read with Me: Multi-Day Read Aloud Using Culturally Relevant Texts**

Valencia Burney

Back 2 Basics Educational Consulting, Chicago

This presentation supports how students who are engaged in multi-day read aloud with culturally relevant texts will have a significant improvement in their reading engagement in the classroom. Young children who are exposed to and read daily books with more culturally relevant experiences in them are more likely to make significant personal connections to their own lives. They enjoy reading and are more likely to engage in independent reading activities in the classroom. Research tells us that children are more critical thinkers when they have the opportunity to read and discuss books that they can see themselves in.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-1**108. 3:30 – 4:30****Enhancing Social-Emotional Learning for English Language Learners through AI-Driven Professional Learning Resources**

Gargi Sethi

Educational Consultant, Bolingbrook

This presentation delves into the convergence of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), English Language Learning (ELL), and Artificial Intelligence (AI), elevating educators' capacities. It underscores the pivotal role of AI-infused professional learning resources in fortifying SEL provisions for ELLs. AI grants educators access to resources personalized to students' unique requirements, data-driven insights, and language support tools. This pioneering approach harmonizes seamlessly with the Illinois State Teaching Standards, particularly the Professional Learning Standard. It empowers educators with the expertise and resources required to craft an inclusive, emotionally nurturing learning milieu, thus nurturing the comprehensive growth and academic achievement of ELLs.

Audience: All, ELL**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-2**109. 3:30 – 4:30****Beyond the Wall**

Karyn Tomkinson

hand2mind, Vernon Hills

Have you implemented a sound wall and now wonder how to extend the lesson beyond the wall? In this session we will begin with constructing a sound on the sound wall and move to instruction involving a center approach with several other sound wall resources and toolkits.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-6*Sponsored by hand2mind***110. 3:30 – 4:30****Let Learning Grow with STEM, Books, and Agriculture**

Lee Deal

Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington

Stephanie Hospelhorn

Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington

Join the IAITC team as they share bushels of STEM activities that pair with their favorite new books. This interactive session will leave attendees with acres of book recommendations, lesson ideas, and bulletin board themes to engage students all year.

Audience: PreK-9**Strand:** STEAM**Location:** BOS Center B-7*Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom***111. 3:30 – 4:30****The Power of Play: Add Games to Your ELA Classroom**

Stefanie Crawford

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance, Peoria Heights

Bringing games into the ELA classroom allows for real interaction between students/teachers and with the course content/skill. But sometimes you just don't know where to start or what to do to adapt games for classroom usage. This session will primarily focus on taking board games and adapting them for classroom use by allowing participants to experience a few games, see the adaptations I've developed, and then use that experience to begin creating their own adaptations during the session, making it possible to begin playing with purpose as soon as the next day.

Audience: 4-12, Adults, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** BOS Center B-8*Sponsored by Illinois Digital Educators Alliance***112. 3:30 – 4:30****The Science of Reading is Nothing Without the Science of Writing**

Katie McKnight

Short, Short, Big, Antioch

Walk, then run. Before we can expect students to comprehend and compose complex, nuanced, multi-paragraph text, we need to ensure our kids can comprehend and compose cogent, crisp, short passages. Katie McKnight will explore the Triple C toolkit that helps students build reading comprehension, fluency, and academic vocabulary through writing instruction that has students making claims, citing evidence, and composing solid conclusions. Triple C is particularly effective with underperforming students. Raise skills, have fun, and make significant, lasting gains!

Audience: 4-12**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-9*Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Short, Short, Big*

113. 3:30 – 4:30**The Fifth Pillar: Nurturing Humanity Through Reading Across Content Areas**

Cindi Koudelka

Fieldcrest CUSD 6, Minonk

A fifth pillar of literacy is providing authentic and inclusive literature across all content areas to help students deepen their understanding of the content while shaping their identity and building empathy. Join the presenter in exploring research-based cross-curricular reading strategies and an inclusive book list to incorporate literature into any content area from preschool to college.

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-10**114. 3:30 – 4:30****Engage, Scaffold, Succeed: Strategies to Maximize Learning for All Students**

Stefane Beddard

ImpactEdu, Wilmington, NC

Discover innovative methods to boost student engagement with complex, interdisciplinary texts. This session offers strategies for integrating vocabulary, student discussions, and scaffolding methods to elevate critical thinking and reading skills in all content areas. Come join us to learn and discuss how we can provide opportunities for all students to engage in deeper, more meaningful learning experiences across diverse disciplines.

Audience: 4-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room**115. 3:30 – 4:30****Poetry Inside Out**

Brandon Barr

Twain Elementary, Chicago

Albert Burford

Twain Elementary, Chicago

Mark Hauber

Center for the Art of Translation, Program

Director of Poetry Inside Out, Chicago

Poetry Inside Out is a collaborative, cross-cultural language arts curriculum that celebrates classroom diversity, builds literacy skills, improves critical thinking, and unlocks creativity by teaching students to translate great poetry from around the world. Poetry Inside Out embraces – and relies upon – the cultural and linguistic diversity found in today's classrooms, schools, and communities. As a world literature program, it treats great poets as teachers and their work as models.

Audience: 4-9, ELL, Lib**Strand:** Writing**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1**116. 3:30 – 4:30****The Magic of Trees**

Kristin Lems

National Louis University, Chicago

From *The Magic Treehouse* series to *The Great Kapok Tree* and beyond, the human relationship with trees is deep and enduring. Planting trees and caring for them is one of the best responses to the global climate emergency, and children of all ages can take part in the activity. Many excellent books tell us stories about trees, and the process of photosynthesis is one of the key science concepts for elementary students. Besides sharing some noteworthy tree-centered books, the workshop will share ways trees can be included in the curriculum, and ways that students can take an active role in protecting and caring for trees on the school grounds and in the community.

Audience: All**Strand:** STEAM**Location:** PAL Freeport AB**117. 3:30 – 4:30****Reading Games and Movement**

Margaret Billhartz

Wesclin CUSD#3, New Baden

Emily Argo

Wesclin CUSD#3, New Baden

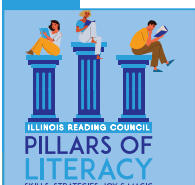
Reading Games and Movement: Tagging movement and reading together help our youngest students and those who have difficulty paying attention find reading fun. Utilizing all of our senses when reading will improve our memory and critical thinking skills. Learn how to focus the reader's attention to all parts of reading while moving, playing games, and having fun with an upbeat MINDSET. Come and join in the discussion!

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Title**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB**118. 3:30 – 4:30****ICLP for Literacy Leaders: What do I Need to be Doing Right Now?**

Carrie Brockway

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

Literacy leaders may be wondering what to do next now that the ICLP has become law. Literacy leaders are charged in the ICLP to ensure best instructional practices for students in classrooms and to offer professional development that supports teachers navigating these adjustments. As a literacy influencer in your school or district, come learn what the practices outlined in the ICLP may mean for instructional shifts as well as the next steps to supporting teachers to be the best they can be, ensuring that all teachers and staff have the necessary knowledge and learning to help students thrive!

Audience: All**Strand:** Administration**Location:** PAL Freeport C*Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois*

119. 3:30 – 4:30

Turning Teens into Readers: “CRISP” Strategies for Implementing Young Adult Literature Book Clubs in the Secondary Setting

Katie Hoving

Hampshire High School, Hampshire

Niki Woodruff

Alice Gustafson School, Batavia

Are teens apathetic toward the texts you teach? Try book clubs! Discover the benefits of Choice, Relevance, Interest, Success, and Peer Interaction (CRISP) in an interactive session about how to incorporate YAL book clubs in your own classrooms and schools.

Audience: 4-9, Univ**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Altgeld

120. 3:30 – 4:30

CANCELED**What’s the Word?**

Rhonda Russell Henderson

Powerful Foundations, Crete

Are you looking for new ways to have students interact with words? In this presentation, teachers will gain an understanding of interactive strategies to improve students’ vocabulary skills. With these strategies, students will have a chance to play hands-on games that will give them a chance to touch, say, and feel the words. Researchers have proven that students need 17 timed interactions before that word can be memorized. This presentation will allow teachers to bring back the excitement into their vocabulary block of instruction, to provide students with rich experiences.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Bond

121. 3:30 – 4:30

The Writing Rainbow – Color Coding for Comprehension and Clarity

Sarah Giffin

Marquette Academy High School, Ottawa

Cassandra Rosencrans

Shepherd Junior High School, Ottawa

A writing model will be presented that promotes scaffolding and aligns to common-core and college-readiness standards. This model appeals to multiple learning styles and teachers of all content areas. The session will include step-by-step instruction for brainstorming, outlining, writing, and revising student compositions with emphasis on student ownership of the evaluation process. This model allows instructors to identify, model, and assess essay components with greater ease and clarity.

Audience: 6-12, Adults**Strand:** Writing**Location:** PAL Yates

Let the IRC Professional Learning & Development Team be your PD Partner!

The Illinois Reading Council is a premier professional reading organization that offers a Professional Learning Cadre of educators available for on-site and technical assistance with tools and resources to match your school professional learning needs.

IRC PL&D utilizes the educational professionalism, understanding the adult learner, and blends that with research-based teaching and student learning strategies. The professional learning and development service providers are informed by years of experience and subject matter expertise.

IRC PL&D offers custom programs, exceptional engaging speakers, timely topics, and informative programs to assist you and your school and district faculty in reaching all your educational goals.

Sessions communicate a range of topics including but not limited to:

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Vocabulary Development
- Questioning Techniques
- Process and On Demand Writing
- Literacy Curriculum Support
- Technology and Digital Learning
- Literacy Intervention
- Gifted and Accelerated Literacy Learners

For information about bringing high-quality professional development to your district, school, or community at a very reasonable cost, visit IRC’s website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org. You can also contact us by phone at 309-454-1341 or by email at pd@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.



FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN

The **Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children** honors an Illinois author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and embraces an important part of the Illinois Reading Council Mission – to promote lifelong literacy.

Congratulations!

SARAH ARONSON



Sarah Aronson began writing for kids and teens when someone in an exercise class dared her to try. Since then, she has earned an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts, and published the following books for kids and

teens: *Head Case*, *Beyond Lucky*, *Believe*, *The Wish List* as well as *Just Like Rube Goldberg*, illustrated by Robert Neubecker, and *Brand New Bubbe*, illustrated by Ariel Landy. Watch for a biography of *Bella Abzug*, *Call Abzuglutely!* (Calkins Creek, Astra Publishing). When Sarah is not writing or reading (or making group soup or riding her bike), she is talking to readers about creativity, writing, social action, and of course, sparkle power! She loves working with other writers in one of her classes at the amazing Highlights Foundation, SCBWI, or Writers on the Net. You can reach her at sarah@saraharonson.com. She lives in Chicago, Illinois. At the conference, IRC is thrilled to award Sarah as the 2024 recipient of the Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children.

5:00 – 10:30 PM

122. 5:00 – 6:00

CIRP Reception

Shadrack Msengi, CIRP President

Audience: CIRP Members

Location: PAL Lincoln Room

Thursday Banquet

123. 6:15 – 8:15

The Stories Left Behind

Lesa Cline-Ransome

Author

Rhinebeck, New York



From blacks traveling along the Oregon Trail to the Port Chicago Disaster to the Great Migration, many of this country's most defining historical moments have been left behind. Lesa Cline-Ransome will discuss how writing through a historic lens explores opportunities for hope and healing and how the truth and fullness of our collective past can intersect with the ways in which we navigate our present and future through story for young readers.

Audience: Ticket Required

Location: PAL Ballroom

Prairie State Award for Excellence in
Children's Writing
will be presented to

Sarah Aronson

Award will be presented by Cindy Wilson, Chair

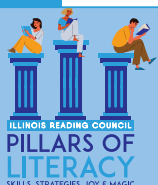
124. 8:30 – 10:30 PM

Hear the Authors Read

Audience: All

Location: Wyndham Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by **ABANDERSON'S**
BOOKSHOPS



DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE

Hear the Authors Read

and Late-Night Autograph Session

Thursday, March 14, 2024

8:30 – 10:30 PM

Wyndham Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by Anderson's Bookshops and Visit Springfield!

**Sarah
Aronson**



**Kimberly
Brubaker Bradley**



**Lesa
Cline-Ransome**



**A.S.
King**



**Pam
Muñoz Ryan**



**John
Schu**



**Nic
Stone**



**Clare
Vanderpool**



IRC Awards & Grants

Are you interested in learning how to nominate individuals from your area for IRC awards or how to benefit from grant money that is available each year for various educational activities? To find out more about these IRC Awards and Grants, please visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

Barack Obama Library Award. This award is a classroom library, valued at over \$1000, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the IRC from (then) Senator Obama. This collection is comprised of carefully selected literature that is “culturally relevant” for African-American readers and targets students in the middle-school (5th-8th) grade range. The award will go to a teacher in a predetermined IRC Region. Each year, the region will be announced on the IRC Website. Nominations are due by November 1st.

Family Literacy Award. This award recognizes an IRC member who promotes and supports parent involvement in children’s reading. Proposals should be postmarked by November 1st.

Gene Cramer ICARE for Reading Award. The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education recognizes an educator who has performed in an outstanding manner to show concern for the affective domain and who has performed lifelong reading habits among students. The Nomination Form is due by November 1st.

Hall of Fame Award. The IRC has designed the Hall of Fame to recognize significant contributions to reading or reading education. The award will be given at the annual conference. The immediate Past President shall receive the nomination forms and final determination will be made by the Executive Committee no later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Deadline: All Nomination Forms must be received by November 1st.

International Grant. The International Committee of the Illinois Reading Council has created a grant to promote literacy projects internationally. The maximum amount per grant is \$1,000. The application deadline is May 1st.

IRC Service Award. The IRC will present the IRC Service Award (formerly known as the Certificate of Recognition) at the annual statewide conference. Certificates are awarded to the most deserving individuals who meet the criteria listed. Deadline: All Nomination Forms must be received by November 1st.

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award. This award recognizes outstanding teachers who make contributions in promoting literacy among students, colleagues, and school communities. Application Form, letters of recommendation, and your philosophy statement are due by November 1st.

Literacy Support Grant. The Illinois Reading Council will award financial grants to local and special interest councils and individual council members for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the school and community, and/or providing professional development opportunities related to the improvement of reading and writing instruction. Application deadline will be May 1st.

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children. This award recognizes an Illinois Children's Young Adult Author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and embraces an important part of the mission of the Illinois Reading Council—to promote lifelong literacy. All Nomination Packets must be postmarked by June 15th.

Static Stick Decal Design Contest. Students in grades 4, 5, or 6 are encouraged to create an original design promoting reading. The winning design is printed on static stick decals. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 15th.

IRC will be offering the Webinar Series for members only in 2023-2024. All webinars will begin at 7:00 p.m. Members who watch the live or recorded webinars can earn professional development clock hours. Mark your calendars and register to take part in this convenient, free IRC membership benefit. Members will receive monthly emails with links to register. Nonmembers can join online and email for the registration link.

September 6, 2023 ~ Zetta Elliott

Poems Can Heal the Heart: Empower Poets in the Classroom



This interactive webinar will introduce participants to the award-winning poetry of Zetta Elliott. After sharing some of her techniques and mentor poets (Gwendolyn Brooks, Danez Smith), Elliott will lead a writing activity that will inspire and empower young poets in the classroom.



February 7, 2024 ~ Becky Anderson

Discovering the 2024 Illinois Reads Books



Join Becky Anderson as she presents the Illinois Reads books for 2024. Learn more about the Illinois Reads statewide literacy initiative that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens. Six books in six age bands from Birth to Adult will be shared. A variety of book topics and themes are chosen for each age band, highlighting the work of Illinois Authors.

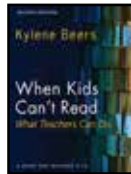


October 4, 2023 ~ Kylee Beers

When Kids Can't Read: Strategies that Build Success



Join Kylee as she shares strategies that help all readers – but especially struggling readers – improve comprehension, vocabulary, and engagement. She will focus on strategies and scaffolds that can be used with fiction or nonfiction. This is most appropriate for teachers, coaches, and administrators who work with students in grades 4-12 though primary grade teachers can use the strategies with a few adjustments.

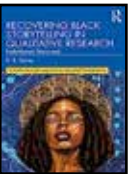


March 6, 2024 ~ Stephanie R. Toliver

How Science Fiction Writing Helps Adolescents Think Through Social Justice Issues



Stephanie Toliver will broadly define science fiction and discuss how she has used the genre to help adolescents think through social justice issues that are important to them. Toliver will walk participants through a science fiction thought experiment, the same activity she used to help young people write their own science fiction stories. She will also share excerpts from student stories to showcase the various issues and solutions young people brought forth in their narratives. Science fiction makes



space for young people to challenge what is and imagine what can be, and this webinar will show just how valuable the genre can be for adolescents growing up in today's world.

November 1, 2023 ~ Julia E. Torres

Liven Up Your Library: Inclusive and Engaging Programs for Teens and Tweens



Julia will discuss book banning, how and why it happens, as well as what you can do about it, ways to collaborate with literacy education practitioners, and how to create or strengthen a culture of reading in your environment. Julia has experience and education in creating educational and library environments that empower individuals and support literacy development. Julia also believes in what Brazilian educator Paulo Freire calls "education as a practice of liberation" and will be discussing the role that healthy knowledge institutions can play in transforming individuals and society.



April 3, 2024 ~ Maria Walther and Katie Walther

Reach For The Books: Reenergize Reading Routines



Looking for practical ideas to refresh your students' reading routines while staying rooted in evidence-based practices? In this session, you'll learn innovative ideas to elevate read-aloud experiences, small group work, independent reading, and more.



December 6, 2023 ~ Debbie Reese

Updating Representations of Native Americans in Your Classroom Library



Today, more than ever before, teachers can choose books by Native writers to teach students about the first peoples of this land. Debbie will highlight several books, providing information about why they are exemplary texts and how they can be used in the classroom. Including Native-authored books in the classroom, however, is not enough. Books that won prestigious children's literature awards often contain stereotypes, bias, and factual errors about Native peoples that can



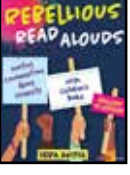
interfere with a reader's ability to comprehend the information in Native-authored books.

May 1, 2024 ~ Vera Ahiiya

Rebellious Read Alouds



Students need to see themselves and their peers in the books they read, and to engage with varying viewpoints. How can educators create a safe and nurturing space that inspires young children to explore diversity and ask curious questions? Spark meaningful conversations about race, identity, and social justice in your classroom using read alouds as an entry point.

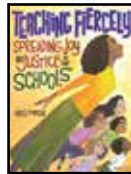


January 3, 2024 ~ Kass Minor

Collaborate, Build, Nurture, Reflect: Roadmaps for Learning that Sticks



As educators in schools, we have been disconnected from our personal selves, from the archives of our heart that brought us to the classroom in the first place. The past few years have been tough, and reflection is often undervalued in the field of professional learning in schools, often seen as a time wasting sentiment when more "productive" experiences could occur. In order to sustain ourselves and our profession, different routes to teacher agency, engagement, and learning opportunities are required. To



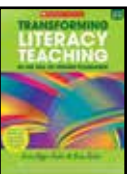
create sustainable learning, learning that sticks, that shifts, changes people and their praxis, it is absolutely vital to make space and time for reflective opportunities. In this session, Kass will work in community with educators through a series of reflective practices to create sustainable learning, learning that sticks, that shifts, that changes people and their praxis.

June 5, 2024 ~ Karen Biggs-Tucker and Brian Tucker

Swing into Summer with the Tuckers: A Few Strategies to Begin Curating Your Classroom Library to Prepare for Readers, Writers, and Researchers



Don't miss this informative evening with Karen and Brian! Join two veteran teachers as they share their classroom-tested strategies choosing texts that will not only grow the minds of your literacy learners, but will build your classroom library with diverse, engaging books. Then, peek into their classrooms to see how they use these texts in authentic, engaging ways when you return to your classrooms in August!



Friday, March 15, 2024

Registration - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Friday Breakfast - PAL Hotel Ballroom - *John Schu* 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM



Exhibits - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Hall of Councils - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Coffee Break in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 8:30 AM – 9:30 a.m.

- Sponsored by SAVVAS
LEARNING COMPANY

Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 9:00 AM – 10:00 a.m.

Friday Luncheon - Wyndham Hotel Ballroom - *Illinois Reads Authors* 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM



Friday Luncheon - PAL Hotel Ballroom - *Timothy Rasinski* 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM



Friday Lunch Sessions - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops 2:15 PM – 4:30 p.m.

Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

IRC Annual Membership Meeting - PAL Hotel Lincoln Room 4:45 PM – 5:15 PM

Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party - PAL Hotel Ballroom 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Conference Sessions

Friday, March 15, 2024

7:00 – 8:30 AM

Friday Breakfast

125. 7:00 – 8:30

The Gift of Story: Exploring the Affective Side of the Reading Life

John Schu
Educator/Author
Chicago, Illinois



When we share our hearts through story, we inspire others to think more deeply about their own hearts and how stories connect us all. In this presentation of the heart, teacher, librarian, book lover, and story ambassador John Schu invites readers to consider literacy beyond its academic benefits, highlighting the ways story speaks to our hearts and brings us together. Presented through a study of five affective elements of story --- healer, inspiration, clarifier, compassion, and connector --- participants will explore how the universal truths found in stories can change us, inspire us, connect us to others, answer our deepest questions, and help us heal.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: PAL Ballroom

IRC Service Award
will be presented to

Kevin Daugherty
Bonnie Matheis

Award will be presented by
Leslie Forsman, IRC Past President

QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME

Complete your **GAME SHEET** for a
chance to win a **FREE REGISTRATION**
to the 2025 IRC Conference!

8:30 – 9:30 AM

126. 8:30 – 9:30

Lessons from Sold a Story

Emily Hanford
Senior Education Correspondent
for APM Reports
Washington, D.C.



Reporter Emily Hanford will talk about her hit podcast Sold a Story. She'll explain why this story needed to be told, take you behind the scenes on the making of the podcast, and share what she's been hearing in response from teachers, parents and kids. She'll also highlight some of the actions taken by states and school districts in recent months and provide a journalist's perspective on what's next for the science of reading.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11A

127. 8:30 – 9:30

Introducing The Night War

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Author
Bristol, Tennessee

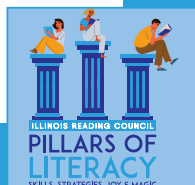


Kim's new World War II book, The Night War, will release on April 6, 2024. Very different from her Ada books, it features a Jewish refugee outwitting Nazi soldiers in a centuries-old castle in France. Come get a glimpse of this exciting new story.

Audience: PreK-6
Location: BOS Center B-11BC

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COFFEE BREAK

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

8:30 to
9:30 AM

Sponsored by

in the Exhibit Hall
Refreshment Area



FRIDAY

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

FRIDAY,
MARCH 15, 2024

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*Refreshments will be served
from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and
3:00 – 4:00 PM
in the Exhibit Hall*

8:30 – 9:30 AM

128. 8:30 – 9:30

Effective and Artful Teaching of Reading Fluency – The Neglected Component of the Reading Curriculum

Timothy Rasinski
Educator/Author
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio



Fluency in reading has been found to be a critical element of any successful reading program (National Reading Panel). Despite its importance many students fail to achieve sufficiently in this area and many teachers do not feel completely competent in their knowledge and teaching of this reading component. In this workshop, Tim Rasinski will provide theoretical and research background and definition to fluency. He will share approaches to assessing and monitoring progress in this key aspects of reading. Finally, he will share effective and engaging strategies for teaching this all-important reading component that will move students toward better comprehension and greater proficiency in reading.

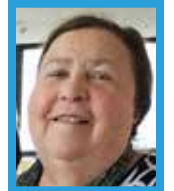
Audience: PreK-9

Location: BOS Center B-11D

129. 8:30 – 9:30

Everyone's a Teacher in a Writing Community

Lynne R. Dorfman
Educator/Author
Dresher, Pennsylvania



Together with participants, the facilitator will explore peer, small group, and whole group conferences with anchor charts and video clips that will give participants a close-up of writing workshop in action, K-6. Techniques for management, record keeping, and conference routines will be discussed, and examples will be provided. The importance of a student-centered classroom where students' roles in conferences, as both teachers and learners, will be examined. Throughout the presentation, teacher reflection will be highlighted, and templates to aid teachers in reflection processes will be demonstrated.

Audience: PreK-12

Location: Wyndham Rendezvous



DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE

130. 8:30 – 9:30
Everything You Know Is Wrong: SOR Edition

Paul L. Thomas
 Educator/Author
 Furman University
 Greenville, South Carolina



The “science of reading” movement has perpetuated several compelling and highly influential stories about reading; however, much of those claims are misleading or even completely false. This session will examine some of those stories and claims in the context of the full body of evidence. Topics include NAEP reading data, grade retention, the Mississippi “miracle,” phonics research, dyslexia, teacher education (NCTQ), multiple cueing, and reading programs and theories (balanced literacy).

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

133. 8:30 – 9:30
Literacy Workshop: Creating a Foundation for Readers and Writers to Build Upon

Karen Biggs-Tucker
 Wild Rose Elementary School, St. Charles

In this session, we demonstrate that when students have opportunities to participate in an integrated literacy workshop they take an active role in developing the competencies of literate citizenship where students are empowered to be their best and build upon the literacy found in each of them. The literacy workshop approach offers teachers more time to study their students and then support them as they engage in authentic literacy experiences and learner-driven inquiries. We provide details for teachers about time-efficient ways to integrate learning so they can guide students to uncover the connections among the language arts. Eventually, this understanding of the power of literacy will flow into students’ everyday literacy habits preparing them to name and confront the inequities they encounter outside the classroom.

Audience: 4-6
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-2

134. 8:30 – 9:30
Rebellious Reading in Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Classrooms in the Era of Banned Books

CANCELED

Suzanne Creer
 Churchville Middle School, Elmhurst
 Daisy Ayala
 Churchville Middle School, Elmhurst
 Elvira Pichardo
 Lewis University, Romeoville

As the number of book bannings increases, we, as educators of culturally and linguistically diverse students, must answer the call to read rebelliously. How can we continue to ensure that our emergent bilingual students are represented, validated, and affirmed through diverse mentor texts that center languaging? Using a case study of a suburban middle school, our presentation will explore how educators and students disrupt linguistic and cultural hierarchies by addressing our positionality as bilingual educators and strategically using culturally and linguistically responsive texts in mainstream and bilingual classrooms. We will be providing resources and examples that educators can implement into their own practices to help support and encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion in all classrooms.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec
Strand: English Language Learners
Location: BOS Center B-8

131. 8:30 – 9:30
Coaching 101: Creating Systems to Support Your Staff

Julie Fleisch
 SD 90, River Forest

Academic Coaching is only as effective as your system! One of the critical details to get started is clear and straightforward communication with your team of teachers. Come learn about a system that works with takeaways like an engaging Coaching Menu, effective scheduling tools, and more.

Audience: 4-9
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center B-1

132. 8:30 – 9:30
12 Tips for Getting to a Well-Managed Literacy Classroom – While Avoiding Management

Berit Gordon
 Heinemann, Maplewood, NJ

Say goodbye to energy-sapping behavior issues and management tools that don’t work. Here are 12 strategies and tips to boost routines, build relationships, and create a culture where students thrive. You’ll free up your energy for teaching, not correcting misbehaviors.

Audience: All
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center B-4

Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Heinemann



135. 8:30 – 9:30**Empathy, Equity, and Digital Literacy: The Pillars of a Progressive Society**

Cindi Koudelka

Fieldcrest CUSD 6, Minonk

In a world of sound bytes, memes, and instant information, how do we help students ethically navigate it all with empathy to connect, rather than divide, our society? The session will focus on moving beyond individual skills or tools to understanding how to engage in responsive digital instruction that grows with technology advancements and disrupts equity gaps. The presenter will share strategies and resources to support a digital literacy framework for any content area that facilitates authentic learning opportunities for students to produce, communicate, interpret, and socialize fluidly between the digital and print worlds.

Audience: 4-12**Strand:** Technology**Location:** BOS Center B-10**136. 8:30 – 9:30****Science of Reading and the Impact on Special Education**

Charlene Heggemeier

MCCSD #160, Millstadt

Christine Mitchell-Endsley

Belleville Area Special Services Cooperative

How does science of reading affect special education students and regular education students? Do all students benefit from science of reading? Join us to learn how science of reading can help your regular education and special education students along with great strategies to use in your classroom.

Audience: PreK-3, Spec**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-9**137. 8:30 – 9:30****The Ethical Use of Technology in the Literacy Classroom**

Ben Kuhlman

CCSD #21, Wheeling

Teachers don't talk about technology as much as they used to - because technology has become the air we breathe. But is this really what's best for kids? There are many great resources available to teachers, but there are real costs to teaching entirely through screens. This session will review current research on the affordances of paper versus screen, and will discuss ways that teachers might productively and strategically use old-fashioned tools and processes instead of apps and screens.

Audience: 4-12, ELL**Strand:** Technology**Location:** BOS Center B-7**138. 8:30 – 9:30****GRRing Our Way Through Middle School ELA**

Marissa Stratton

CUSD #14, Riverton

Jill Mutzbauer

CUSD #14, Riverton

Join us for this session to see how we have implemented the best practice of Gradual Release of Responsibility in our classrooms. This change has led to less homework (and less grading), but also higher levels of student mastery. In addition, we will share some of our favorite online resources, and discuss ways we have found to easily differentiate (higher or lower) while teaching all students from the same novel/texts.

Audience: 4-9, Spec**Location:** BOS Center B-6**139. 8:30 – 9:30****Unleashing the Potential of Purposeful Annotation Throughout The Reading Routine**

JodiLyn Simmons-Machota

SD #86, Joliet

Cheryl Lasson

SD #86, Joliet

Robert Culp

SD #86, Joliet

This session is designed to emphasize the critical importance of understanding the reading routine, how DOK levels progress throughout the reading outline, and how purposeful annotation, specifically the TQE (Thoughts, Questions, Epiphanies) strategy, will support critical thinking in the students' daily reading, writing, and talking routines. You will also leave with practical strategies for incorporating TQE into your routine, empowering your students to excel in critically examining the text, writing about the text, and talking about the text all while becoming well-rounded learners.

Audience: 4-12, ELL, Spec**Location:** BOS Center B-3**140. 8:30 – 9:30****Fluency Doesn't Mean Fast**

Kimberlee Wagner

Regional Office of Education 4, Rockford

Explore the crucial role of fluency as the bridge between decoding and comprehension, while recognizing that fluency is not solely about speed but encompasses a blend of accuracy and expressive reading. Participants will dig into the components of fluency – accuracy, rate, and prosody – through hands-on activities and modeling to grasp how they collectively serve as the linchpin connecting the foundational skill of decoding to the higher-level cognitive process of comprehension.

Audience: PreK-6**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room*Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois*

141. 8:30 – 9:30

Write Yourself Into Existence: The Power Behind Memoir Writing

Kimberly Millard

Hampshire High School, Hampshire

Katie Hoving

Hampshire High School, Hampshire

Do you feel like fun has been removed from writing instruction? Are students groaning when informed they will be completing a writing assignment? Writing memoirs brings excitement back and allows students to explore their identities while improving writing abilities.

Audience: 6-12, Spec**Strand:** Writing**Location:** PAL Altgeld

142. 8:30 – 9:30

Leveraging Language and Culture to Best Serve All Students

Dana Hagerman

National Louis University, Lisle

Our brains use cultural information to turn every day happenings into meaningful events and we are constantly trying to make sense of the world around us. In this session, participants will examine ways in which both culturally and linguistically responsive instruction can best serve minoritized students. We will consider the language variations of African American students and how teacher ideologies about language might either support or hinder the academic trajectory of these students. Participants will then explore impactful research from the Science of Learning & Development Alliance to leverage culturally and linguistically responsive instruction within classroom and/or intervention settings.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** PAL Bond

143. 8:30 – 9:30

25 Book Talks that Rock: Culturally Responsive and Relevant Books to Change the World

Margaret Policastro

Roosevelt University, Chicago

Heather Cook

Roosevelt University, Chicago

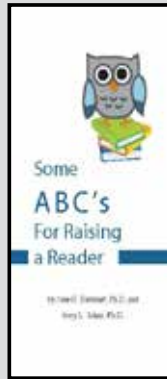
Noreen Wach

Roosevelt University, Chicago

This session will highlight the most recent culturally relevant and responsive children's and adolescent literature. Participants will be engaged in why book talks matter, how to do them and featuring books that prepare students to become activists for change in their community. This will be an interactive session with audience participation and resources to bring back to the classroom and use.

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** PAL Freeport AB**IRC Publications**

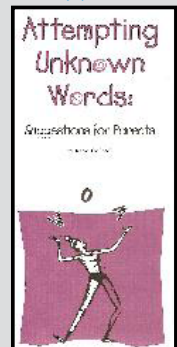
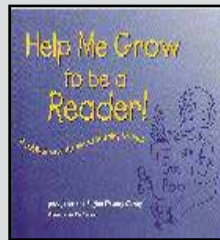
The Illinois Reading Council offers many resources to their members. Take advantage of these great materials to share with organizations, parents, or teachers! The items listed below can be ordered from the IRC Office by phone at 309-454-1341. Prices and order forms are available on the IRC website.

Some ABC's for Raising a Reader

Parents are their child's first teachers, and it's never too soon to introduce your child to books. By reading aloud to your child, you provide the sounds of written language, demonstrate book handling skills, develop your child's expectation that the print and pictures carry a message and build positive attitudes toward reading. Use this ABC listing of ways that you can encourage a love of reading and make reading fun for your child.

Attempting Unknown Suggestions for Parents

As the parent of a young child, you are a very important person for your child's reading and language development. You are your child's first teacher! This tri-fold brochure will provide strategies to aid your child as s/he attempts unknown words.

Words:**Help Me Grow To Be A Reader**

This little 16-page booklet helps parents understand how children grow to be readers, as told from the child's point of view. Strategies for helping young readers develop their reading skills are outlined in a fun format.

144. 8:30 – 9:30

What's Culturally Relevant About The Illinois Literacy Plan?

Sophie Degener

National Louis University, Chicago

Hannah Graham

National Louis University, Chicago

The presenters will introduce a framework for culturally relevant literacy pedagogy based on ISBE's Culturally Relevant Teaching and Leading Standards. Using this framework, we will examine the Illinois Literacy Plan to assess the degree to which the plan reflects culturally relevant practices and to consider how we might utilize the instructional practices within the plan in culturally relevant ways. Presenters will demonstrate how they use their framework and will provide examples of ways to reflect the CRTL standards in literacy instruction. Audience members will consider how to modify their instruction to reflect effective literacy instruction through a culturally relevant lens.

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB

145. 8:30 – 9:30

Fueling Engagement in Interventions: Practical Solutions for Primary-Aged Readers

Loren Myers

Kildeer Countryside SD #96, Long Grove

This program will be all about engaging primary-aged readers during reading intervention. First, the research behind engagement and “gamifying” learning will be presented to show how important it is that students are interested in what they are learning and having fun. Next, different types of games, manipulatives, and collaborative activities will be presented that align to the types of activities done in small group/1:1 reading intervention including phonemic awareness, decoding/encoding, and reading books. Last, a sample intervention scenario will be shared that includes some of the activities presented based on sample data.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Freeport C

146. 8:30 – 9:30

Handwriting Without Tears in the Second Grade, An Intervention Using Small and Gross Motor Activities

Eileen Richardson

Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma

Holly Rice

Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma

Kayla Smalley

Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma

Lakyn Hawkins

Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma

Gracie Reid

Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma

A study looked at how motor activities affect 2nd graders' handwriting, during a four-week intervention with small groups to improve hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Pre- and post-assessments showed improvement.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec**Location:** PAL Yates

147. 8:30 – 9:30

I (Used) to Hate Reading: Successful Strategies for Engaging Your Most Reluctant Readers

Yvonne Schmid

Grayslake Middle School, Grayslake

Jennifer Everett

Grayslake Middle School, Grayslake

Two middle school reading specialists share their ideas, activities, and resources from their reading class, RISE (Reading is Everywhere). Our class goal is not only for students to increase their reading proficiency and success, but also to foster their enjoyment of reading, ultimately enabling students to be more confident in their reading abilities and foster their appreciation for reading.

Audience: 4-9, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1

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for FREE Illinois
Reads Bookmarks!**

9:45 – 10:45 AM

148. 9:45 – 10:45

Turn Left at the Comma

Lesa Cline-Ransome
Author
Rhinebeck, New York



Sometimes stories find us. Sometimes we find our way to stories. Both paths require the work of listening, seeing, remembering and imagining. Discover tools writers use to generate story ideas from research, childhood and real world encounters that help to develop authentic characters and compelling narratives.

Audience: All

Location: BOS Center B-11A

149. 9:45 – 10:45

Historical Fiction in the Classroom

Pam Muñoz Ryan
Author
Encinitas, California



Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Author
Bristol, Tennessee



Kimberly Brubaker Bradley and Pam Muñoz Ryan talk Historical Fiction in the Classroom. Newbery Honorees discuss *The War That Saved My Life*, and *Echo*, titles which are set during world wars, and address their approach to difficult topics for young readers, research and the writing of these notable books.

Audience: All

Location: BOS Center B-11BC

150. 9:45 – 10:45

Phonics and Vocabulary Instruction: Artful Word Study that Works

Timothy Rasinski
Educator/Author
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio



Proficiency with words is critical to reading success at every grade level. Students who struggle in reading and other content areas do so because of difficulty in word decoding and understanding the meaning of key vocabulary. Tim Rasinski will present effective and engaging methods for helping students learn to decode, spell, and understand the meaning to words, and also to take delight in words. Do you believe people have the ability to see patterns in their environments? Do you like word games? Is vocabulary learning all Greek to you? Then this session is for you!

Audience: PreK-9

Location: BOS Center B-11D

151. 9:45 – 10:45

Awakening Our Dormant Writers: Finding Engaging Topics to Write About

Lynne R. Dorfman
Educator/Author
Dresher, Pennsylvania



How can you help students find engaging topics to write about when they are stuck? Join Lynne to discover creative idea-generating strategies, including heart maps, memory chains, hand and neighborhood maps, author's notes, and list making. In addition, explore ways to find out who your writers are at the beginning of the year and to discover a student's writing identity during independent writing time. Lynne shares teacher models, student samples, and ready-to-launch practices that can help all students become successful and confident writers. Leave with tips and step-by-step procedures for introducing Lynne's strategies in your own classroom.

Audience: PreK-6

Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

152. 9:45 – 10:45**Reclaiming Teacher Authority and Autonomy in the SOR Era: When Structured Literacy Becomes a Script**

Paul L. Thomas
Educator/Author
Furman University
Greenville, South Carolina



Increasingly since 2013, states have adopted reading legislation identified as the “science of reading.” Since curriculum and instruction should be driven by classroom teachers, not media narratives, parental advocacy, or political mandate, this session examines key reading topics framed with current research to support teacher authority and autonomy.

Audience: All**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3**153. 9:45 – 10:45****Let’s Battle! Using Rebecca Caudill Nominated Books to Enhance Your Literacy Program**

Christine Lewis
CESD #317, Carthage
Jenny White
CESD #317, Carthage
Sarah Roberts
CESD #317, Carthage

How can you use Rebecca Caudill books effectively in your classrooms to enhance your middle school literacy program? Our presentation shares a variety of ways that we utilize Rebecca Caudill books inside and outside of our classrooms. We use book clubs, contests, and competitions to create a culture of literacy. All activities lead up to the main event: “The Battle of the Books” which is a huge event each year in our school. Join us to learn all about it and much more!

Audience: 4-9, Spec, Lib**Strand:** Librarians**Location:** BOS Center B-4

**Register today for
the Spring 2024
IRC Book Club**

**154. 9:45 – 10:45****Ditch the Worksheet**

Patricia Tammen
I-KAN Regional Office of Education, Kankakee
Elaina O’Hara
Iroquois West Upper Elementary School,
Thawville

Oftentimes we can fall into habits of assigning and grading written work despite the overwhelming reality that it is not creating the kind of growth or learning we are hoping for. What if we could take our well loved and well intentioned worksheets, quizzes, and pen and paper activities and transform them with instructional strategies that allow for a more engaging classroom that factors feedback and assessment into the class period. Gone are the days of written feedback being handed back to a student 3 days after the assignment. Join us in ditching the worksheet and providing your students with immediate and meaningful feedback!

Audience: 4-9**Location:** BOS Center B-1**155. 9:45 – 10:45****Shared Reading in Action! Featuring Foundational Skills**

Maria Walther
Maria P. Walther LLC, Aurora

Need a quick, effective way to enhance your students’ foundational skills? Learn how short bursts of shared reading enrich systematic word study instruction by boosting phonological awareness, strengthening letter-sound knowledge, and expanding vocabulary. Leave with a list of books and actionable ideas.

Audience: PreK-3**Location:** BOS Center B-2**156. 9:45 – 10:45****Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Queer Representation Matters**

Cindi Koudelka
Fieldcrest CUSD 6, Minonk
Melissa Wheeler
Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon
Julie Hoffman

Springfield Public Schools, Springfield

Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Queer Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black or queer-owned independent bookstores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-10

157. 9:45 – 10:45

The Gems of Multicultural Children's Literature 2.0

Amy Davis

Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Multicultural children's literature offers a variety of cultural gems that may be implicitly or explicitly stated in both text and illustrations. This presentation will highlight these gems to share with students while reading aloud to students.

Audience: K-6, ELL**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-6

158. 9:45 – 10:45

Grow a Garden of Great Readers: Innovative Ways to Connect School Garden Efforts to Great Literature

Chris Wyant

Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington

Lee Deal

Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington

Engage students with innovative and easy-to-integrate school garden activities that pair well with exciting new books about food, farming, gardening, and growing. Participants in this hands-on presentation will leave with a harvest of new lesson ideas and book recommendations.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-7*Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom*

159. 9:45 – 10:45

Cultivating a Reading Environment Filled with Love and Joy

Emily Gasca

Chicago Public Schools, Chicago

A presentation on how teachers can create an environment to prepare students to grow as readers. The presentation is aligned with the Danielson Framework and can be implemented immediately. It will bring awareness to our environment by breaking through old mindsets. There's a direct correlation between learning and the impact of our social-emotional well-being. I will walk teachers through a framework that will help cultivate an environment of joy and love for reading!

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-8

160. 9:45 – 10:45

The Student Knows: How to Bridge the Familiar with the Unfamiliar to Build Exploration

Alice McGinty

Author, SCBWI-Illinois

When Alice McGinty and Alan Havis wrote *The Sea Knows* (Simon and Schuster), they wrote from the perspective of what the child already knows. Learn how to use foundational concepts in picture books to start students from a secure place, growing from there, to lead to the confident acquisition of knowledge across disciplines and topics.

Audience: PreK-3, Lib**Location:** BOS Center B-9*Sponsored by SCBWI Illinois*

161. 9:45 – 10:45

Vocabulicious Ways to Differentiate Literacy Instruction Through Games

Carrie Brockway

Regional Office of Education #4

Science of Reading reminds us that we already know a lot about how brains learn, and brains learn best through PLAY! Come prepared to play literacy games that incorporate the use of hands-on materials: Literacy dice, letters of all shapes and sizes, and word decks will help you teach and support learning in the novel ways young brains learn best. We will explore grammar, vocabulary, rhymes and RIMES, spelling simple CVC words, and work with vowels and blends. These activities will fit into centers or whole group instruction, and can even be adapted for intervention, assessment, and progress monitoring.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room*Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois*

162. 9:45 – 10:45

The Science of Reading Made Easy

Diana Brannon

Elmhurst University, Elmhurst

The Science of Reading is based on a vast collection of research collected over the last five decades. Key concepts of the Science of Reading and structured literacy will be discussed. More importantly, you will learn about extensive free resources available online to help support your teaching. Information about instructional strategies, DIY manipulatives, free decodable, sound wall, lesson planning, vocabulary, and interactive read aloud resources will be shared. We will also discuss how to incorporate writing and integrate science and social studies in your lessons through interactive read alouds. Walk away with ideas, resources, and lessons you can use today!

Audience: PreK-3, ELL**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB

163. 9:45 – 10:45

Reclaiming Our Expertise: The Role of Literacy Leaders to Cultivate Student Learning

Michael Manderino

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Corrine Wickens

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

This presentation is focused on the critical role of literacy leaders in reclaiming expertise around literacy instruction. Literacy education is poised to be at the forefront of supporting students in culturally responsive ways that honor and accentuate the literacies of young people. There are a number of strong literacy practices that we have known to support literacy development. Approaches that center students include using cultural responsive literacy instruction to reengage students with text, supporting strategic and independent approaches to literacy, increasing opportunities to write and create traditionally and digitally, using teacher expertise in formative and diagnostic assessments. Examples of each will be shared.

Audience: All**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** PAL Altgeld

164. 9:45 – 10:45

Yes, Skilled Reading Matters! And, Relationships With Reading Matters Too! Exploring Love-Hate Relationships With Reading and Writing

Mary E. Lyons

Knox College, Galesburg

Our relationships with reading and writing are complex! Come learn about how to bring knowledge of this complexity into your teaching. Participants will reflect on their journeys of learning to read and their relationships with reading and writing over time – to then consider their students' relationships with reading and writing. For teachers who have had long-lasting healthy relationships with reading and writing, it can be a challenge to understand why many students do not. Participants will brainstorm ideas and discuss tools for supporting their students' relationships with reading and writing.

Audience: All**Location:** PAL Bond

165. 9:45 – 10:45

When a Student Needs More: How to Intensify Tier 2 and Tier 3 Instruction and Interventions

Kari Harris

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

What do you do when student(s) are not responding to an intervention? This session will provide evidence-based strategies to improve intervention outcomes for these students. You will learn how to systematically make changes to an intervention's strength, dosage, alignment, and generalizability to improve learning outcomes. Join us to learn more and take helpful new ideas and tools back to your classroom to strengthen intervention for all your students!

Audience: All**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

166. 9:45 – 10:45

Interactive Read-Aloud as a Teaching Tool

Deborah Setchell

Waltham Elementary, Utica

Interactive read-alouds present an opportunity for early elementary educators to support their students' academic skills as well as their social skills. Participants will learn the benefits of using an interactive read-aloud in class. Participants will learn what they need to make the interactive read-aloud an effective teaching tool. We will collectively brainstorm a list of books to use for interactive read-alouds and model how they are done.

Audience: PreK-3**Location:** PAL Freeport C

167. 9:45 – 10:45

Future Directions in the Reading Education Policymaking Process: Implementation, Outcomes, and Dynamics

Susan Foster

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Renewed reading wars highlight the need for increased understanding of how reading education policies are formed and transformed. This presentation offers a historical review and analysis of the reading education policymaking process, from policy enactment through implementation and outcome. This analysis reveals wide-ranging policy actors and media influences that shape reading education policies. Moreover, this analysis informs contentious public discourse surrounding reading achievement because variations in the way research-based ideas are implemented significantly impact policy outcomes. Findings include implications for future directions in the field of reading that are grounded in collaboration rather than political spectacle reminiscent of reading wars.

Audience: All**Strand:** Administration**Location:** PAL Yates**QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME**

Complete your **GAME SHEET** for a chance to win a **FREE REGISTRATION** to the 2025 IRC Conference!

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

168. 11:00 – 12:00

New and Notable Books for Grades K-8

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson’s Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois



This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: BOS Center B-11A

169. 11:00 – 12:00

A Messy Evolution with Pam Muñoz Ryan

Pam Muñoz Ryan
Author
Encinitas, California



Newbery Honor Recipient and New York Times Best Seller, Pam Muñoz Ryan, will discuss her diverse childhood in the San Joaquin Valley of California, her path to publishing, and her journey to writing *Esperanza Rising*, *Becoming Naomi León*, *Riding Freedom*, *Paint The Wind*, *The Dreamer*, *Echo*, *Mañanaland*, and *Solimar*. She will share research, publishing issues and her writing and editorial process. Up close and personal and Q & A.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11BC

170. 11:00 – 12:00

The Joy of True Stories! Sharing Extraordinary People with Readers of All Ages

Sarah Aronson
Author
Chicago, Illinois



Tanya Lee Stone
Author
Burlington, Vermont



Nonfiction picture books are a fun and captivating way to introduce readers of all ages to extraordinary people who have shaped our world. These books are mostly read aloud in the elementary school classroom. But they can also play an important role in the middle school and high school classroom and library. At a time when student stress has reached an all-time high, these picture books can offer students a springboard to understanding literary foundations, research, corroboration, analyzing the nuance and balance between images and language, developing domain specific vocabulary, and exploring career pathways. Sarah Aronson (*Just Like Rube Goldberg*) and Tanya Lee Stone (*Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?!*) will showcase several nonfiction picture books—their own titles as well as other authors' work—and demonstrate how you're never too old to learn something new!

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11D

171. 11:00 – 12:00

Teachers as Professionals, Teaching as a Profession

Matt Renwick
CESA 3, Fennimore, Wisconsin

We know that the teacher is the number one factor in student learning. So why aren't teachers more empowered as agents of positive change in their classrooms? In this session, veteran educator and author Matt Renwick will offer strategies and resources for teachers and leaders to engage in equity projects: student-centered action research experiences. Outcomes include a greater sense of authority as professionals along with more joy and impact in classrooms.

Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-1

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172. 11:00 – 12:00**What Does It Mean to be a Not Yet Teacher?**

Peg Grafwallner
Educator/Author
Germantown, Wisconsin



Every learning challenge is an empowering opportunity to grow. Peg shares how teachers can help students celebrate the academic experience and all it has to offer. Learn specific ways to cultivate a not-yet classroom where productive struggle is encouraged, obstacles are valued, and students see themselves as capable learners and risk-takers. Peg will demonstrate how to design classrooms and routines that normalize productive struggle as part of the learning process. She will show you how to write and apply rigorous learning intentions and scaffolded success criteria that are student friendly, and finally we will discuss how to communicate with colleagues, students, and parents and guardians to foster positive relationships. (Based on Peg's book: *Not Yet... And That's Ok: How Productive Struggle Fosters Student Learning.*)

Audience: 4-12**Location:** Wyndham Rendezvous**173. 11:00 – 12:00****What's the Deal with the Science of Reading?**

Andrew P. Johnson
Educator/Author
Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota



Science of Reading advocates seem to be putting out a great deal of misinformation about reading instruction. Literacy experts are being ignored in favor of radio journalists. For-profit entities are promoting ideas that serve only to enhance their profit at the expense of our students. This presentation will explain exactly what the science of reading is and isn't. It will provide a simple understanding of balanced literacy, the three cueing systems, evidence-based practices, eye movement during reading, word identification, word recognition, phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, direct instruction, and educational research.

Audience: All**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3**174. 11:00 – 12:00****Foundational Skills: The Building Blocks for Reading Success**

Angela Cammarata
Zaner-Bloser, Ormond Beach, Florida

A robust body of research, known as the science of reading, tells us that systematic, explicit foundational skills instruction is crucial for students as they are learning to read and write. Although automatic and accurate word recognition skills are only one-half of Scarborough's Rope, mastery of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency are recognized as the best predictors of reading success (NRP, 2000). This session provides a deeper understanding of current research and effective instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency.

Audience: PreK-3, Admin**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-4**Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser****175. 11:00 – 12:00****Books for Struggling Readers Grades 5-12**

Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley
Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, Champaign

Leslie Forsman
Triopia CUSD #27, Concord

Tambree Krouse
Edwards County High School, Albion

Meaghan Terry
SD #34, Silvis

The Struggling Readers Committee will share this year's recommendations by IRC members of books that engage older struggling readers. Participants receive handouts that include titles, summaries, and reading levels and best practices for choosing books. Participants will be encouraged to share their own suggestions.

Audience: 4-12, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-6**176. 11:00 – 12:00****The ABCs of What Readers Need: Access, Books and Conversation**

Karen Biggs-Tucker
Wild Rose Elementary School, St. Charles

Are you looking for ways to engage your readers? If so, this session is for you! I will help you see that engagement of even your most reluctant readers can be as easy as A, B, C! Join the conversation about how we can help our learners grow into readers who will continue reading long after they leave our classrooms! Leave with a collection of ideas about developing a thriving literacy community and book recommendations that will be at the heart of it.

Audience: 4-6**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-2

177. 11:00 – 12:00

CANCELED**Culturally Responsive Teaching in Literacy and Mathematics Instruction for ELs with LD**

Qingli Lei

University of Illinois, Chicago

This presentation focuses on supporting ELs with LD in literacy and mathematics instruction by equipping teachers with Culturally Responsive Teaching. Effective instruction scaffoldings are also discussed to create an inclusive learning environment for all students. This approach helps teachers support students from diverse backgrounds, ensuring effective learning for all.

Audience: PreK-9**Strand:** English Language Learners**Location:** BOS Center B-3

178. 11:00 – 12:00

May Evidence-Based Practices Be With You: Systematizing Foundational Literacy and the Science of Reading

Neilie Dobogai

Savvas, St. Francis, Wisconsin

Learners require access to high-quality language acquisition and word recognition skills to become college and career ready. Yet, data often shows a gap in both foundational skills and in comprehension. During this session, we will unpack critical elements about reading in the Illinois Literacy Plan and the strategies and routines educators can employ to build these standards/skills. During this session, we will cross walk evidence-based practices and routines relating to foundational skills and the Science of Reading. We will also address formative data, the importance of prerequisite skills, and learning objectives in connection with foundational literacy.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Adults, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-7*Sponsored by Savvas*

179. 11:00 – 12:00

Accurate Agriculture, Powerful Stories, Diverse Voices

Kevin Daugherty

Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington

Janice Harrington

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Join IL Ag in the Classroom and Illinois author Janice Harrington as they explore the value of teaching students about food and agriculture through literature while also celebrating the impressive and important diversity that allows us to get food on our tables every day.

Audience: PreK-6, Lib**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-9*Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom*

180. 11:00 – 12:00

CANCELED**Nonfiction Text, It's Too Boring! Teachers, Let's Change That!**

Tamara Springer

CUSD #4, Clifton

Nonfiction texts have often been thought of as dull. With the emphasis on teaching nonfiction increasing, teachers need to look into many avenues of teaching this genre. The importance of teaching nonfiction and its relevance to state standards will be discussed. This presentation will highlight assignments, projects, student presentations, and a handout will be provided.

Audience: 4-9, Spec**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-8

181. 11:00 – 12:00

Book Chat Magic: Engaging Reluctant Readers Via Teacher-Led Book Chats

Steven Layne

Wheaton College, Wheaton

Karsten Baldwin

Wheaton College, Wheaton

Maggie Bergevin

Wheaton College, Wheaton

This fast-paced session is designed to inspire and equip interested teachers with both the rationale and the actionable steps to deliver impactful book chats. The results of a field-based study in an urban and a suburban setting will be shared.

Audience: All**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-10

182. 11:00 – 12:00

Building Strong Networks of Support

Kimberlee Wagner

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

Carrie Brockway

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

Teachers thrive when they are the beneficiaries of a continuous network of support as they move from teacher preparation programs to the classroom, and then back to the university for continuing education. Come and find out ways one university and ROE are partnering together to create and cultivate collaborative relationships that support the professional development needs of teachers in the region –and find out how you can participate too!

Audience: All**Strand:** Administration**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room*Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois*

183. 11:00 – 12:00**Coach Leadership: Strategies to Help Literacy Coaches Soar**

Cathy Toll

Partnering to Learn, Green Lake, Wisconsin

This session will provide school and school district leaders with methods for supporting literacy coaches' success. It will provide: 1) general findings about coaches' needs; 2) strategies to further coaches' insights; and 3) tactics that create transformational shifts in coaches' partnerships with teachers.

Audience: Adults, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB**184. 11:00 – 12:00****Coaching to Facilitate Continuous Growth**

Tracee Farmer

National Louis University, Lisle

Literacy coaches play a vital role within a school and/or district by supporting effective teaching with the goal of impacting student learning. Coaches must work collaboratively, meeting a wide range of needs from novice teachers to veteran teachers. Even with clear goals, coaches make daily decisions regarding what should be addressed immediately and what might be held back for future learning. This interactive session will focus on how to increase ownership within the coaching process, how to facilitate productive dialogue, and how to integrate reflection for continued growth that will support shifts toward more effective teaching.

Audience: Adults**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** PAL Altgeld**185. 11:00 – 12:00****Injustice and MG/YA Fiction: Reading to Inspire Hope and Social Action**

Carol Saller

Illinois Author, Chicago

Barbara Gregorich

Illinois Author, Chicago

Middle-grade/young adult fiction is a rich and inspiring resource for teaching about social justice issues for readers. A well-researched novel can not only present historical and political facts in an inviting and even exciting context, but also provide role-model characters who form strong beliefs and take action. An exciting story - even science fiction and fantasy - can teach and inspire individuals to see injustice and contribute to a solution. Many issues facing the world today seem overwhelming and hopeless. Showing how one person can make a difference is a powerful way to give students hope and direction while encouraging a love of reading.

Audience: 6-12, Lib**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** PAL Freeport C**186. 11:00 – 12:00****Unlocking the Magic of Discussion**

Amina Chaudhri

Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago

Barbara Dillon

Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago

Do you struggle to keep discussions alive in your literacy classroom? Wish your students could engage with text in a more meaningful way? Talking about text can lead to both self-discovery and a deeper understanding of the power of words. This hands-on workshop is designed to revive and energize conversation in your literacy classroom. In this presentation we share specific, proven protocols designed to spark powerful discussions about text among elementary and middle level students, and solicit your ideas about what works in your classroom.

Audience: PreK-9**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** PAL Yates**187. 11:00 – 12:00****Supporting Reluctant Middle School Readers**

Kristin Richey

Westmont Junior High School, Westmont

This presentation is designed to provide educators with strategies to support their readers- specifically those who are reluctant. We will discuss ways to utilize class time to most effectively support students – as well as data collection, book recommendations, and more!

Audience: 6-9**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Bond**188. 11:00 – 12:00****Moving Students Forward: Interventionist Strategies for Tutoring Under Performing Students**

Margaret Policastro

Roosevelt University, Chicago

Mark Valencia

Roosevelt University, Chicago

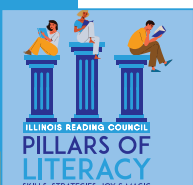
Noreen Wach

Roosevelt University, Chicago

Heather Cook

Roosevelt University, Chicago

This session will report on a university partnership that entails tutors working in schools with under performing students. There will be audience participation that highlights specifically promoting love, joy and passion for reading. Further, interventionists strategies that include developing student agency and self-efficacy will be featured. Examples of tutor to student feedback to move students forward in real-time will be featured. Also included will be the development of students' self-monitoring of their own learning. examples of exit slips where tutors self monitor their learning will be promoted.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

12:15 – 2:00 PM

Friday Luncheon

189. 12:15 – 2:00

Let's Get Back to the Art (and Science) of Teaching Reading?

Timothy Rasinski
Educator/Author
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio



With the publication of the report of the National Reading Panel as well as the Common Core Standards, reading instruction has been viewed as a science. (i.e. SoR) Scientific inquiry has identified phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension as key critical reading competencies for students to master. While not denying the need for scientifically validated approaches to teaching reading, it is important to note that teaching reading is also an art – great teachers are both artists and scientists. Yet, the emphasis on the science of teaching reading has diminished artful approaches to reading instruction. In his presentation, Tim Rasinski will make the case that effective teaching reading is an art and science, and he will explore ways that reading can be taught as both an art and a science.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: PAL Ballroom

Jerry Johns Reading Educator
of the Year Award

will be presented at the Friday Luncheon to

Kevin Frederick

Award will be presented by Melissa Wheeler, Chair

Friday Luncheon

190. 12:15 – 2:00

Illinois Reads
Author Luncheon



Join the authors of the 2024 Illinois Reads Books at the Friday Luncheon! Participants will get to have lunch with an Illinois Reads Author and receive a FREE Illinois Reads book (choices will be on a first-come, first-served basis). Following lunch, participants will spend the next hour moving from table to table, meeting other authors, and discussing their books. After the luncheon, there will also be an additional autograph session with the authors from 2:15 to 3:15 pm in the BOS Center Exhibit Hall. Books will be available for purchase at the luncheon and in the exhibit hall.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: Wyndham Ballroom

Static Sticker Decal Contest Winner
Jameson Lundy

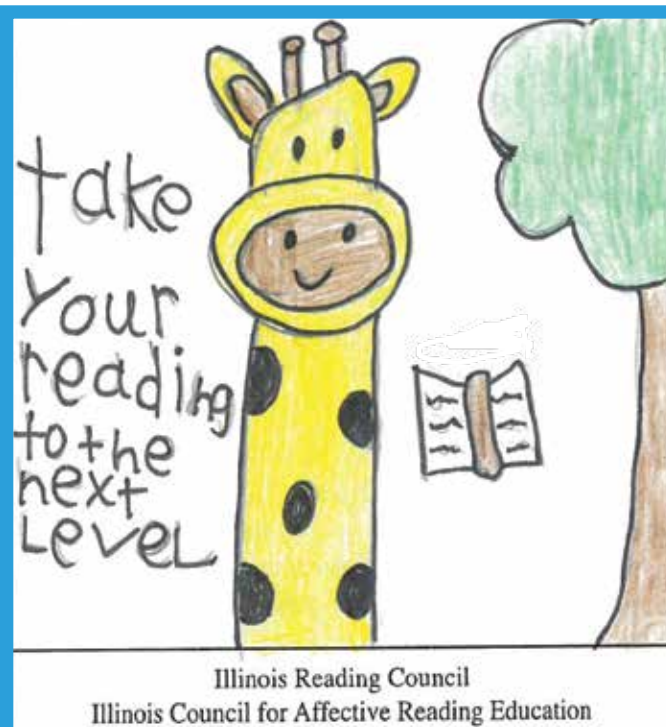
Moye Elementary School, O'Fallon, IL
Award will be presented by Kathleen Sweeney, ICARE

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

*Refreshments will be served
from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and
3:00 – 4:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall*



Illinois Reading Council
Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Friday Lunch Session**191. 1:00 – 2:00****Discovering the Science of Reading: A Reporter's Story**

Emily Hanford
Senior Education Correspondent
for APM Reports
Washington, D.C.



Emily Hanford knew nothing about the “science of reading” six years ago. She was interviewing community college students who were telling her about their reading difficulties; they told her they’d never been taught how to read. She thought – what’s up with that? That started her on a journey to understand how children learn to read and what they need to be taught. Emily will tell the story of what she has learned and why it matters.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11A**192. 1:00 - 2:00****Nurturing Young Authors Creative Writing**

Valencia Burney

Back 2 Basics Educational Consulting, Chicago
Research tells us that writing is the process of communicating with written language and it is more than tracing letters on a piece of paper. Writing begins with rich conversations, a shared read aloud and children having various opportunities to write about their experiences. Nurturing creative writing with young children starts with them learning how to write from the heart and then expressing it on paper or out loud for others to experience it.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Writing**Location:** BOS Center B-1**193. 1:00 - 2:00****How to Build a Sound Wall Using a Scope and Sequence or Informal Assessment**

Karyn Tomkinson

hand2mind, Vernon Hills

Are you wanting to implement a sound wall but you are unsure where to start? In this session, we will use a scope and sequence to build a sound wall. We will also look at informal assessments and how those can be used in upper elementary to middle school to identify sounds that aren't yet mastered.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-6*Sponsored by hand2mind*

HUNGRY?

The BOS Center Concession Stand is Open!

**Purchase lunch and take it to one of the lunch time sessions
planned from 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the BOS Center**

Concessions are Open:**Thursday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM****Friday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

FRIDAY

**DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE**

194. 1:00 - 2:00**Key Foundations & Ignite by Hatch: Nurturing Literacy through Engaging Play**

Kylie Rymanowicz

Hatch Early Learning, Winston-Salem,
North Carolina

In this ever-evolving educational landscape, cultivating an early love for learning is vital. Our session focuses on innovative play-based education, using books and technology. We'll showcase "Key Foundations," an immersive program using engaging games for young learners at home and school. Also, "Ignite by Hatch" an independent digital platform, captivates early learners while offering valuable data to educators. These tools instill a passion for learning while supplying crucial insights for future academic success. **Takeaways:** Rediscovering Learning Joy: Explore how each learning interaction sparks lifelong curiosity. Sustaining Enthusiasm: Address concerns about waning learning interest during formal education. Gamification maintains innate curiosity. Playful Learning: Delve into merging learning and play, integrating content and activities seamlessly for pressure-free education. Early Literacy Strategies: Discover diverse activities nurturing reading and writing. Flexible for various development stages. Progress Measurement: Learn about an observational checklist gauging foundational literacy. Targeted support and improvement encouragement. Holistic Development: Foster literacy, oral skills, vocabulary, phonological awareness, and cooperation. Embrace a well-rounded education. Our presentation inspires educators, parents, and policymakers to reshape early education paradigms for lifelong learning success.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Technology**Location:** BOS Center B-2**Sponsored by Hatch Early Learning****195. 1:00 - 2:00****Igniting Joy: The Critical Role That Knowledge Plays in Classrooms**

Karen Venditti

Amplify, Brooklyn, NY

Three key ingredients that can create joy and fulfillment are curiosity, seeking expanded knowledge, and the continuous desire to learn. This session will provide you with strategies to give your students the understanding, skills, and insights necessary to learn and grow. The session is designed to serve educators who wish to build a solid foundation of knowledge that can fuel and amplify the learning process. It explores how knowledge acts as a catalyst, enhancing critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and overall academic performance. Participants will leave this session with a renewed appreciation for knowledge's pivotal role in the educational journey.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-3**Sponsored by Amplify****196. 1:00 - 2:00****Skill-based Small Group Instruction: Where Do I Start?**

Nicole Nelson

Learning A-Z, Cleveland, Tennessee

Trying to implement flexible, skill-based small group instruction into your classroom, but are feeling overwhelmed? You know to make truly impactful student growth requires intentional planning, research based strategies, and meaningful practice, but you don't know where to begin. In this session, we will not only show you where to start, but also how to put it all together. Walk away with a framework that includes a planning template, recommended instructional strategies, and an easy to implement practice routine to grow students' academic skills.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL**Location:** BOS Center B-4**Sponsored by Learning A-Z****197. 1:00 - 2:00****Reading, Math, and Science ... Integrate, Don't Segregate: All Content is Created Equal!**

Yolanda Williams

The W.H.I.R.L. LLC, Covington, GA

This session is for 3rd - 5th grade teachers to experience the integration of reading, math, and science instruction and get more bang for their buck. The session will also discuss and demonstrate differentiation to support all learners. The hands-on session provides ideas on classroom management for integrated stations and centers, detailed small-group instruction, Lexile-leveled lessons, and much more! There is also a rotation simulation to get some brain stimulation!

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-7**198. 1:00 - 2:00****RTI and Strategies for Struggling Students & Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia**

Julie Joynt

EPS School Specialty, Alton

During the session in-depth information on the five critical steps that need to be addressed for an effective RTI strategy will be reviewed: awareness of the tiers, commitment, capacity, implementation, and evaluation. We will explore the importance of Phonological Awareness and how it is the "bridge" that connects speaking to reading and should be paired with phonics. Practical ideas and strategies for manipulating of phonemes, creating new words, and listening for word families will be presented to help you build your own successful program in support of young children with diverse needs – understanding one-size-does not fit all.

Audience: PreK-12, Spec, Admin**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center B-10**Sponsored by EPS School Specialty**

199. 1:00 - 2:00**Cultivating Secondary Readers: Building a Vibrant Reading Culture in Middle & High Schools**

Shannon Bosley

Reading Ways, Lakeside Park, KY

“Cultivating Secondary Readers” focuses on the foundational elements essential for fostering a robust reading culture in middle and high school settings. This session will guide educators through key components that are crucial in nurturing a love for reading among adolescents: Connections, Collections, Creativity and Consistency. Whether you’re initiating a new reading program or enhancing an existing one, this presentation will offer valuable insights and strategies to engage and inspire secondary students in the world of books. Join us to learn how to transform your school into a lively center for literary exploration and enthusiasm.

Audience: 6-12, Admin, Lib**Location:** BOS Center B-8**200. 1:00 - 2:00****What Does the Science of Reading Mean for Content Area Teachers**

Katie McKnight

Short, Short, Big, Antioch

Science of Reading research has become increasingly popular for raising adolescent reading comprehension in the subject areas. This research is based on the belief that literacy is a complex set of skills that need to be taught explicitly and systematically. When focusing on comprehension, Science of Reading research suggests that teachers provide explicit instruction in genre-specific strategies, such as summarizing, note taking and inferencing. By providing explicit instruction, modeling and scaffolding, teachers will be better equipped to help their students develop the skills needed to comprehend and analyze text. Specific instructional scaffolds and examples will be provided that are easy to implement and yield big results.

Audience: 4-12, Spec**Strand:** Science of Reading**Location:** BOS Center B-9*Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Short, Short, Big***201. 1:00 - 2:00****The Power of Complex Texts**

Meg Edwards

Great Minds, St. Louis, MO

In this session, participants will learn a framework for reading complex texts. Participants will apply the framework in a collaborative study of the Depression-era photograph, “Migrant Mother” by Dorothea Lange. Participants will leave the session with a powerful process for reading complex texts with a range of learners.

Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Spec**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room*Sponsored by Great Minds***2:15 – 3:15 PM****202. 2:15 – 3:15****Success in the Mountains: How Appalachian Literacy Initiative Increases Student Reading Proficiency – And You Can, Too**

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Author

Bristol, Tennessee



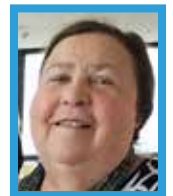
In 2018, in response to the very high child poverty rate where she lives and the correlation between poverty and reading level, Kim and a friend founded a nonprofit called Appalachian Literacy Initiative. In their sixth year they will give out over 50,000 books to low-income Appalachian students--and they’ve seen a 10% increase in reading proficiency for a cost of less than \$35 per student. Come learn about the organization, the key elements of their success, and how you can adapt these elements to your classroom and school.

Audience: PreK-9**Location:** BOS Center B-11D**203. 2:15 – 3:15****Connecting Mentor Texts with SEL Practices Across the Day**

Lynne R. Dorfman

Educator/Author

Dresher, Pennsylvania



This session will explore key social-emotional factors in creating and sustaining a thriving community of readers and writers. Connections with mentor texts and SEL practices will be demonstrated through many examples at different grade levels and across the day. Lynne will provide a bibliography of books used in this session and samples of writing across the curriculum using mentor texts as a springboard to engage writers in grades K-8. Social and emotional education enables us to prepare students for the challenges that await them. Mentor texts provide many opportunities to write about what students know, care about, and want to share with others.

Audience: PreK-9**Location:** Wyndham Rendezvous

204. 2:15 – 3:15**New and Notable Books for Young Adults**

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson's Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois



This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11A**205. 2:15 – 3:15****A Messy Evolution with Pam Muñoz Ryan**

Pam Muñoz Ryan
Author
Encinitas, California



Newbery Honor Recipient and New York Times Best Seller, Pam Muñoz Ryan, will discuss her diverse childhood in the San Joaquin Valley of California, her path to publishing, and her journey to writing *Esperanza Rising*, *Becoming Naomi León*, *Riding Freedom*, *Paint The Wind*, *The Dreamer*, *Echo*, *Mañanaland*, and *Solimar*. She will share research, publishing issues and her writing and editorial process. Up close and personal and Q & A.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC**206. 2:15 – 3:15****Classroom Environment: Can We All Just Get Along?**

Valencia Burney

Back 2 Basics Educational Consulting, Chicago

The classroom environment is more than just setting rules, hanging them up and expecting young students to follow them all year long. Creating an environment where young students feel heard and are valued is about building family and community relationships. This is done by learning about the social and cultural contexts in which children live, selecting and using teaching strategies that empower young students and creating a community of learners where all are welcome.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-1**207. 2:15 – 3:15****Reclaiming Teacher Authority and Autonomy in the SOR Era: When Structured Literacy Becomes a Script**

Paul L. Thomas
Educator/Author
Furman University
Greenville, South Carolina



Increasingly since 2013, states have adopted reading legislation identified as the “science of reading.” Since curriculum and instruction should be driven by classroom teachers, not media narratives, parental advocacy, or political mandate, this session examines key reading topics framed with current research to support teacher authority and autonomy.

Audience: All**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3**208. 2:15 – 3:15****How Adult and Family Readers Theater Engages Children and Families, Empowering Fluency and Fun!**

Laura Mudd

ARTSiE Inc., Hanover Park

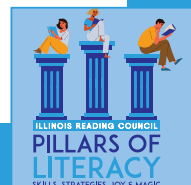
Jennifer Reynolds

Greenbrook Elementary School, Hanover Park

To provide an overview of ARTSiE's Literacy through the Arts program by sharing teachers' experiences using anchor texts to integrate reading with the arts and highlights from past programs, in particular last spring's Adult and Family Readers Theater using *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe as the readers theater script. How to expand and deepen connections between home and school integrating literacy strategies through readers theater to strengthen child and family engagement, improving fluency and reading comprehension. Educator highlights include family readers theater dinners and workshops, artist collaboration and a final co-created readers theater dramatic reading performance.

Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-2**QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME**

Complete your **GAME SHEET** for a
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to the 2025 IRC Conference!

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209. 2:15 – 3:15
Adolescent and Young Adult Novels that Help Support Social Emotional Learning

Gina Romer

SD #186, Springfield

Some students struggle in a regular classroom setting, and do better in an environment that is more conducive to their social emotional learning needs. Trauma, anxiety, stress, and depression, are a few of the reasons that might keep a child from succeeding in a regular classroom. SWIS is an acronym for “School With In a School” and is a program that helps serve these kinds of students. Within the literacy curriculum, certain novels are read that help build empathy, compassion, and love even amongst some of our most challenging students.

Audience: 4-9

Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Location: BOS Center B-3

210. 2:15 – 3:15
Increasing Reading Achievement in Black and Brown Students with Diverse Literature

Kimberly Peterz

Homewood Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor

This presentation will define and present the impact of diverse literature on reading achievement and interest with Black and Brown children, present practical strategies to incorporate diverse literature in the classroom, provide examples and resources for getting started, and provide a time for reflection for the participant to determine next steps. The objectives of this presentation will be: To provide educators with the tools to determine what qualifies as diverse literature; To use diverse literature in the literacy block and support students of color to increase reading achievement.

Audience: All

Strand: Librarians

Location: BOS Center B-4

211. 2:15 – 3:15
Developing and Building Confidence in Phonics and Vocabulary with 3rd to 5th Grade Students

Jennifer Burchfiel

hand2mind, Dallas, Texas

Reinforcing vocabulary with the use of phonics skills through explicit, multisensory strategies will enable students to build confidence as they master important reading skills. Readers will acquire a toolbox of strategies to use to tackle unknown words that will lead them to greater comprehension and fluency. The gradual release process during small group instruction will allow readers to take charge of their learning and grow as readers.

Audience: PreK-6

Strand: Reluctant Readers

Location: BOS Center B-6

Sponsored by hand2mind

212. 2:15 – 3:15
Going Beyond Phonics: Supporting High School Readers with Poor Decoding and Word Recognition

Cynthia Rousseau

Governors State University, University Park

Middle and high school students who struggle with poor decoding and fluency require targeted, age-appropriate interventions to improve their reading rate and accuracy. This presentation will include research-based instructional strategies for helping high school students improve their ability to decode multisyllabic words and improve their reading fluency. Strategies presented can easily be adapted across grade levels 6-12 and all content areas.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Adults

Strand: Science of Reading

Location: BOS Center B-7

213. 2:15 – 3:15
Seventeen Habits of Highly Effective Readers

Kimberlee Wagner

Regional Office of Education 4, Rockford

You have heard what makes a highly effective person, but what makes a highly effective reader? In this session, we will examine what research and the world have had to say about the habits and characteristics of good readers. Why seventeen? Come to this session and find out!

Audience: PreK-6

Strand: Administration

Location: BOS Center B-8

Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois

214. 2:15 – 3:15
Maximizing Paraprofessionals in Early Elementary Literacy Classrooms

Carrie Brockway

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

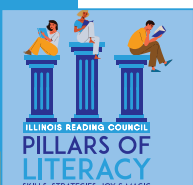
Unlock the full potential of paraprofessionals in PreK-2 classrooms! This dynamic workshop empowers educators with innovative strategies to maximize the impact of paraprofessionals on student learning. Explore research-backed approaches for effective collaboration, task delegation, and fostering a supportive classroom environment. Learn to tailor instructional support to diverse student needs, ensuring that paraprofessionals seamlessly integrate into daily lesson plans. Discover communication techniques that enhance teamwork between teachers and paraprofessionals, creating a harmonious learning environment. Walk away with a toolkit of practical ideas, resources, and actionable insights that will transform your classroom and elevate the educational experience for every young learner.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Adults, Univ, Lib

Strand: Administration

Location: BOS Center VIP Room

Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois



215. 2:15 – 3:15**Culturally Sustaining Read-Alouds: From Theory to Practice**

Amanda Brown
SD #150, Peoria
Lindsay Bohm
SD #150, Peoria

With the increased focus on culturally sustaining practices in education, many of us have participated in professional development that provides an excellent theoretical overview. However, these sessions don't provide practical ideas for how our instruction should change. Join us to learn how our district's primary school teachers used Gholdy Muhammad's pedagogical framework to write and teach thematic read aloud units. Each unit is centered on a picture book with learning targets that attend not only to skills but also student identity, intellect, criticality, and joy.

Audience: PreK-3, Lib**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-9**216. 2:15 – 3:15****CANCELED****Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Latinx Representation Matters**

Melissa Wheeler
Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon
Julie Hoffman
Springfield Public Schools, Springfield
Jen Brooks
Illinois State University, Normal

Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Latinx Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black-owned independent book stores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-10**217. 2:15 – 3:15****Coaching Teachers Under Duress**

Cathy Toll
Partnering to Learn, Green Lake, Wisconsin

Literacy coaches are eager to help their teacher colleagues, but sometimes the stress of teaching gets in the way of a strong coach-teacher partnership. This session will provide a brief overview on research related to teacher stress and then offer lots of practical strategies for coaches to use when the teachers they work with are under duress.

Audience: Adults, Admin**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB**218. 2:15 – 3:15****Developing Empathy: Changing the World Through Reading**

Christy Moore
Taylor University, Upland, Indiana

Reading and discussing great literature can develop the deepest form of comprehension that has the power to transform our readers and the communities that they live in. Participants will observe how this can be done with even our primary students and is an authentic way to approach social and emotional learning.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Lib**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** PAL Altgeld**219. 2:15 – 3:15****Collaborating to Increase Reading Engagement in the Intermediate Grades**

Katy Boehm
Scott School, Melrose Park
Victoria Dellinges
Scott School, Melrose Park

As a Media Specialist and a classroom teacher, we have implemented different strategies to motivate and engage students in reading while making students active participants in the process. We have found that students in third through fifth grade sometimes struggle to choose books and/or engage in reading for a variety of reasons. In this session we hope to share strategies we use in the classroom as well as the library to engage students in reading and goal setting, allow students to have ownership and independence, and to foster a lifetime love of reading.

Audience: 4-6, ELL, Spec, Lib**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Bond**220. 2:15 – 3:15****A Child-Centered Approach to Intermediate Reluctant Readers: Tapping into Their Media Literacy to Increase Traditional Literacy**

Beth Bacon
Author, St. Louis, MO

Many intermediate reluctant readers with low literacy levels have high levels of media literacy because of their online experience. They can quickly decode images; they are eager to interact with materials; they readily consume complex stories. In this talk, I will demonstrate how, as an author, I include media literacy elements in my books to reach older reluctant readers. I will explain how educators can harness children's media literacy to improve traditional literacy. I will also introduce a reading list that can help bridge the learning gap of older literacy learners so educators can immediately apply this learning in their classrooms.

Audience: 4-6**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Freeport C

221. 2:15 – 3:15

What About L2 Writing?

Jocelyn Vazquez

Mannheim SD #83, Northlake

Currently, schools across the United States are looking for ways to improve second language (L2) writing. In their quest to improve their writing skills, they are drawing on a variety of teaching strategies to be successful since research suggests that their use is the key to improving L2 writing. Second language learners L2 writing test scores are not reaching the required standard to be considered proficient in the L2. Tests that evaluate students' L2 writing evidently reflect that something is not right with students' L2 writing instruction. The purpose of this study was to explore elementary language teachers' understanding of writing strategies with second language learners (SLL). Using a qualitative method, specifically a phenomenological approach, semi structured interviews with second language elementary level teachers revealed that there is a need for more support in the availability of uniform resources to instruct second language writing. The findings highlighted effective strategies but also the need for more consistent and comprehensive support for language teachers in the area of second language writing instruction, including the development of more specialized curriculums and resources that are specifically designed for this purpose.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Admin**Strand:** English Language Learners**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

222. 2:15 – 3:15

Concept Attainment: Group Problem-Solving To Strengthen Inductive Reasoning

Patricia Rieman

Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Concept attainment fosters in students a strong sense of curiosity and engagement. Inductive reasoning is key as students generate hypotheses about which concept they are being shown examples of, and they predict whether the examples shown are exemplars or non-exemplars.

Audience: 4-12, Adults, Univ**Location:** PAL Yates

223. 2:15 – 3:15

#ungrading: Humanizing the Gradebook & Letting Learning Take Center Stage

Jennifer Connolly

Granite City High School, Granite City

Learn how to go “gradeless” emphasizing learning over grades and feedback over ranking. I’ll share how I’ve been almost gradeless in the high school English classroom for the last four years. Inspired by Alfie Kohn, Jesse Stommel, and a host of other proponents of non-traditional grading, we’ll explore what grades are really for, whether they are necessary, and how we can better serve students through other means of evaluation. Take the leap and pilot your own version of ungrading with the tips and tricks presented here.

Audience: 6-12, Univ**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1

3:30 – 4:30 PM

224. 3:30 – 4:30

Lessons from Sold a Story

Emily Hanford

Senior Education Correspondent

for APM Reports

Washington, D.C.



Reporter Emily Hanford will talk about her hit podcast Sold a Story. She’ll explain why this story needed to be told, take you behind the scenes on the making of the podcast, and share what she’s been hearing in response from teachers, parents and kids. She’ll also highlight some of the actions taken by states and school districts in recent months and provide a journalist’s perspective on what’s next for the science of reading.

Audience: All**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

225. 3:30 – 4:30

180 Days of Bliss Strategies to Increase Teacher Job Satisfaction & Enhance Student Learning

Leslie Varble

Unity Point School, Carbondale

In today’s classroom teachers are faced with constant disruptions and distractions causing them to lose valuable teaching time. In my session you will walk away with strategies that will help you to create a classroom of harmony and provide a sense of belonging for all.

Audience: PreK-12, ELL, Spec, Admin**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-7

226. 3:30 – 4:30

Pushing Back With Love and Joy: Literacy as a Tool for Healing from Trauma

Julie Hoffman

Springfield Public Schools, Springfield

Healing from trauma can be scary, messy, and complicated. Fortunately, the power of story can help. We have been passing stories on to each other for centuries. Stories of hope and resilience are the best ones to share with each other. This session will cover some of the basics regarding trauma, including a review of the physiological responses (fight, flight, freeze). Expect read-alouds and discussions about how certain books can be used to teach SEL goals, in general, or toward healing from trauma. You just might find yourself filling your bookstore cart during the presentation!

Audience: PreK-12, Admin, Lib**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-9

227. 3:30 – 4:30

Classrooms That Matter: Using PBL To Teach Literacy With Purpose

Terra Tarango

Van Andel Institute for Education, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Teachers want to connect literacy instruction to memorable, meaningful experiences that give an authentic context for learning, but who has the time!?!? Discover how to implement project-based learning with cross-curricular content, collaboration options, and real-world connections. Explore specific literature-aligned PBL units and discover how to implement these projects in your classroom. Come ready to be that teacher students will never forget. Leave with lesson-by-lesson project ideas to make it happen.

Audience: PreK-9, Admin**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-2

228. 3:30 – 4:30

From Research to Practice: Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction for the Secondary Classroom

Shannon Bosley

Reading Ways, Lakeside Park, KY

Join us to explore the Science of Reading as it applies to middle and high school education. This session focuses on transforming literacy instruction through the latest research, emphasizing the shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Discover practical strategies in disciplinary literacy, including explicit vocabulary techniques, fostering academic discourse, and using text sets to build knowledge across subjects. Learn how to integrate writing to reinforce comprehension and critical thinking. Ideal for secondary educators, this session provides research-backed methods to enhance literacy instruction and improve Tier I instruction for all students.

Audience: 6-12, Admin**Location:** BOS Center B-3

229. 3:30 – 4:30

Increasing Student Engagement and Learning with Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards

Jaelyn Turner

Edison Middle School, Champaign

Melissa Wheeler

Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon

Learn about ISBE-issued Culturally Responsive Teaching & Leading Standards through collaborative exercises. Create and share instructional practices and supplemented curriculum materials in a digital community.

Audience: All**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** BOS Center B-10

230. 3:30 – 4:30

What Matters When Implementing Literacy Coaching for Disciplinary Literacy?

Susan Cangro

West Prairie CUSD #103, Good Hope

Secondary literacy coaches, 6th to 12th grade administrators, secondary content-area teachers, and university literacy professionals will not want to miss this! Topics include how schools can prepare for a secondary disciplinary literacy coach, best practices for disciplinary literacy coaching in support of content-area teachers, professional development ideas for collaborative learning, and how to effectively structure content-area reading classes. Findings from my dissertation research will show how we can move disciplinary literacy instruction forward in Illinois.

Audience: 4-12, Adults, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Coaching**Location:** BOS Center B-4

231. 3:30 – 4:30

CANCELED**Reading to Regulate - Fostering Healing Through Story**

Victoria Dotson

Judson University, Chicago Public Schools

Maryjane Reilly

Relate Family Therapy and Counseling, Denver, CO

This presentation will take educators on a journey of understanding a trauma-informed literacy classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to gain understanding of psycho-education in the classroom through a literacy lens: discussion guides, strategies, and tools paired with authentic literature will empower empathy in the K-5 classroom.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)**Location:** BOS Center B-6

232. 3:30 – 4:30

The Needs of New Educators in Today’s Literacy Classrooms

Kimberlee Wagner

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

Feeling overwhelmed in your first few years of teaching literacy? In this session, we will explore the must-knows for new teachers in literacy instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. You will walk away with new ideas and resources for your toolkit, empowering you to instill strong reading skills and cultivate a lifelong love for learning in your students.

Audience: PreK-6**Strand:** Early Career**Location:** BOS Center B-8*Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois*

233. 3:30 – 4:30**Maximizing Paraprofessionals in Upper Elementary Literacy Classrooms**

Carrie Brockway

Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park

Unlock the full potential of paraprofessionals in grades 3-6 classrooms! This dynamic workshop empowers educators with innovative strategies to maximize the impact of paraprofessionals on student learning. Explore research-backed approaches for effective collaboration, task delegation, and fostering a supportive classroom environment. Learn to tailor instructional support to diverse student needs, ensuring that paraprofessionals seamlessly integrate into daily lesson plans. Discover communication techniques that enhance teamwork between teachers and paraprofessionals, creating a harmonious learning environment. Walk away with a toolkit of practical ideas, resources, and actionable insights that will transform your classroom and elevate the educational experience for every learner.

Audience: PreK-6, Spec, Univ, Admin**Strand:** Administration**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room*Sponsored by ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois***234. 3:30 – 4:30****Those Who Can't Teach**

Shelley Kenow

Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant, Albers

Teachers and parents need to have the “know, like, and trust” factor with each other in order for our students to reach their fullest potential. Educators will learn how to build and cultivate this important factor with parents.

Audience: All**Location:** PAL Yates

Sponsored by Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant

235. 3:30 – 4:30**Playing With Purpose!: Crafting Child-Led Centers That Leverage Play as a Vehicle for Standard-Aligned Learning**

Debby Spitzer

Debby Spitzer Consultants, Forth Worth, Texas

Play is a powerful instructional method for PreK that leads to rigorous learning for students across all backgrounds and abilities. This session takes a closer look at center time to explore ways that teachers can intentionally craft opportunities for child-directed play that hits on key early learning concepts and skills. Learn easy to implement strategies that guide student inquiry and cultivate meaningful play experiences with standard-aligned outcomes.

Audience: PreK-3**Strand:** Equity & Diversity**Location:** PAL Altgeld*Sponsored by hand2mind***236. 3:30 – 4:30****Five Ways to Inspire Reluctant Adult Readers to Engage in Literacy**

Claudia Gates

Elgin Community College, Elgin

The presentation will discuss various methods to motivate adult learners in adult basic education courses to immerse themselves in reading activities. Participants will engage in exploratory activities to help them understand the challenges of adult learners and how to keep them enthusiastic about learning.

Audience: 9-12, Adults**Strand:** Reluctant Readers**Location:** PAL Bond**237. 3:30 – 4:30****Strategies for Contextualizing, Rather Than Memorizing Vocabulary for Students in Kindergarten Through Grade 12 For All Especially Multilingual Learners**

Kari Harris

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb

Knowing vocabulary words is imperative to reading comprehension as a student will only comprehend to their level of vocabulary knowledge, especially for English Language Learners. However, the knowledge of what vocabulary words mean is only part of the process. Learning about parts of words (prefix, suffix, and root words), and how they come together to make up the English language can help readers understand words while reading. Attend this session to learn more about evidence-based vocabulary strategies that will help all learners, including multilingual/English learners contextualize, rather than memorize vocabulary. Strategies will cover Pre-Kindergarten through High School.

Audience: All**Strand:** English Language Learners**Location:** PAL Freeport AB**4:45 – 7:30 PM****238. 4:45 – 5:15 PM****Annual Membership Meeting****Audience:** IRC Members**Location:** PAL Lincoln Room**239. 5:30 – 7:30 PM****Preservice Teachers' Pizza Party****Audience:** Tickets Required**Location:** PAL Ballroom

QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME

Don't miss picking up your **GAME SHEET** at the Registration Booth!

There are **20 Color-Coded QR CODES** in the Exhibit Hall. Ask the **EXHIBITORS** to scan their QR Code AND get their **OFFICIAL STAMP**. After scanning QR Code, write the **SECRET PHRASE** into the matching Color-Coded Square.

Once the **GAME SHEET** is completed, return to the Registration Booth to be eligible to win **ONE of TWO FREE REGISTRATIONS** to be given away for the next IRC Conference.

QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME

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EMAIL					FROM EACH EXHIBITOR	ENTER QR PHRASE AT BOTTOM
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QR CODE 6	QR CODE 7	QR CODE 8	QR CODE 9	QR CODE 10		
QR CODE 11	QR CODE 12	QR CODE 13	QR CODE 14	QR CODE 15		
QR CODE 16	QR CODE 17	QR CODE 18	QR CODE 19	QR CODE 20		

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

Thursday, March 14, 2024

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Complimentary Refreshments

9:00 - 10:00 AM

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Friday, March 15, 2024

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Complimentary Refreshments

9:00 - 10:00 AM

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Hungry?

The BOS Center Concession Stand will be open in the Exhibit Hall.

Grab lunch and head to one of the lunch time sessions planned from 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the BOS Center.

EXHIBITORS

3ClicksSpelling.com

Dick Briggs
3 Sable Oaks Court
Bloomington, IL 61704
309-531-8502
3ClicksSpelling.com
Booth 512

95 Percent Group

Melissa Strum
Kelly Treadway
475 Half Day Rd #350
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
847-480-3482
www.95percentgroup.com
Booth 403-404

AISLE - Association of Illinois School Library Educators

Caroline Campbell
PO Box 110
Seneca, IL 61360
815-357-6023
www.aisled.org
Booth 322

American College of Education

Shari Nordstrom
101 W Ohio St, Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204
800-280-0307
www.ace.edu
Booth 510

Amplify

Justin Boyter
Erin Williams
55 Washington Street #800
Brooklyn, NY 43021
614-352-4740
amplify.com
Booth 605

Anderson's Bookshops

Becky Anderson
Laura Evans
123 W. Jefferson Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540
630-820-0044
www.andersonsbookshop.com
Booth 409-414 & 419-424

Benchmark Education

Stephanie Seemann
149 Huguenot Street, 8th Floor
New Rochelle, NY 10801
877-279-8388
www.benchmarkeducation.com
Booth 502-503

Booksource

Bert Crossland
665 S. 8th Street
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-767-4822
www.crosslandliteracy.com
Booth 300

Bound To Stay Bound Books

Lori Smith
1880 West Morton Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
800-637-6586
www.btsb.com
Booth 600

Children's Plus, Inc.

Kathy Mackle Tiffany
1387 Dutch American Way
Beecher, IL 60401
800-230-1279
www.hellocpi.com
Booth 602

College of Education, Illinois State University

Kelli Appel
250 S. University Street
Campus Box 5300
Normal, IL 61761
309-438-5415
<https://education.illinoisstate.edu/>
Booth 433

Crossland Literacy

Bert Crossland
665 S. 8th Street
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-767-4822
www.crosslandlit.com
Booth 302-305

Curriculum Associates

Eileen Townsend
Julie Quirk
153 Rangeway Road
N. Billerica, MA 1862
314-440-3851
www.curriculumassociates.com
Booth 309

Custom Education Solutions

Jim Knytych
Jon Dambek
235 Remington Road, Suite A
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
224-334-3133
customedu.com
Booth 405

Decodable Adventure Series

Heidi Jane
Adam Martin
262-320-8132
<https://droppinknowledge.com/topics/decodables/>
Booth 509

EXHIBITORS

Educational Environments (Frank Cooney)

David Cichosz
700 Touhy Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
630-694-8800
www.edu-env.com
Booth 230

EPS/School Specialty

Roxann Salgado
Betsy Lichner
80 Northwest Blvd
Nashua, NH 3603
800-225-5750
<https://eps.schoolspecialty.com/>
Booth 524

Great Minds

Nancy Waldschmidt
Marc Blue
Meg Edwards
Julie Long
55 M Street SE, Suite 340
Washington, DC 20003
202-223-1854
www.greatminds.org
Booth 232

hand2mind

Katie Leff
Jackie Harvey
500 Greenview Court
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
800-445-5985
<http://www.hand2mind.com/>
Booth 228-229

Hatch Early Learning

Kylie Rymanowicz
Rachel Kenison
301 North Main Street, Suite 101
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
800-624-7968
www.hatchearlylearning.com
Booth 224

Heinemann

Bert Crossland
665 S. 8th Street
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-767-4822
www.crosslandliteracy.com
Booth 328-333

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Amy Waller
Chris Edwards
125 High Street; Suite 900
Boston, MA 2110
217-597-2432
hmhco.com
Booth 614

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

Kevin Daugherty
Chris Wyant
1701 Towanda Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-557-3334
www.agintheclassroom.org
Booth 323-324

Illinois ASCD

Ryan Nevius
133 S. 4th Street, Suite 203
Springfield, IL 62701
618-203-3993
IllinoisASCD.org
Booth 231

Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools

Deanna Oliver
28 North 1st Street
Geneva, IL 60134
630-232-5955
www.iarss.org
Booth 604

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Lorna Shuman
Joe Bauer
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217-785-0973
dnr.illinois.gov/education.html
Booth 504

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA)

Heather Woomer
2735 Hassert Blvd., Suite 135
PMB 304
Naperville, IL 60564
630-628-1088
ideaillinois.org
Booth 533

Imagine Learning

Susan Jones
Marla Bormann
8860 East Chaparral Road, Ste 100
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
877-725-4257
www.imaginelearning.com
Booth 529-531

IRC Illinois Reads Program

1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2
Normal, IL 61761
309-454-1341
www.illinoisreads.org
Booth 431

IRC International Project

1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2
Normal, IL 61761
309-454-1341
www.IllinoisReadingCouncil.org
Booth 430

EXHIBITORS

IRC Membership/Treasure Chest

1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2
Normal, IL 61761
309-454-1341
www.IllinoisReadingCouncil.org
Booth 432

Istation

Julie Ellis
Stacy Rubly
8150 North Central Expressway,
Suite 2000
Dallas, TX 75206
214-237-9300
<https://www.istation.com/>
Booth 522

IXL Learning

Christine Albano (Chicago Metro)
Ryan Knott (Central/Southern IL)
777 Mariners Island Blvd
San Mateo, CA 94404
855-255-8800
773-984-8786 (Christine)
984-253-5037 (Ryan)
ixl.com
Booth 311

Jewelry to Go

Shelley Kowalewski
2103 Mint Spring Lane
Wildwood, MO 63038
636-236-1130
Booth 222-223

Learning A-Z

Lauren VanKirk
Dan Dunham
1840 E River Road, Suite 220
Tucson, AZ 85718
520-232-5000
www.learninga-z.com
Booth 233

Mastery Education

Mariah De La Fuente
1000 N. Second Avenue
PO Box #500
Logan, IA 51546
800-822-1080
<https://masteryeducation.com/>
Booth 505

Mike Lockett/Storyteller and Author

Mike Lockett
Jan Lockett
2001 Foxwood CC Run
Normal, IL 61761
309-310-2299
www.mikelockett.com
Booth 511

National Louis University

William Vavrin
122 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60603
888-658-8632
<https://nl.edu/>
Booth 219

NiaTheAuthor

Nia Obotette
2407 W Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414-439-3838
www.niatheauthor.com
Booth 220

Okapi Educational Publishing

Bert Crossland
665 S. 8th Street
West Dundee, IL 60118
847-767-4822
Crosslandliteracy.com
Booth 301

PaperPie and Usborne: Beyond Books with Kathy Cooney

Kathy Cooney
217-370-9570
www.kathycbooks.com
Booth 312

Perma-Bound

Vickie Green
617 East Vandalia Road
Jacksonville, IL 62650
800-637-6581
www.perma-bound.com
Booth 310

Reading Horizons

Ethan Lynn
Shaun Sunderland
1194 Flint Meadow Dr
Kaysville, UT 84037
800-333-0054
www.readinghorizons.com/
Booth 532

Renaissance

Jenna Urish
Jennifer Stoeber
2911 Peach Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
800-338-4204
www.renaissance.com/
Booth 523

ROE 4's Literacy Collective of Illinois

Carrie Brockway
Dr. Kimberlee Wagner
300 Heart Blvd
Loves Park, IL 61111
815-636-3060
roe4.org
Booth 321

EXHIBITORS

Roxy & Lola

Erica Schrock
8756 Hickory Hills Drive
Argenta, IL 62501
217-620-9964
www.roxyandlola.com
Booth 428

Sadlier

Michael Brosseau
25 Broadway
New York, NY 100041010
800-221-5175
www.sadlier.com
Booth 609

Savvas Learning Company

Christine Maleska
3075 W. Ray Road
Chandler, AZ 85226
480-271-4340
www.savvas.com
Booth 500-501

Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant

Shelley Kenow
Lou Jansen
301 West Hendricks Street
Albers, IL 62215
314-541-2181
www.shelleykenow.com
Booth 603

SLANT System for Structured Language Training

Beth Hatlen
Karla O'Brien
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-687-8962
www.slantssystem.com
Booth 402

SLD Support Project

Robin Thoma
5837 Park Drive
Charleston, IL 61920
217-348-7704
www.sldsupports.org
Booth 528

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) - IL

Louann Brown
Juliann Caveny
19 Plum Court
Sleepy Hollow, IL 60118
224-595-6821
scbwi.org/regions/illinois
Booth 314

Sundance Newbridge

Jim Jenkins
33 Boston Post Road West, Ste 440
Marlborough, MA 1752
800-343-8204
www.SundanceNewbridge.com
Booth 401

Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

Nicholas Stabler
2815 W. Washington
PO Box 19253
Springfield, IL 627949253
217-814-2161
www.rsil.org
Booth 601

The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University

Sheri Bettis
Jen Brooks
100 S Fell Ave, Suite B
Normal, IL 61761
309-438-1835
<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/>
Booth 320

The Teacher Truck

Megan Austin
teacher-truck-100107.square.site
Booth 520-521 & 615-616

University of St. Francis

Sharna Wilkerson
500 Wilcox Street
Joliet, IL 60435
815-740-3699
www.stfrancis.edu
Booth 429

Vista Higher Learning

Adelfio Garcia
500 Boylston Street, Suite 620
Boston, MA 2116
787-529-8035
<https://vistahigherlearning.com/>
Booth 513-514

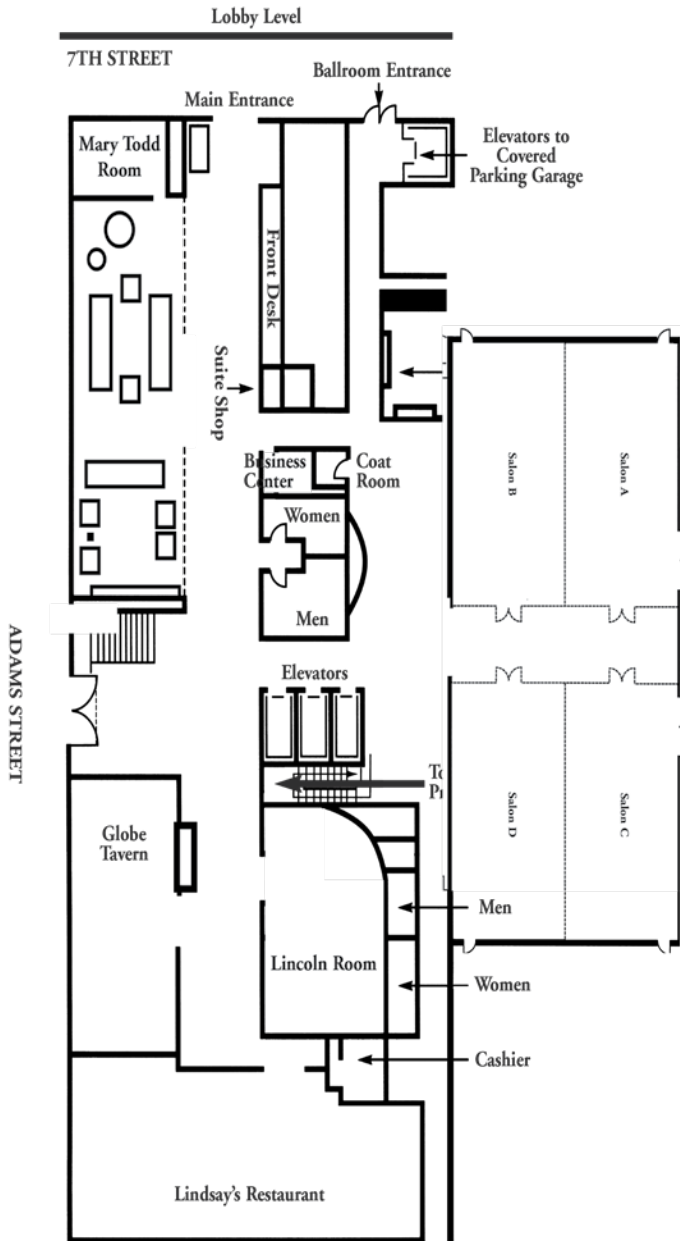
Zaner-Bloser

Tracey Kampmann
Angela Cammarata
PO Box 18360
Columbus, OH 43121
800-421-3018
Zaner-Bloser.com
Booth 400

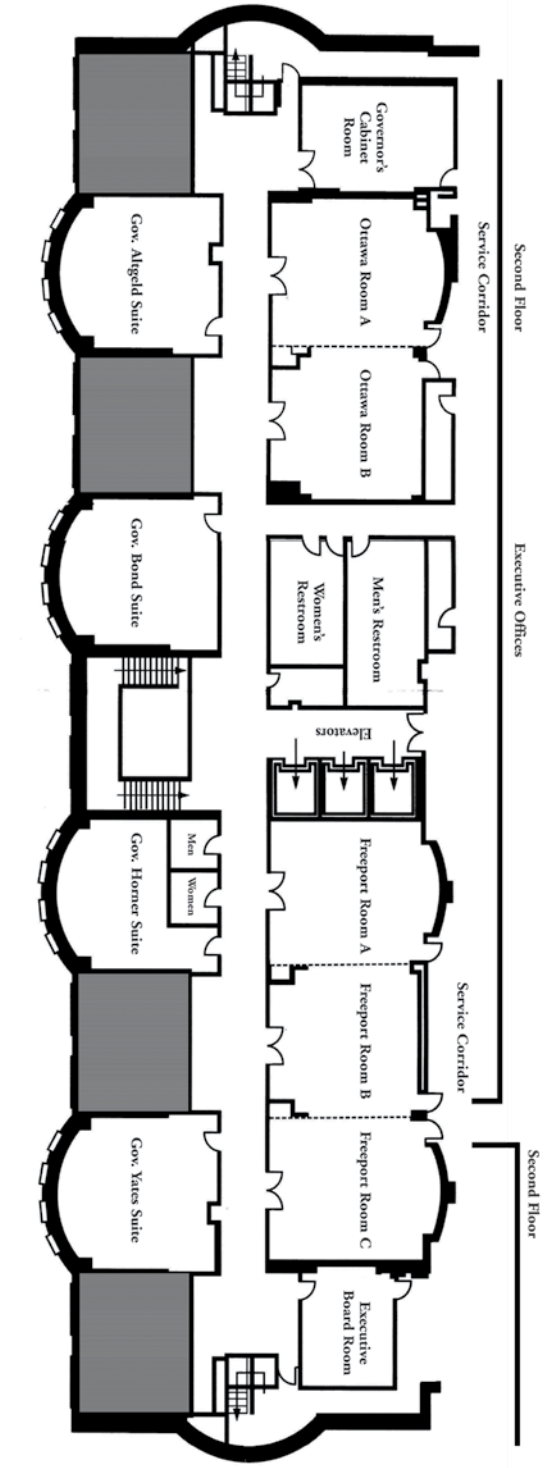
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President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, A Doubletree Hotel



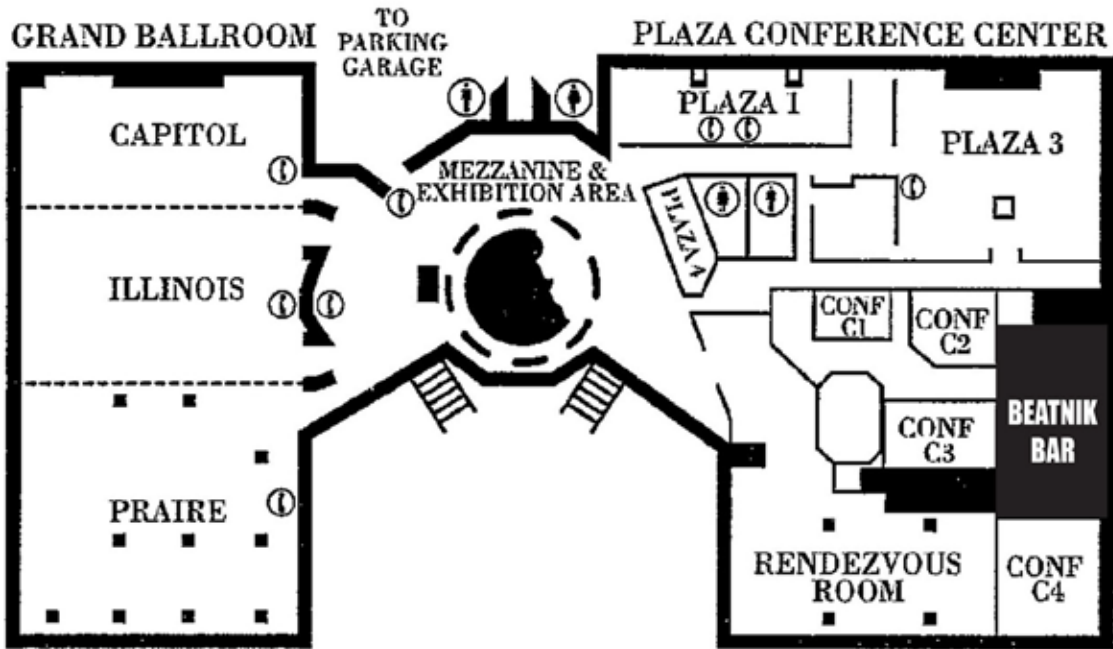
First Floor



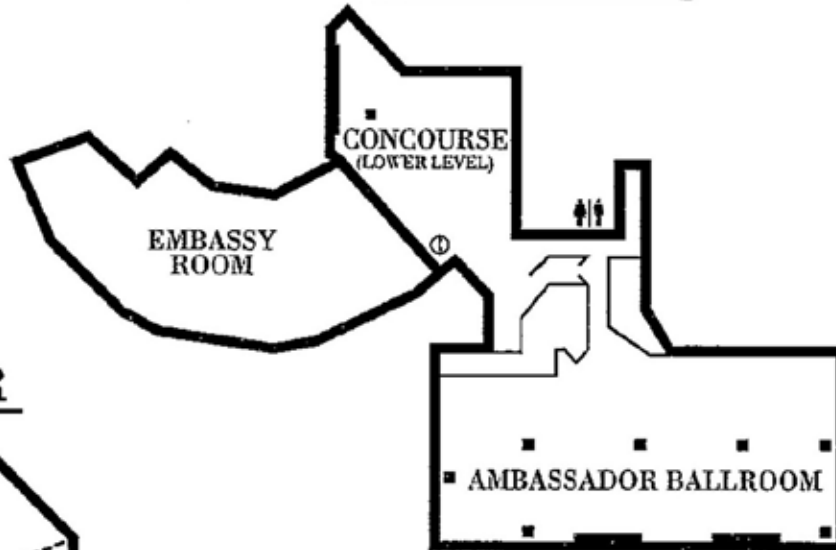
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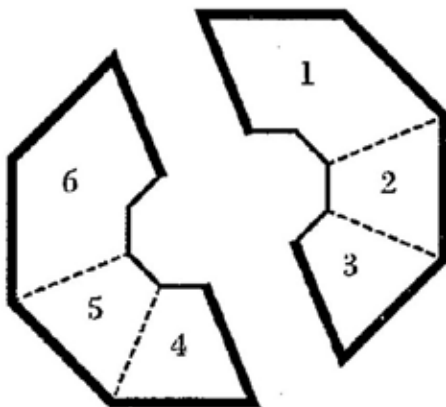
MEZZANINE LEVEL



CONCOURSE LEVEL



29TH FLOOR



Bank of Springfield Center

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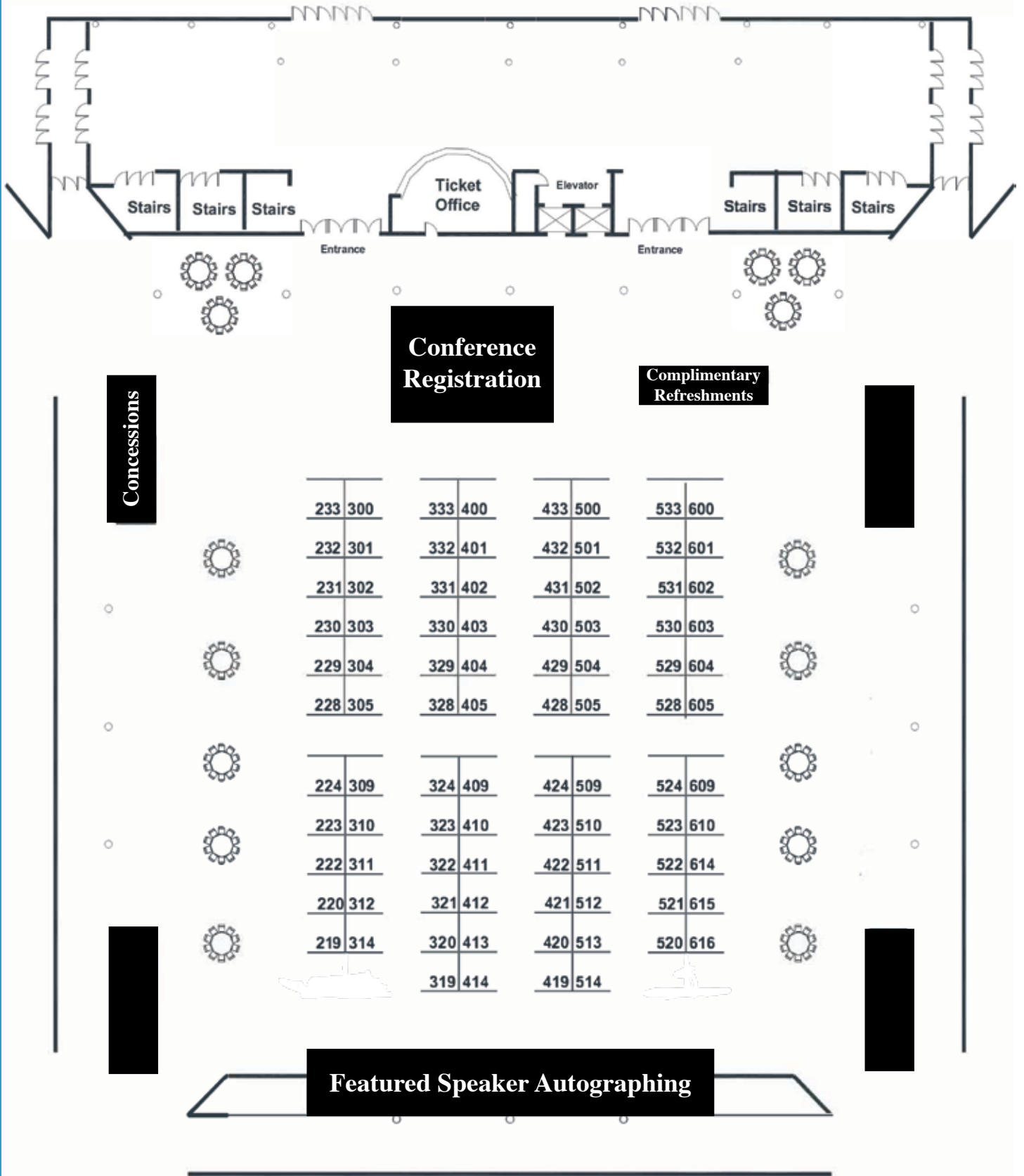
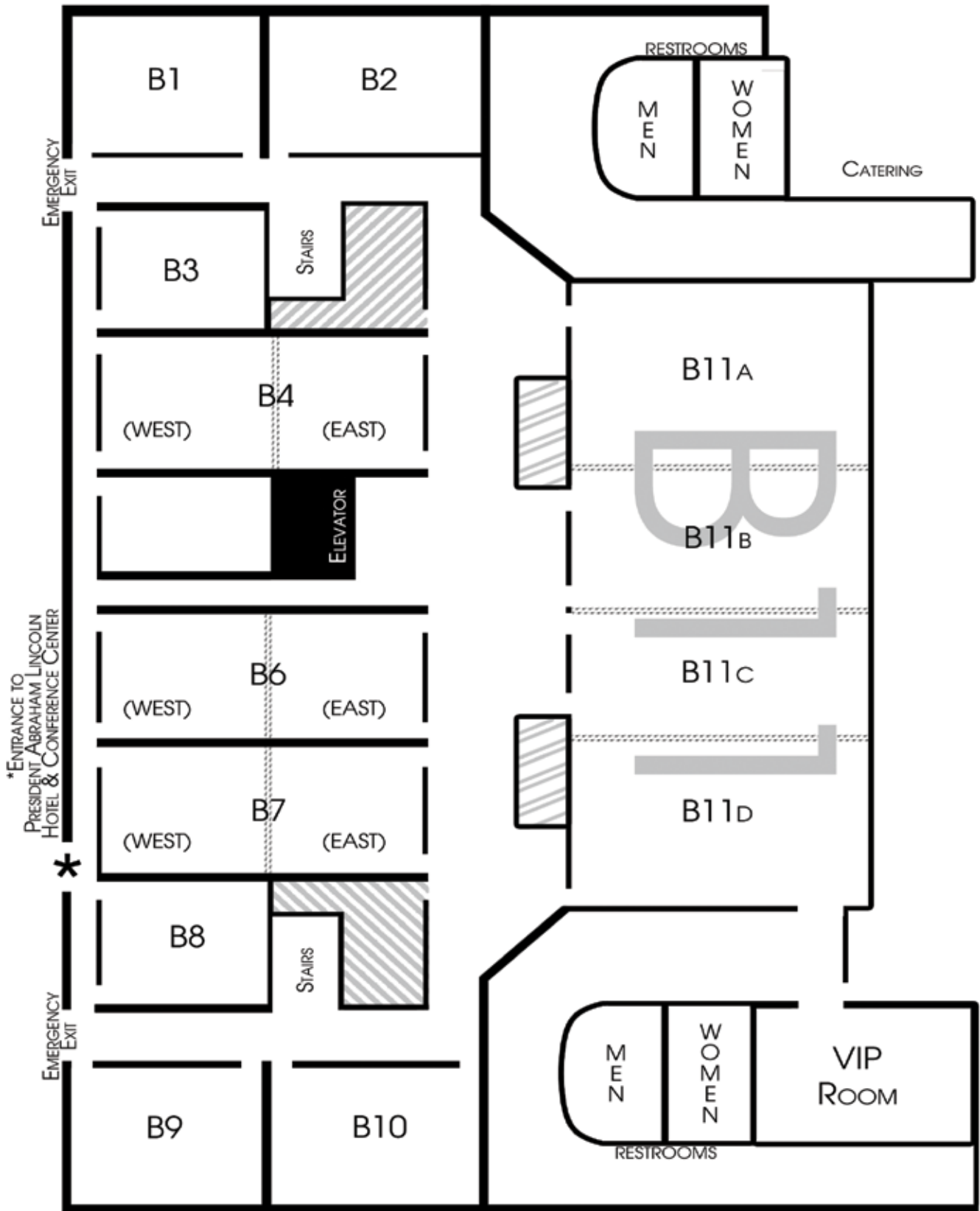


Exhibit Hall on First Floor

Bank of Springfield Center



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Meeting Rooms in Lower Level

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLOCK HOURS

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The Illinois Reading Council is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered attendees can earn one clock hour for each session attended. Please note that meal functions and other events are available for one (1) clock hour only. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight (8) clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit your clock hours for the sessions that you attended and/or presented at the conference via one of two options.

OPTION 1 – ONLINE CLOCK HOUR FORM: You can enter your **Record of Sessions Attended** and **Conference Evaluation Forms** via the online form at: <https://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/IRC-Conference-Evaluation-Form>.

OPTION 2 – PRINT PDF COPY OF THE CLOCK HOUR FORMS: You can print the **Record of Sessions Attended** and **Conference Evaluation Forms** prior to your arrival at the conference and drop off the completed forms at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall. The forms can also be mailed or faxed to the IRC Office within one week after the conference. The PDF Form is available at: <https://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/assets/docs/Clock Hour Forms.pdf>.

Please review your personal License Renewal Plan to determine which sessions fit. Be sure that your goals are broad enough to include a variety of literacy topics. The Illinois Reading Council is merely the provider. The responsibility for determining which sessions agree with your plan and are granted credits by your school district is yours.

The Illinois Reading Council will process the forms following the conference. Your clock hours will be entered directly into the **ISBE PD Plus System**. When entered, you will receive an email notification to log into your **ISBE ELIS Account** to complete the **ISBE Evaluation Form** through the ISBE PD Plus System. Once completed, you can print off your **ISBE Evidence Form** to keep for your records and your clock hours will be automatically added to your ISBE ELIS Account.

IRC Record of Clock Hours Earned Form

You must complete both sides of this form and place in an evaluation box.

Instructions: Each registered participant must complete both sides of this form. This form must be signed and placed in an evaluation box prior to leaving the conference. Failure to complete this form or failure to turn it in may result in loss of professional development credit. For each session attended, you must list the session number, the title of the session, and the presenter(s) name. As a presenter, you may also earn additional clock hours. Other activities may also be listed. **Participants earn one (1) PD hour per hour of participation at the conference. For meal functions and special events, only one (1) PD hour is earned for the presentation and not the meal or autographing. Following the conference, the ISBE Evidence of Completion Form with your verified clock hours will be mailed to registered participants.**

Session #	Title of Presentation	Name of Presenter(s)
-----------	-----------------------	----------------------

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

7:00 AM		
8:30 AM		
9:45 AM		
11:00 AM		
12:15 PM		
1:00 PM		
2:15 PM		
3:30 PM		
6:15 PM		
8:30 PM		

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

7:00 AM		
8:30 AM		
9:45 AM		
11:00 AM		
12:15 PM		
1:00 PM		
2:15 PM		
3:30 PM		

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL HOURS EARNED: _____

I state, to the best of my knowledge, that this form is true, correct and complete.

Signature of participant _____ IEIN # _____

Name of participant (Must be registered to earn PD hours) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

HELP US PLAN FOR 2025

Please use this form to evaluate this year's conference. Your reactions and suggestions are valued and will help us plan subsequent conferences with your preferences in mind.

Drop this in one of the evaluation boxes located at the Registration Desk (Thursday and Friday) OR complete the online form on the Conference App OR return to: Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2, Normal, IL 61761.

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>
1. Overall, I was satisfied with the 2024 Conference .	4	3	2	1
2. Conference offered a wide variety of speakers/activities .	4	3	2	1
3. Author/illustrator presentations were enjoyable.	4	3	2	1
4. Featured educational speakers were valuable & relevant.	4	3	2	1
5. Teachers sharing their classroom practices were valuable.	4	3	2	1
6. Research-based presentations were valuable & relevant.	4	3	2	1
7. Who would you like to see present at a future IRC Conference?				

Name:

Topic/Area

Contact info (if available):

8. I attended the Conference on (circle all that apply): **Wed.** **Thurs.** **Fri.**

9. I especially enjoyed this special event/program:

	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	
A. Wednesday evening Welcome Reception	4	3	2	1	N/A
B. Thursday evening Hear the Authors Read	4	3	2	1	N/A
C. Friday afternoon Illinois Reads Luncheon	4	3	2	1	N/A
D. Other _____					

10. In the Exhibit Hall, I would like the following products and services to be available: _____

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	Somewhat <u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	
A. Overall, the exhibits were helpful and informative.	4	3	2	1	N/A
B. The complimentary refreshments were good.	4	3	2	1	N/A
D. How much time did you spend in the exhibit hall?	1 hour or less	1-3 hours	3-6 hours		N/A

11. **Additional comments or suggestions about presentations, special events and/or the conference:**
 (Please remember that IRC has limited control over issues such as parking, hotel accommodations & service.)

12. **Please tell us about yourself.**

Age Range:

- 18-24
- 25-39
- 40-54
- 55 and over

Years in Education:

- 0-4
- 5-14
- 15-29
- 30 and over

Distance Traveled:

- less than 100 miles
- 101-200 miles
- 201-300 miles
- 300 + miles

Current Position (Select One)

Administrator:

- Principal
- Superintendent
- Curriculum Supervisor
- Other: _____

Classroom Teacher:

- Preschool
- K – 3
- 4 – 6
- Middle/Jr. High
- High School
- Post Secondary

Other:

- Pre-service Teacher
- Title I/Remedial Teacher
- Reading Spec./ Lit. Coach
- Gifted Teacher
- Spec. Ed. Teacher
- Librarian/Media Specialist
- Speech/Language Pathologist
- Teacher Aide/ Paraprofessional
- Substitute Teacher
- Retired Teacher
- Homeschool Teacher
- Other _____

District Type:

- Urban
- Suburban
- Small City
- Rural/Small Town

The Illinois Reading Council

invites you to join us for the 56th Annual Conference



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

LIBERATING LITERACY

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March 13-14, 2025

Springfield, Illinois

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Liz Kleinrock

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Illinois Reads Authors

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Interested in Presenting?

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