

Empowering
Lives
Through
Literacy

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WINTER 2023 IRC BOOK CLUB STARTS JANUARY 22, 2023

By the Illinois Reading Council

Join educators from all over the state in the online **Winter 2023 IRC Book Club!** Choose one or two books!

Read, reflect on, and respond to ***Being the Change: Lessons and Strategies to Teach Social Comprehension*** by Sara K. Ahmed and/or ***Rebellious Read Alouds: Inviting Conversations About Diversity With Children's Books*** by Vera Ahinya.

Beginning January 22, these seven-week online discussions will help your students develop skills of social comprehension to make sense of themselves and the world as they navigate relevant topics in today's society and/or to spark meaningful conversations about race, identity, and social justice in your classroom using read alouds as an entry point. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive 15 PD clock hours for each book club. Participants who complete one book club during the Winter will have the opportunity to participate in the other one during the Spring session.



Register by **January 22, 2023**, to participate in the book club. Registration is FREE for IRC Members. The cost for non-members is \$45, which includes IRC membership for one year. PLEASE NOTE: The cost of book(s) is not included.

REGISTER TODAY!

2023 ILLINOIS READS BOOKS ANNOUNCED

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council has just released the list of Illinois Reads books for 2023. Illinois Reads is a statewide program that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens. The program promotes six books in six different age categories by authors and illustrators who have ties to Illinois. The books range from read-to books for infants to books for adult readers. Bookmarks and posters highlighting the Illinois Reads books will be available in early 2023. Order early as supplies are limited!



The 2023 Illinois Reads Program will also be featured at the annual IRC Conference in Springfield, Illinois on March 9-10, 2023. Conference registration is now open for educators, librarians, and others interested in promoting literacy. The list of Illinois Reads Authors attending the conference will be announced soon.

Ages Birth – 4 Years

- *Would You Come Too?* by Liz Garton Scanlon and illustrated by Diana Sudyka
- *This is Music: Drums* by Rekha S. Rajan
- *Chicago, Baby!* by Feather Flores, illustrated by Kelly Leigh Miller
- *ABC Animals!* by Stephen F. Majsak
- *I'll Be Your Polar Bear* by Justin Roberts
- *Molly on the Moon* by Mary Robinette Kowal

Grades 6-8

- *Courage* by Barbara Binns
- *The Civil War of Amos Abernathy* by Michael Leali
- *Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa* by Julian Randall
- *Tumble* by Celia C. Pérez
- *ReThink the Internet: How to Make the Digital World a Lot Less Sucky* by Trisha Prabhu
- *Underground Fire: Hope, Sacrifice, and Courage in the Cherry Mine Disaster* by Sally M. Walker

Grades K-2

- *The Most Haunted House in America* by Jarrett Dapier
- *Stella Keeps the Sun Up* by Clothilde Ewing
- *Elephant's Big Solo* by Sarah Kurpiel
- *The Meaning of Pride* by Rosiee Thor and illustrated by Sam Kirk
- *Tortoise and Hare: A Fairy Tale to Help You Find Balance* by Susan Verde and illustrated by Jay Fleck
- *Yetis are the Worst!* by Alex Willan

Grades 9-12

- *A Man Called Horse: John Horse and the Black Seminole Underground Railroad* by Glennette Tilley Turner
- *Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime* by Candace Fleming
- *As Fast As Her: Dream Big, Break Barriers, Achieve Success* by Kendall Coyne
- *Strike the Zither* by Joan He
- *The Wolves Are Watching* by Natalie Lund
- *Darling* by K. Ancrum

Grades 3-5

- *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* by Suzanne Slade and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera
- *Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner* by Janice N. Harrington
- *Pighearted* by Alex Perry
- *A Rover's Story* by Jasmine Warga
- *Apple Crush* by Lucy Knisley
- *Three Strike Summer* by Skyler Schremp

Adult

- *The Upstairs House: A Novel* by Julia Fine
- *Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America* by Cody Keenan
- *Eat, Drink, and Be Murray: A Feast of Family Fun and Favorites* by Andy Murray
- *Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel* by Shelby Van Pelt
- *The Two Lives of Sara* by Catherine Adel West
- *Last Summer on State Street: A Novel* by Toya Wolfe

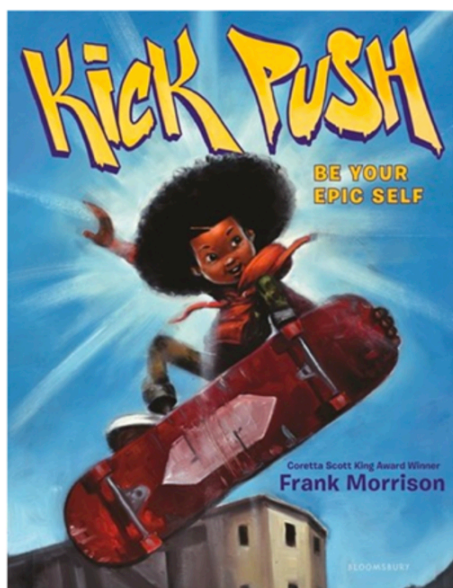
For more information or to order your bookmarks, visit illinoisreads.org.

PEP UP PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WITH PASS THE PICTURE BOOK

By Maria Walther

Picture books. I can't imagine teaching without them. Whether you're exploring print concepts with kindergarteners or analyzing how characters interact with high school readers, picture books are reliable teaching partners. If you're looking for a joyful and productive professional learning experience, try *Pass the Picture Book*. All you need for this picture book PD is a small stack of the recently-published texts (one or two per participant is plenty), some sticky notes, a shared electronic spreadsheet, and a group of colleagues. When selecting the picture books, be mindful to include those by creators with varied voices. To prepare, label the sticky notes and a spread sheet with the following four categories:

- **Big Ideas:** Think about your curriculum. Where could this book fit in? How might the text enhance or extend students' learning? Could it serve as a mentor text for writers? Does it have a positive social-emotional message? Would it be helpful for building background for your content-area units? Record any themes, topics, or big ideas that the book brings to light.
- **Noticings:** Study all of the parts of the book. Did the creators design interesting endpapers? Is there an author or illustrator note? What kind of information is included in the backmatter? Are there any hidden "Easter eggs" in the illustrations like visual jokes, hidden images, cameo appearances, and so on? For instance, readers enjoy the fact that Mo Willems hides his character Pigeon on the end papers of all of the Elephant and Piggie books or that Peter Brown includes a cameo appearance of the creepy carrots and the creepy pair of underwear in *Creepy Crayon!* (Reynolds, 2022).
- **Teaching Ideas:** Drill down a bit more by brainstorming lesson ideas that teachers might try before, during, or after reading the text. Target standards-based learning opportunities. Could learners apply a comprehension strategy, emulate the author's craft moves, or join in on repeated parts to build fluency? Are there ways to extend the read-aloud experience through conversation, written (or illustrated) response, research, community action?
- **Text Pairings:** Jot down any texts you can think of that would pair with the book and work well for comparing and contrasting to see how two different authors approach a similar topic or theme.



<u>Big Ideas</u>	<u>Notice</u>
Self-Awareness	Illustrations
Belonging	Author's Note
Moving	Repeated "skateboard" sounds
<u>Teaching Ideas</u>	<u>Pair with</u>
Character study-track	When Langston
character's feelings	Dances

Place a labeled sticky note on each book. Then, if needed, explain the purpose of each category. In a relaxed, reader-friendly setting, each participant selects a picture book from the stack and reads it with an eye towards one of the four categories, jotting down anything they notice along the way. Once they've finished, they pass the book on to the next person who reads and records their discoveries in a different category. After the four categories are complete, task someone to quickly transfer ideas from the sticky notes to the spreadsheet. Set aside some time at the end to debrief on the texts and the process. To put your work into action, invite teachers to take a book and try out some of the ideas. Then, at an agreed upon date, come back together to reflect on how it went. Add to the spreadsheet any insights gained from using the book with students.

When you slow down to “read like a teacher,” you notice aspects of the book you might have missed while reading it aloud with your students. *Pass the Picture Book* is a pleasant way to collaborate with colleagues and compile a handy reference guide. As an added bonus, you are familiarizing yourself with up-and-coming authors and illustrators and finding fresh titles to read aloud for pleasure, use for instruction, or put into a reader’s hands. Imagine if you did picture book PD a few times a year and continued to populate the spreadsheet with your crowdsourced findings. You will be building up a bank of ideas that are tailor-made for the students in your teaching context. What a gift for both teachers and readers!

MANGA MADNESS IN THE MEDIA CENTER

By Alan Holtz

Wow! Thank you IRC for the help from the Literacy Support Grant. Over the past 10 years, the IRC has annually funded my school’s library with approximately \$500 of manga. This has allowed us to grow a collection of nearly 400 copies.



Manga is an astonishing format of literature. Manga is the Japanese form of comic books, but please don’t think of it as just a comic book. The format has been around for quite a long time. These books have been published for both adults and youth.

Over the 20 years that I have taught middle school, I’ve noticed a few patterns with manga-oriented readers. They seem to gravitate towards manga for the following reasons: the absurdist humor of middle schoolers, cultural tie-ins, dual-language/bilingual learning, and reading is fun.

If you taught middle school, you know that their brains are wired differently than ours. Part of that miswiring leads them to a fascination with the exotic. When it comes to manga, reading it backwards fits that niche just like the Choose-Your-Own-Adventure books did for me when I was their age. The concept that the book is reversed from our perspective is the perfect lure to snag them with.

We all know that literature and movies are interlinked. Best selling novels are frequently ruined by placing it on the big screen. Well, the same is true for our students and their interests. Currently, *Splatoon* is dominating my circulation records. Why? *Splatoon* is a Nintendo video game. Our kids are gobbling up this series and I don’t need to spend one minute promoting it.

Our readers of manga are all across the spectrum. Our honors-level students and reluctant readers flock to the manga. It’s neat to see how some students will search Destiny for a specific title, while the reluctant reader browses the shelf for their next title. When you buy manga, please expect to see students browsing your shelves. To capture their eye, display your manga with the covers out.

Lastly, expect losses. In my evaluation of the IRC Literacy Support Grants was a line that said if this grant was truly successful, we would have plenty of missing or destroyed titles. I can proudly say that slightly over 20% of my copies have come to an untimely demise, but what else would you expect from a section of the collection that has 3,700 check outs over the past 3 semesters.

A CULTURALLY RELEVANT LESSON THROUGH MAKING A VIDEO

By Laura St. John

As I strive to create student-centered lessons that allow for learning through the culture my students know, I’ve found making videos to be a powerful tool for helping them connect to literature. A great way to do this is to create an entry for the [90-Second Newbery Film Festival](#). This is a film festival in which children from all over the country make short movie adaptations of Newbery award winning or Newbery honor books. The festival is held in major cities across the nation and is hosted by the Harold Washington Library in Chicago.

During the pandemic, when Chicago Public Schools were mostly virtual, I had to rethink the culminating

event for [Play In A Book](#), my drama based reading program. We typically end with a performance of our leveled scripts, which we've rehearsed through repeated readings. Since a live performance wasn't possible, I turned to developing short videos with my students. I've been amazed at their level of engagement since adding this to my programming. Making a video based on a story we've read is a project that fully engages my students; plus, as they work on acting out scenes or doing voice-overs, I am able to gauge their reading skills.

Begin by selecting the book you'd like to adapt from the list of Newbery award winners as well as the list of Newbery Honor books.

The links listed below can help you get started:

List of Newbery Award Winners

- <https://abqlibrary.org/newbery/All>

90-Second Newbery Website

- <https://90secondnewbery.com/>

Flipgrid (a wonderful tool for shooting video with students)

- <https://info.flipgrid.com/>

Once you've selected a book and read it with your students, you're ready to start working on your movie. The process I am using in Play In A Book classrooms is mapped out below:

- Session 1: Students are introduced to 90-Second Newbery Film samples, and will decide on the style with which they wish to develop their film.
- Session 2: Scripting and storyboarding beginning.
- Session 3: Scripting and storyboarding middle.
- Session 4: Scripting and storyboarding ending.
- Session 5: Shooting beginning.
- Session 6: Shooting middle.
- Session 7: Shooting end.
- Session 8: Additional shooting and recording needed voice-overs.
- Session 9: Viewing draft and making revisions as needed.
- Session 10: Viewing final video and celebrating our work together.

The deadline for entry into the festival is March 3, 2023.

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

Don't forget to take advantage of some upcoming PD opportunities planned throughout Illinois.

- **January 4, 2023: IRC Webinar on Using Inclusive Texts in the K-6 Classroom** with Aimee Ellis from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **January 10, 2023: Lewis and Clark Reading Council** will host The Nightingale Movie Private Showing from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at Marcus O'Fallon Cinema, 1320 Central Park Drive, O'Fallon, Illinois.
- **January 13, 2023: Prairie Area Reading Council** will host a Family Literacy Night from 4:45 to 6:45 pm at Westmont Public Library, 428 N Cass Avenue, Westmont, Illinois.
- **January 17, 2023: East Central-EIU Reading Council** will host Illinois Reads New Year's Party from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Eastern Illinois University, Buzzard Hall, 1920 9th Street, Charleston, Illinois.
- **January 22, 2023: IRC Book Club** will read, reflect on, and respond to *Being the Change: Lessons and Strategies to Teach Social Comprehension* by Sara K. Ahmed and/or *Rebellious Read Alouds: Inviting Conversations About Diversity With Children's Books* by Vera Ahiiya.

These seven-week online discussions will help your students develop skills of social comprehension to make sense of themselves and the world as they navigate relevant topics in today's society and/or to spark meaningful conversations about race, identity, and social justice in your classroom using read alouds as an entry point. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive 15 PD clock hours for each book club.

- **January 25, 2023: Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA)** will host the SCIRA Winter Conference on Patterns of Power with Whitney La Rocca from 6:00 to 7:30 pm via Zoom.

To view the full **IRC Events Calendar**, please visit the [IRC Website](#).

QUICK LINKS

[Visit the IRC Website](#)

[Full IRC Events Calendar](#)

[Latest on the IRC Conference](#)

[Available IRC Awards and Grants](#)

[Bring IRC PD to your School District](#)

[Learn more about the Illinois Reads Program](#)

Questions? Please feel free to reach out to the Illinois Reading Council by email at irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org or by phone at 309-454-1341.

See what's also happening on our social media sites:

