

SUMMER 2022 IRC BOOK CLUB BEGINS JUNE 26, 2022

By the Illinois Reading Council

Join educators from all over the state in the online [Summer 2022 IRC Book Club](#)! Choose one or two books!

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. Beginning June 26, 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. Participants who complete one book club during the Summer will have the opportunity to participate in the other one during the Fall session.



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:** *Textured Teaching: A Framework for Culturally Sustaining Practices* by Lorena Escoto Germán and/or *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi along with *Stamped (For Kids)* adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul. Books can be purchased from the bookseller of your choice.

Register by June 15, 2022, 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 is not included.

JOIN THE BOOK CLUB TODAY!

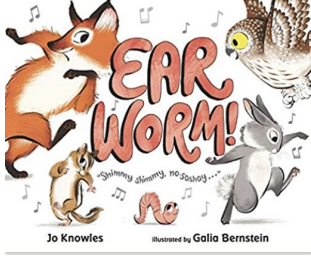
6 PICTURE BOOKS TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE LEARNERS

By Maria Walther

What are the clues you look for when deciding whether a book has resonated with your students? Perhaps it's the collective gasp at the surprise ending or the conversations the text provoked. Sometimes it is simply the fact that you overhear kids repeating memorable lines on their way to lunch. As you reflect on the titles that touched your learners this year, I'll share a few that got the stamp of approval from both young readers and their teachers.

Ear Worm! (Knowles, 2022)

Jo Knowles, best known for her young adult novels, hits it out of the park in her debut picture book. Your kids are sure to have an ear worm after

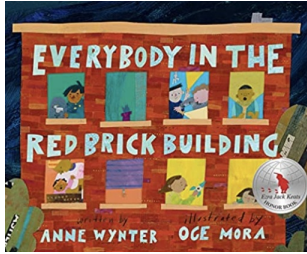


hearing each animal's tune. The one that stuck in my head is Owl's, "Wave, wave, talk to the wing!" *Ear Worm!* is tailor-made for a readers' theater performance.

About the Book:

Little Worm has this song stuck in his head, "Shimmy shimmy, no-sashay, shimmy shimmy, no-sashay!" Owl explains that a song stuck in your head is called an "ear worm" and then performs his ear worm. When Little Worm goes on a quest to find out who planted the ear worm, he gathers a merry band of singing animals each with their own unique song. After

Papa Worm tucks him in for his nap and returns to his chores, Little Worm discovers where the song came from—his dad!



Everybody in the Red Brick Building (Wynter, 2021)

Cumulative, noisy, and perfect for shared reading. Extend the book experience by making a chart of the loud and quiet onomatopoeias.

About the Book:

Everybody in the red brick building is asleep until Baby Izzie starts bawling, "WaaaAAH!" Her crying sets off a chain reaction of rowdy nighttime fun. In a cumulative fashion, each apartment dweller's sound is added to that of the person before them culminating with a noisy two-page spread. Then, in reverse, the characters quiet down and return to sleep.

Pair *Everybody in the Red Brick Building* with Audrey Wood's *The Napping House* (1984).



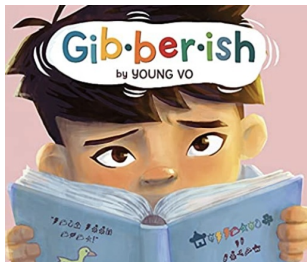
Fly (Thurman, 2022)

Your readers will "jump, fly, and double dutch to the sky" after hearing you share this book aloud. See if they notice the days of the week pattern. Discuss reaching for goals and getting help from friends along the way.

About the Book:

Africa wants to take part in a double dutch competition that's happening on Sunday. There is only one little problem, she has never jumped double dutch before. After trying unsuccessfully to learn on her own, she asks her pals at school for help. Although none of them know how to jump double dutch, each teaches her a skill that will transfer like dancing, stepping, and

hand-clapping. On Sunday, she shows everyone that she can "jump, fly, double dutch to the sky."



Gibberish (Vo, 2022)

This book is a perfect companion to *The Day We Begin* (Woodson, 2018). Readers will enjoy studying the illustrations. They will notice that the students and teacher appear as grayscale cartoon characters. Then, when Dat and Julie figure out how to communicate, the illustrations get more colorful and Julie begins to look like a human girl.

About the Book:

Dat (rhymes with bat) and Mah have traveled a long way to get to their new home. Before mom puts Dat on the school bus, she prepares him by

telling him that when people talk it will sound like gibberish. Mom is right and, in addition to the gibberish, no one says Dat's name correctly. Then, Dat meets Julie who takes the time to communicate with Dat and also learns how to say his name.



Happy Sloth Day! (Sayre, 2022)

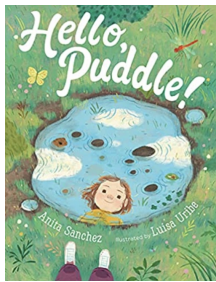
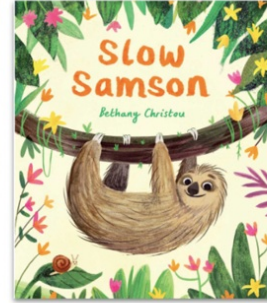
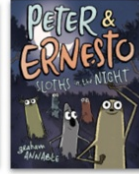
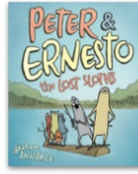
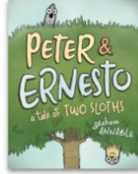
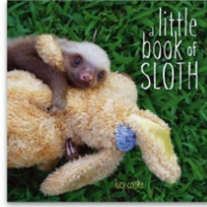
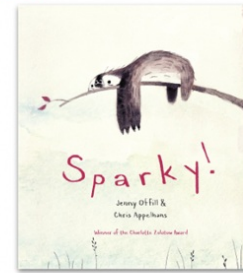
Sloth fans will pour over the vibrant photographs of sloths and their fellow rainforest dwellers. You might choose to read aloud the rhythmic, rhyming text first. Then, go back to read the lengthier nonfiction paragraphs as time and interest permit.

About the Book:

Written by the late April Pulley Sayre along with her husband Jeff.

Rhyming text plus nonfiction paragraphs give readers a glimpse into a day in the life of a sloth. Backmatter extends the book experience by adding information about sloth science. *Happy Sloth Day!* is a perfect addition to a multi-genre sloth text set (see below).

Slow Down and Read About Sloths!



Hello, Puddle! (Sanchez, 2022)

I never thought about all the creatures that can visit and live around a muddy puddle. Your kids will be looking closer at puddles after reading this book! Share when studying animals, the water cycle, or seasons.

About the Book:

Watch a puddle and all of its inhabitants through the seasons. The pages include a brief lyrical description of what each animal does in a puddle along with a short paragraph giving more explanation. Backmatter enhances the text with additional facts about the puddle lovers, a glossary, and more!

I can't wait to hear about the books your kids loved this year. Reach out via Twitter or Instagram [@mariapwalther](https://twitter.com/mariapwalther) and share some of your students' favorite picture books from the 2021-2022 school year.

IRC WORKSHOP SERIES TO BE HELD IN JUNE 2022

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is excited to present the online [IRC Workshop Series](#) that will feature 2-hour workshops on timely topics with the following outstanding literacy leaders in education.

- **June 16, 2022:** *Racism In Between the Lines* with **Lorena Escoto Germán**
- **June 22, 2022:** *Looking Back, Looking Forward: Reading Autobiographies and Reading Plans* with **Donalyn Miller**
- **June 29, 2022:** *Bringing Strategies to Life: Conferring and Small Group Instruction in Reading and Writing* with **Jennifer Serravallo**

All workshops will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm online via Zoom. Registered participants can earn up to **6 PD clock hours** for the IRC Workshop Series.

Registered participants will have the option of watching the **recorded workshops with Lorena German and Donalyn Miller until July 31st** for clock hours. Please note that the workshop with **Jennifer Serravallo will be a "LIVE PRESENTATION ONLY" and not recorded.**

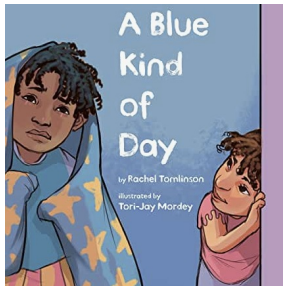
Registration for all 3 workshops is \$125 for members or \$170 for non-members which includes 1-year of IRC membership. There are also discounted registration rates for retired and preservice teachers. For school districts wanting to register multiple educators, you can use the [Group Registration Form](#) to submit by fax to the IRC Office. Otherwise, individuals can register via the following online link!

REGISTER TODAY!

FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

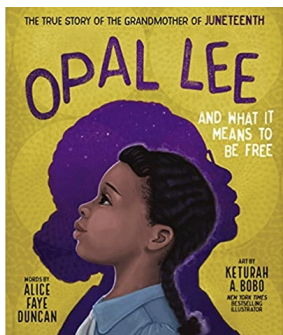
By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

The Chromebooks have been turned off, the books have been shelved, the bulletin boards are bare, the school year has come to a close, and teachers and students can take a well-deserved summer break. June is Alzheimer's and LGBTQ Pride Awareness month; we also honor our fathers on Father's Day.



With the recent violent shootings in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, families are experiencing loss and trauma. Depression can set in. ***A Blue Kind of Day*** by Rachel Tomlinson addresses this topic. This is the story of Coen, who is suffering from depression, and the various ways his family tries to help him. Coen tells what's happening in his body and mind but yet wants to stay curled up in a blanket on his bed. Each member of his family tries to change his mood through an activity, to no avail. Eventually Coen feels his family's love and support and begins to change and interact with his family. The illustrations are enhanced by the use of the colors blue, pink, and apricot which are used to show how the emotions change throughout the story. *A Blue Kind of Day* makes a good addition to your SEL collection. It's

also a good book to help you talk about depression and emotions. The back of the book includes further information on depression and emotional distress. *A Blue Kind of Day* can be viewed on YouTube.



This June America will have a new holiday – Juneteenth. The story of ***Opal Lee And What It Means To Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth*** by Alice Faye Duncan tells how this new holiday became a reality. Opal Lee was born in 1926 and grew up in Fort Worth, Texas. From stories her grandfather told and things she learned at school, Opal knew about the history of Juneteenth. Every year she looked forward to the picnic which was a celebration of freedom as a result of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. At the picnic there was singing, dancing, music, delicious food, and Red Punch (strawberry lemonade). While growing up Opal experienced the Jim Crow laws separating blacks and whites, but on Juneteenth she and her family could ride the Ferris wheel and visit the zoo. Opal became a teacher and a civil rights leader and spent a majority of her life telling stories

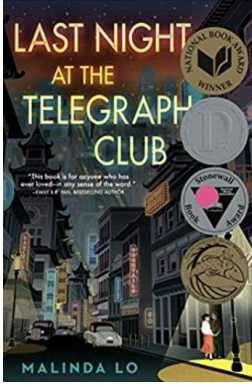
about Juneteenth and bringing awareness to the holiday. Finally, at the age of 94, Opal was present at the White House when President Joe Biden signed the document that Juneteenth would be a National Holiday. *Opal Lee* is a beautifully illustrated book with text that includes similes and metaphors. The back of the book contains a detailed timeline, further information about Opal Lee, and a wealth of resources, websites, and books for further reading. There's even a recipe for how to make "Red Punch."



Like Juneteenth, many Americans didn't know about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre until the 100th anniversary last year. To learn more about this devastating attack on African Americans read ***Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre*** by Brandy Colbert. The violence that occurred was triggered partially by a mob of white citizens seeking revenge because an African American teenager was accused of assaulting a white female elevator operator. However, that was an excuse because the real anger these white folks felt was the success of the area known as the Greenwood District, where homes and businesses were owned by African Americans. This area was also known as Black Wall Street. As a result of their anger violence broke out. The entire community was destroyed and many African Americans lost their lives. The author begins the book by giving a history of slavery in America, the Native Americans who lived there and how they were treated and forced to leave their lands, the settlement of

Oklahoma, lynching, and other acts of violence. The author describes how Black Americans migrated to the new territory of Oklahoma, along with beliefs and laws that also led to the Tulsa Race Massacre. The book tells about the "cover up" of the incident, and how some of the events that took place are still relevant today. *Black Birds in the Sky* is an essential read for your Jr High and High School students.

June is Pride Month. The book ***Last Night at the Telegraph Club*** by Malinda Lo lets the reader feel and experience life in San Francisco during the mid 1950's. It is also the story of Lily Hu, a young teenager who is Chinese American and trying to navigate her life, school, and being a traditional Chinese daughter. Lily does well at school and is very interested in rockets and space and dreams of working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Lily becomes curious about the Telegraph Club, which her parents have warned her to avoid. One night she and her friend Kathleen sneak out and head to the Telegraph Club only to discover it is a lesbian bar. They begin to explore their inner emotions as well as their relationship with each other. Lily and Kath continue their relationship although Lily is torn between being a typical Chinese daughter and



her secret life. Lily eventually “comes out” to her family. As a result she goes to live with her aunt’s family in Pasadena where she finishes high school, goes on to UCLA and after graduation fulfills her dream of working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* is a great YA read. It also has been awarded the National Book Award, the Stonewall book Award, and the Asian Pacific American Award for Literature. The book not only mirrors LGBTQ teens today but also teens of Asian heritage. The end of the book contains a detailed Author’s Note that includes further information about the Chinese community and San Francisco in the 1950’s. There’s also an extensive bibliography and discussion guide.



On June 2, Queen Elizabeth II will observe her platinum (70th Anniversary) as Queen of England. The book *Who Is Queen Elizabeth II?* by Megan Stine tells the story of the young girl who became England’s longest serving monarch. When she was 10 years old, Elizabeth’s life changed due to her Uncle Edward giving up the throne and her father becoming the new king. Elizabeth became the next in line to assume the throne. Elizabeth began her reign as Queen in 1953. Although she is basically a very private person, Queen Elizabeth became a world famous public figure who has kept the monarchy together through decades full of various situations and events. *Who Is Queen Elizabeth II?* is a great biography of the Queen. It is also an easy read that can be enjoyed by all readers, while learning about this gracious lady who never expected to become Queen.

Looking Ahead

June is Caribbean American Heritage Month: Do a google search for some books about the Caribbean people and their contributions to America or read some stories to enjoy and learn about their heritage.

June is also Dairy Month: Grab your favorite ice cream treat while enjoying and reading a good book.

June is Audio Book Month: Get a few audio books and take them along on your summer events, activities, or perhaps some travel.

June 4-7: The 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway– This was the turning point of the War in the Pacific and Japan.

June 6: National D-Day Memorial’s Virtual Field Trip – Visit for great programming on World War II and D-Day.

June 14: Flag Day – Display our American Flag.

June 19: Father’s Day – Send or make a Father’s Day card. Give Dad or Grandpa a phone call or do a FaceTime chat with the fathers in your family to tell them that you love and appreciate all they do for you.

June 21: Summer officially begins

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.

Reading Passage Resources

[ReadWorks Summer Reading](#)

This free tool has reading passages that are available with fiction and nonfiction articles for students entering first grade through high school. The passages also include vocabulary and comprehension questions. Passages can even be printed out to give students to take home and read over the summer.

Interactive Resources

[TimelineJS](#)

This free interactive tool allows students to create interactive timelines that use nothing more than a Google spreadsheet. TimelineJS can pull in media from a variety of sources, including Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, Dailymotion, Google Maps, Wikipedia, SoundCloud, Document Cloud and more!

Web 2.0 Resources

[Esri Story Maps](#)

Esri Story Maps lets you combine maps with narrative text, images, and multimedia content. They make it easy to harness the power of maps and geography to tell your story. Whatever your message may be, whoever your audience is, everything you need to create remarkable stories with maps is here—all in one place.

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

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

- **June 1, 2022: National Road Reading Council** will host a Summer Book Club via Google Classroom.
- **June 1, 2022: IRC Webinar** on Using Text Sets to Nurture Thinkers, Speakers, Readers, Writers, and Tiny Human Beings with Aeriale N. Johnson from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **June 16, 2022: IRC Workshop Series** on Racism In Between the Lines with Lorena Escoto Germán from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
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- **June 29, 2022: IRC Workshop Series** on Bringing Strategies to Life: Conferencing and Small Group Instruction in Reading and Writing with Jennifer Serravallo from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.

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:

