

Empowering
Lives
Through
Literacy

Communicator

1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2
Normal, IL 61761

Phone: 309-454-1341

Fax: 309-454-3512

Email: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Web: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

 @IllinoisReadingCouncil

 Twitter @ILReadCouncil #ircreads

 Instagram.com/ilreadcouncil

 Pinterest.com/illinoisreading

UPCOMING PD OPPORTUNITIES WITH IRC

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is excited to share these upcoming PD opportunities with educators! IRC members can participate in these opportunities for free and earn up to 40 PD clock hours! Non-members can join today for only \$45 to also participate.

FALL 2022 IRC BOOK CLUBS

Educators from all over the state will be reading, reflecting on, and responding to *Textured Teaching: A Framework for Culturally Sustaining Practices* by Lorena Escoto German and/or a pairing of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi along with *Stamped (For Kids)* adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul. Beginning October 23, these seven-week online discussions will help you build traditional literacy skills while supporting students in developing their social justice skills and/or explore race and racism in America with hope for an antiracist future. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive 15 PD clock hours for each book club. Register by October 15, 2022 to participate in the book clubs.



IRC WEBINAR SERIES

The Illinois Reading Council will be offering the 2022-2023 IRC Webinar Series for members only.

- **September 7, 2022** ~ How Photography Enhances the Teaching of Writing with Ralph Fletcher
- **October 5, 2022** ~ Creating Passionate Nonfiction Readers with Melissa Stewart
- **November 2, 2022** ~ *Starfishing* with Lisa Fipps
- **December 7, 2022** ~ Writing Great Nonfiction With Kids with Candace Fleming
- **January 4, 2023** ~ Using Inclusive Texts in the K-6 Classroom with Aimee Ellis
- **February 1, 2023** ~ Discovering the 2023 Illinois Reads Books with Becky Anderson
- **March 1, 2023** ~ Webinar with Jasmine Warga
- **April 5, 2023** ~ The Impact of Anxiety on Children's Literacy: Practical Strategies That Support Children with Beverley Holden Johns
- **May 3, 2023** ~ Trauma 101 with Josh Carlson
- **June 7, 2023** ~ Webinar to be announced soon

Members can earn 1 PD clock hour for watching each live or recorded webinar until June 30, 2023. Registration links to the live webinars will be emailed to all members approximately two weeks prior to each webinar and the recordings and future registration links will be available through their online IRC Membership Account. Non-members can join online today and also immediately access the registration links and past webinars.

If you have any questions about these PD opportunities, please contact the [IRC Office](#).

ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP

By Donna Herman, Director of Membership

Did you know your membership in the Illinois Reading Council connects you with over 1,600 dedicated educators? Our members include general education teachers, administrators, reading specialists, special education specialists, university faculty, retired educators, student teachers, librarians, and more. We are considered a leading literacy organization in Illinois and offer a wide range of tangible and intangible services to our members. In addition, your membership includes joining a local or special council (or more), providing an opportunity for you to become involved in helping your colleagues, students, and the community improve literacy outcomes for all students. Here are just a few of the tangible benefits your membership provides:

- Professional Learning and growth opportunities at the state and local levels.
- Online IRC Book Club – Earn PD clock hours.
- Award-winning peer-reviewed professional *IRC Journal*.
- Monthly newsletter with resources to use *now*.
- Opportunity to network with others who are dedicated to the advancement of literacy.
- [IRC's Annual Conference](#) – Discounted registration for members.
- Domain IV – Professionalism in teaching.

The Illinois Reading Council met the challenges of COVID-19 and continued to provide resources and support to our members. We are excited to stay on this journey with you and for you – our members. Let us know how we can help, refer a colleague, or ask how you can get involved. [Membership](#) is just a click away! Join IRC at [#IRCReads](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

IRC ANNOUNCES 2022-2023 LITERACY SUPPORT GRANTS

By the Literacy Support Grant Committee

The IRC Literacy Support Grant Committee is pleased to announce the grants awarded for 2022-2023. IRC greatly appreciates the grantees for submitting their ideas and volunteering to promote literacy development by conducting the following programs.

REGION 2

CARA	Amy Butler	\$500	Family Literacy
SCIRA	Heather Lara	\$600	Decodable Texts: The Essential "Wheels" Needed to Get Students Ready to Take Off "Reading"

REGION 3

Fox Valley	Dawn Wolber	\$1,250	Book of the Month
Fox Valley	Allison Thomas	\$500	Research Workshop Text Sets
Fox Valley	Emily Goetschel	\$500	Science Picture Books in the Middle School Classroom

REGION 4

Black Hawk	Susie Smice	\$800	Morning Coffee Club
Illinois Valley	Samantha Alvarado	\$500	Chew and Chat
Western Illinois	Patricia Bertelsen	\$1,500	Collaborating for Success: Using Literacy to Strengthen the Home to School Connection

REGION 8

National Road	Amy Hewing	\$800	Let's Read the 2023 Monarch Award Nominated Books!
National Road	Amy Hewing	\$650	Bluestem Books and Breakfast

REGION 9

Southern Illinois	Teresa Burdin	\$400	Fancy Fluency & Exciting Expression
Southern Illinois	Pamela Turner	\$800	Read from the Land to the Sea in 2022-23!

REGION 10

SRL	Alan Holtz	\$400	Battle of the Books
SRL	Alan Holtz	\$400	Free Comic Book Day 2023
SRL	Alan Holtz	\$400	Manga Madness

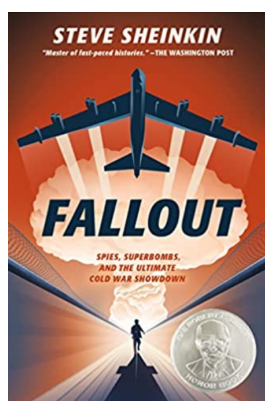
IRC would like to encourage other members to apply for a Literacy Support Grant next year. The IRC Literacy Support Grant for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 is available on the IRC website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org. Please note that the application deadline is **May 1, 2023**.

If you have any questions about the guidelines or process for applying, please contact Pat Braun, the IRC Literacy Support Grant Chair, at literacysupportgrant@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

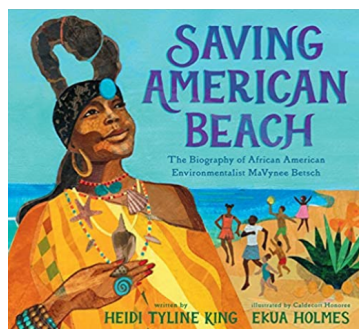
By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

The bright sunny days of summer are growing shorter as we move closer to autumn. August is sometimes referred to as The Dog Days of Summer, but it is also Family Fun Month and National Picnic Month.



With the war between Ukraine and Russia still going on, it has been stated in the media that America and the rest of the world could be headed for another Cold War. To understand what the original Cold War was like read ***Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown*** by Steve Sheinkin. World War II has ended and both the United States and the Soviet Union (now Russia) have emerged as world powers, but yet, opposites on the political spectrum while being competitive to amass nuclear weapons, and win the space race. Sheinkin begins his book by telling the story of a Brooklyn paperboy who drops some coins from his weekly collections and discovers a hollow nickel that contains a Soviet spy's microfilm inside. This leads to a larger network of Soviet spies working within the U.S. to steal America's secrets. America sends U2 planes over the Soviet Union to spy on their nuclear weapons and Francis Powers, a U.S. pilot, is captured. President Eisenhower's presidency ends, John Kennedy is the new president, Nikita Khrushchev is the Soviet leader, and Fidel Castro rises to power in Cuba. As

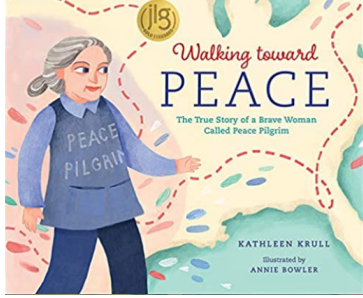
these three leaders struggle for world dominance, the circumstances involved could have led to World War III and perhaps the end of the world. Other events such as the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the building of the Berlin Wall, and the Cuban Missile Crisis also played a part in the Cold War. Through high stakes negotiations and the realization of what the final outcome could be, the Cold War eventually came to an end. *Fallout* is an excellent informative book for Jr High and above, for all libraries. Reading *Fallout* shows some parallels of what happened in the Cold War and what's happening in the war on Ukraine today.



In the Jim Crow south going to the beach was not always available to African American families. ***Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch*** by Heidi Tyline King tells us about MaVynee Betsch who grew up near a beach in Jacksonville, Florida. Black kids like MaVynee couldn't swim with the white kids. In fact an orange rope was strung in the ocean to separate the white kids from the black kids while they were in the water. MaVynee wanted a beach for everyone to enjoy. So her wealthy great-grandfather, Abraham Lincoln Lewis, bought a beach in Florida. He called it American Beach and all African Americans could come and enjoy it. MaVynee loved singing and eventually became a successful opera singer.

MaVynee returned to American Beach when her mom became ill and passed away. Finding the beach in disrepair, MaVynee gave up her opera career and spent the rest of her life educating the public about black history and the importance of American Beach. She also became an environmentalist who worked tirelessly to preserve American Beach. MaVynee was eventually successful in reaching her dream when American Beach was listed as a historical site on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001 and became part of the National Park Service. *Saving American Beach* is an inspiring story accompanied by beautiful illustrations. The back of the book gives further information about MaVynee Betsch. You can also view and hear the author read *Saving American Beach* on YouTube.

Walking can be a healthy exercise but can also be a relaxing and enjoyable experience. To learn about a lady who enjoyed walking for a reason read ***Walking Toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim***



Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim by Kathleen Krull. Prior to becoming Peace Pilgrim, Mildred Lisette Norman worked as a secretary, had a modest lifestyle and active social life. Mildred was anti-war and became determined to spread the message of peace. Her plan included giving up everything, her home, her possessions, changing her name to Peace Pilgrim, and preparing to walk twenty-five thousand miles across America spreading her message of peace. Donning a simple blue shirt with her name, a pair of slacks, and sneakers, along with a few items, some maps that fit in her pockets and no money, Peace Pilgrim

began her journey on New Year's Day at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. While walking she would stop and talk to people she met about peace. Throughout her journey Peace Pilgrim relied on strangers for food and shelter. As news of her journey and mission spread, Peace Pilgrim was asked to speak at schools, churches, and other community events. Peace Pilgrim eventually reached her goal of walking 25,000 miles and continued to walk for 28 years spreading the message to make the world a more peaceful place. *Walking Toward Peace* is an inspiring biography of Peace Pilgrim, enhanced by the beautiful pastel water-colored illustrations by illustrator Annie Bowler. The back of the book contains more detailed information about Peace Pilgrim's life. Go to <https://www.peacepilgrim.org> for the official website about Peace Pilgrim. You can also view the book on YouTube.



Are you familiar with Title IX and how it became a law? Read ***Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight: Patsy Takemoto and the Fight for Title IX*** by Jen Bryant. Patsy is the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants who came to Hawaii "to seek a better life." From a young age Patsy learned how hard her grandfather and father worked. She also learned about family obligations and Japanese cultural traditions, especially the Japanese proverb – Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight, which means "Never Give Up." Patsy faced many obstacles in her life, such as being rejected to attend medical school. Changing her career path, Patsy attended law school and became a lawyer. Despite her good grades no one hired her. Returning to Hawaii, Patsy opened her own law office, became involved in local politics, and was elected to the Hawaiian legislature. When Hawaii became the

50th state Patsy ran to be a representative in the U.S. Congress. Although she lost that race, she ran again and this time she won. Patsy became the first Asian American and one of 13 women to serve in the U.S. Congress. As Congresswoman Patsy received many letters from girls and women who were rejected from colleges and grad schools because of their gender. Recalling her own experiences, Patsy began working for and cosponsoring a bill "that required schools to treat men and women equally." The bill was called Title IX and was only 37 words long; it became part of a larger education bill. It eventually passed with amendments including women's sports and rights. The bill was signed into law by President Nixon. *Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight* is a delightful read enhanced by colorful pastel, digital illustrations. This book can be read at all ages and makes a nice addition to your women's history collection. You can also view this book on YouTube.

August Reminders:

August 1: Francis Scott Key Birthday – Wrote America's National Anthem

August 4: U.S. Coast Guard Day – Learn about this branch of the military that protects America's waters and coastlines

August 6: Campfire Day/Night – Make some S'mores to enjoy with family and friends

August 9: Book Lovers Day – Grab a refreshing drink and enjoy reading a good book on the patio or a favorite spot

August 12: World Elephant Day – Read about elephants and how we can protect them

August 14: World War II ends with Japan's surrender

August 21: National Senior Citizen Day – Thank a Senior Citizen by sending a card, phone call, or email to wish them a nice day

LITERACY LINKS

By Sheila Ruh, IRC Educational Media Committee Chair

Take a moment to review some of the Literacy Links provided by the IRC Educational Media Committee to help Illinois educators in today's classrooms.

Comprehensive Resources

[Noredink](#)

Noredink is a comprehensive resource that builds stronger writers through a curriculum of high interest activities, adaptive practice, and authentic assessments. It also utilizes the data to track progress in real time.

Web 2.0 Resources

[Story Jumper](#)

This online tool allows the users to write and publish books collaboratively. There is also access to many books that can be read or listened to from writers worldwide. Readers can even comment on other stories to give feedback as well.

Video Resources

[The Kid Should See This](#)

This is a collection of interesting videos organized by category, that can be searched as well. These videos have a special focus on STEAM topics and can be used for a variety of purposes, including Genius Hour, inquiry-based learning, flipped classroom activities, integrated studies, and inspiring hands-on experiments, projects, challenges, and experiences.

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

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

- **August 2, 2022: Northern Illinois Reading Council and Fox Valley Reading Council will host** Back to School Literacy Renewal: The Intersection of Reading Science and Artful Teaching with Jerry Johns, David Page, Tracy Beling, Mary Gardner, Annie Peiffer, and Anne Britt from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm at Northern Illinois University, Holmes Student Center, Clara Spelling Sky Room, 340 Carroll Avenue, DeKalb, Illinois.
- **August 9, 2022: Illini Reading Council and Vermilion Valley Reading Council will host** Some New & Fantastic Books for Kids of All Ages from 4:00 to 5:30 pm at the Barnes and Noble, 65 E Marketview Drive, Champaign, Illinois.
- **September 5, 2022: Vermilion Valley Reading Council will participate** in the Westville Labor Day Parade with give aways at 11:00 am in Westville, Illinois.
- **September 7, 2022: IRC Webinar** with Ralph Fletcher from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **September 12, 2022: Prairie Area Reading Council will host** Back to School Book Gossip from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Anderson's Bookshops, 5112 Main Street, Downers Grove, Illinois.
- **September 14, 2022: East Central-EIU Reading Council will host** Taco 'Bout Books from 6:00 to 7:40 pm at Eastern Illinois University Buzzard Hall, 1920 9th Street, Charleston, Illinois.
- **September 15, 2022: Western Illinois Reading Council will host** Taco 'Bout Books from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at El Rancherito, Galesburg, Illinois.
- **September 22, 2022: Lewis and Clark Reading Council will host** Books and Brews from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Stubborn German Brewing Company, 119 S Main Street, Waterloo, Illinois.
- **September 29, 2022: Southern Illinois Reading Council will host** Literature and Art Paint Night with Patricia Braun and Marianne Stremsterfer, Pam Turner, Leslie Small, and Teresa Burdin from

5:30 to 8:00 pm at Starview Vineyards, 5100 Wing Hill Road, Cobden, Illinois.

- **October 5, 2022: IRC Webinar** on *Creating Passionate Nonfiction Readers* with Melissa Stewart from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **October 23, 2022: IRC Book Clubs** will read, reflect on, and respond to *Textured Teaching: A Framework for Culturally Sustaining Practices* by Lorena Escoto Germán and/or a pairing of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi along with *Stamped (For Kids)* adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul. Register by October 15th.
- **October 28, 2022: East Central-EIU Reading Council** will host Tales & Treats from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at at Eastern Illinois University Buzzard Hall, 1920 9th Street, Charleston, Illinois.

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:

