



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2023 IRC CONFERENCE

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is excited to share that registration and housing are open for the

**2023 IRC Conference,
Revolution: A Change Is Gonna Come,
on March 9-10, 2023
in Springfield, Illinois.**

To find out all about the conference and the following featured speakers that will be joining us, check out the **2023 Preliminary Program** available online now.

- Sara K. Ahmed
- Blue Balliett
- Derrick Barnes
- David Biedrzycki
- Joelle Charbonneau
- Jerry Craft
- Matt de la Peña
- Lynne Dorfman
- Alison Gordon
- Jacob Grant
- Nikki Grimes
- Tiffany D. Jackson
- Carol Jago
- Gordon C. James
- Steven L. Layne
- Lauren Tarshis
- Becky Anderson Wilkins
- 2023 Illinois Reads Authors
- And More To Come!

2023 Illinois Reading Council Conference Preliminary Program



March 9 - 10, 2023
Springfield, Illinois

[Click Here to Download the
Preliminary Program](#)

Please take a moment to look through the **2023 Preliminary Program** to find out more about registration rates, housing, and conference shirts. At the conference, you also will not want to miss the **Hear the Authors Read Event**, the **Illinois Reads Author Event**, the **Administrators Academy**, and over **200 PD sessions** planned. And, don't forget to check out the upcoming **Winter 2022 IRC Book Club**, too.

RESOURCES IN THE IRC PADLET

By Laura Beltchenko, Chairperson for the IRC Professional Learning Committee

A Thankful Greeting to all IRC Members,

This month the [IRC Literacy Learning Links Padlet](#) is focusing on resources for culturally relevant and diverse teaching and student learning. As you explore the web based sources and articles, you will become aware of the mission and vision of the many organizations dedicated to having students see themselves in books. Of interest is **We Need Diverse Books**, a website that devotes itself to providing quality selections of children's literature featuring diverse characters. With Thanksgiving right around the corner the **Learners Edge** website provides resources for rethinking the Thanksgiving narrative. Take some time to do your own exploration. I am confident that you will find many new books to add to your school or classroom library.

The IRC Padlet is in need of resources and websites for the instruction of our English Learners. Do you have a website or resource for this or other topics that you have found to be of value for instruction, student engagement or your personal professional learning? We are continually seeking resources to share with our colleagues and the Padlet is one way to communicate quality information. Please use this link to [Share a Resource for the IRC Professional Learning Padlet](#) and your contribution will be posted and shared with IRC members.

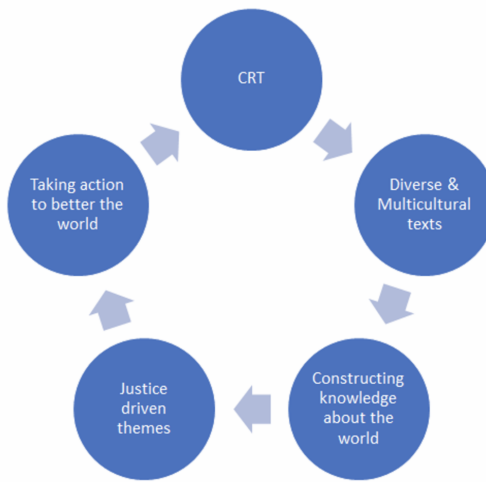
[VISIT THE IRC PADLET!](#)

THE ERA OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING (CRT): AN OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER THE WORLD

By Margaret Mary Policastro, Ph.D.

We are in one of the most compelling eras in the history of education with all the information that abounds regarding culturally responsive teaching. However, for many educators, this information can be overwhelming and leave one to wonder about where to begin. Indeed, becoming a culturally responsive educator is no doubt a process that is on-going and embraces both learning and understanding about this special pedagogy. Understanding the connections between schooling, culture and issues of race, class and language (Hammond, 2015) is a part of the continuous learning process.

One of the earliest definitions of CRT comes from Gay (2000) as "The use of cultural knowledge, prior experiences, frames of reference, and performance styles of ethnically diverse students to make learning encounters more relevant to, and effective for them. This pedagogy teaches to and through the strengths of these students. It is culturally validating and affirming" (p.31). One way to think about how to operationalize this definition which could be considered a strategy is through the use of diverse, multicultural and culturally relevant literature as a key component to making learning encounters more relevant and effective for students. Using the lens of literature to construct knowledge about the world with justice driven topics such as race, immigration and marginalized people is critical. Kelly & Djonko-Moore (2021) discuss how teachers must transform literacy curricula using knowledge of student awareness of bias and commitment to social justice. In the figure below, we can include in our CRT diverse and multicultural justice driven texts to help students (and educators) construct knowledge about the global and diverse world. As teachers, librarians, coaches, reading specialists and administrators we have both the responsibility and opportunity to capitalize on the inclusion of diverse and multicultural texts (Martin & Spencer 2020) to better both the lives of children and the world.



References

- Gay, G. (2000). *Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research, and Practice (Multicultural Education Series, No. 8)*. Teachers College Pr.
- Hammond, Z. (2015). *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*. Corwin.
- Kelly, L. B., & Djonko-Moore, C. (2021). What Does Culturally Informed Literacy Instruction Look Like? *The Reading Teacher*, 75(5), 567–574. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2068>
- Martin, A. D., & Spencer, T. (2020). Children’s Literature, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Teacher Identity: An Action Research Inquiry in Teacher Education. *Action in Teacher Education*, 42(4), 387–404. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01626620.2019.1710728>

QUICK TALKS/QUICK WRITES

By Andrea Mear, Secondary Literacy Coach

As a literacy coach, a good portion of my day is spent listening to others, so I can be a better partner in whatever goal we are trying to achieve. Effective listening helps me work more efficiently and helps me develop deeper relationships. As teachers, we have similar goals for our students. After the last few years’ unique challenges, students are struggling to make progress with the speaking and listening standards. Another area that teachers and students both report having difficulty with is writing.

The creative 6th-8th grade teachers that I have been working with this year have been using the following Quick Talk/Quick Write routine to help students discover how practicing structured speaking and listening supports writing for clarity and purpose. All the while, they are building stamina for focusing on a single task during their small group time.

The whole routine can take anywhere from 10-20 minutes with a 5 minute debrief. Here is a simple break down:

1. Assign the students a prompt that warrants a bit of discussion. It does not have to be related to the content. When first introducing this routine, it is recommended to use a simple prompt where everyone can share their opinion. For example: Rank the seasons in the order of best to worst and provide an explanation for your ranking (if you want a more structured conversation / writing piece, or if students need the language support, provide sentence starters).
2. Split class in half: Half will discuss their answers to the prompt in small groups/partners while the other half will work individually to write out their answer to the prompt.
3. Timer goes off and the speakers and listeners now write about the prompt, while the writers will

now speak or listen to other's thoughts.

4. Ask students to reflect on how talking about a topic helped them write about it and how writing about a topic helped them talk about it.

In order for students to make sure they are using rigorous discussion techniques and writing styles, the teacher must act as a coach. It is recommended that this routine be done for a series of at least 4 days with a different question every day. Day 1 and 2 the teacher coaches the speakers and listeners. Day 3 and four the teacher coaches the writers. By providing immediate feedback the students are able to practice with support. Once the students can do the routine independently, the teacher could start pulling a small group of students to observe or provide additional support. This routine is a great way to prepare for a socratic, any type of debate, or it can be used to help our students get to know each other a bit better. Regardless, it will help them draw that critical connection between the power of speaking and writing, thus ultimately helping them be better communicators.

ILLINOIS READS BOOK FESTIVAL IS CANCELLED

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reads Book Festival planned for November 12, 2022 has been cancelled.

In an effort to be fiscally responsible in these challenging times, the Illinois Reads Festival will not occur this year. We are looking into new ways of promoting our talented Illinois Reads Authors in the future and encourage you to look into your local Illinois Reading Councils, Libraries, and Independent Booksellers for activities involving our Illinois Read favorites.

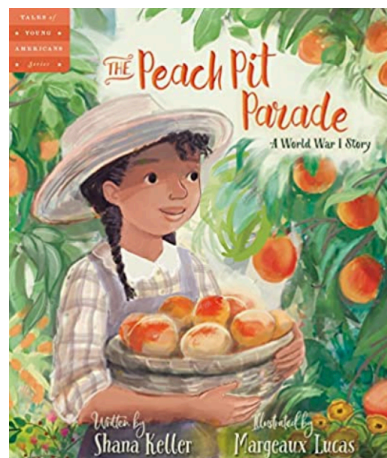
For more information, please visit the [ILLINOIS READS](#) website.



FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

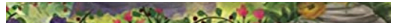
By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

Mother nature has given us a lovely autumn season. During November we're reminded to vote, that it's Diabetes and Epilepsy Awareness Month. It is also Native American Heritage Month. On Veteran's Day, we honor those who served our country. We "Give Thanks" and are grateful for the blessings we've received on Thanksgiving Day.



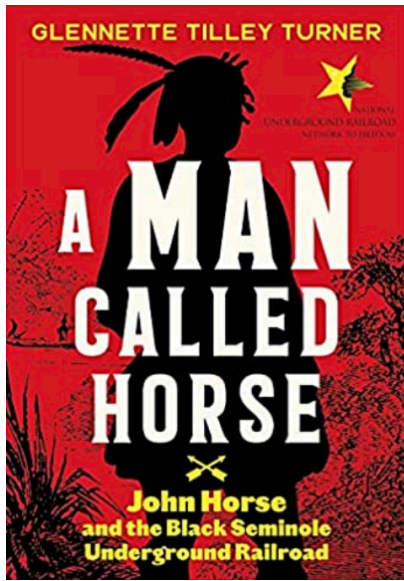
Every year on Veteran's Day we're reminded of those who have served our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. But do you know why peach pits were needed during World War I?

The Peach Pit Parade: A World War I Story by Shana Keller provides the answer. This is the story of a young African American girl, Polly, whose father is away fighting in World War I. Although the war is being fought in Europe, the effects from it are felt in America. To support the troops people plant Victory Gardens, collect scrap metal, and various other projects. Polly wants to support her father but doesn't know what to do. Then one day her teacher announces that peach pits are needed. Her teacher explains about the chemical warfare and the need for peach pits to make charcoal filters for the gas masks the military needs. (The pits are burned, which makes a charcoal that becomes a filter for the gas mask.) Polly now has a way to help the war effort. She organizes her Girl Scout troop and forms a

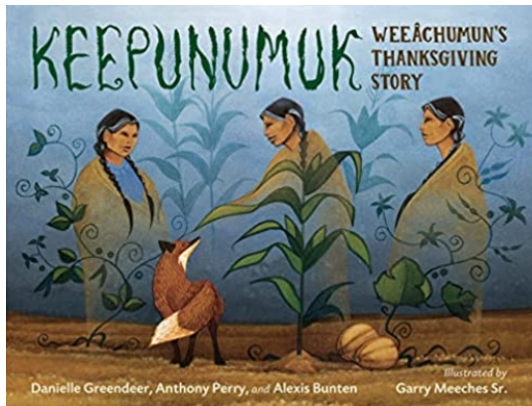


parade to collect the peach pits. The lovely illustrations colorfully depict Polly's African American community. The back of the book

along with the author's note provides further information about the use of the peach pits.



Who was John Horse? His father was a Seminole and his mother was a Native American of African heritage. ***A Man Called Horse: John Horse and the Black Seminole Underground Railroad*** by Glennette Tilley Turner is a short historical biography of a Black Seminole who was a warrior, a chief, a diplomat, and played an important part in the Underground Railroad. John leads a group of Seminoles from Florida across the U. S. to Mexico. They were protectors for runaway slaves but pretending to be the new masters of the runaways. Each chapter in the book follows and depicts the Black Seminoles' journey to a new or safer land or territory, only to be confronted by former white enslavers and their policies and rules. Continuing to face challenges, John Horse spent his life fighting for better rights for the Black Seminoles in order to secure their freedom. The illustrations, colorful page decorations, photographs, maps, timeline, bibliography, and additional notes further enhance the story of John Horse and the time period he lived in. This book would make a nice addition to your Native American or social studies collection for middle school to Jr. High students.



Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story by Danielle Greendeer, Anthony Perry, and Alexis Bunten is a Thanksgiving story told from the Native American (Wampanoag tribe) perspective. In this story grandma plants in her garden corn, beans, and squash, known as the three sisters. Her grandchildren, Maple and Quill, ask her to tell the story of Thanksgiving. She begins by telling of an ancestor seeing a ship arrive at their shore. New people (Pilgrims) came ashore and built homes as winter was fast approaching. Fearing this would be ancestor's last winter she asked fox to keep a watch on the newcomers. Fox tells of the hardship the pilgrims endured during the first winter. Grandma also tells the story of Weeâchumun (corn) and

related seeds/food and animal spirits joining together to help the pilgrims. Rabbit says "The Creator tells us to help all living things. This is how the world works." Corn states "It's settled. We will send the First Peoples to help the newcomers." The native peoples, though hesitant at first, taught the pilgrims how to plant crops, hunt, and how to fish. After a successful harvest and an alliance between both parties a three day feast/celebration was held (The First Thanksgiving). Although the story ends with a celebration, "The meal changed both peoples lives forever. Americans call it a day of Thanksgiving. Many of our people call it a day of mourning." *Keepunumuk* is a beautifully illustrated book. Before the story begins there is an introductory page that explains how the Native Americans lived, along with important Wampanoag vocabulary pronunciation and meaning that is used throughout the book. The back of the book contains additional information about the Wampanoags, a traditional recipe, and a photo of the real Maple and Quill. *Keepunumuk* lends itself to a discussion of Native American or Indigenous people issues. There is also an excellent teacher's guide to accompany the book.

November Reminders:

November 1: All Saints Day

November 2: Dia De Los Muertos – A celebration of the life and death of family members

November 5: Book Lovers Day – Relax and enjoy reading a good book

November 8: Election Day – Remind everyone to vote

November 11: Veteran's Day – Thank a veteran for his/her service

November 17: World Peace Day – Be kind to others and to teach others to be peaceful

November 24: Thanksgiving Day – Give thanks and be grateful for blessings received

November 25: Black Friday

November 27: Advent and Chanukah begins

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

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

- **November 1, 2022: IRC Awards and Grants** are due.
- **November 1, 2022: MID-State Reading Council** will host The High Five Habit Book Study from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at Gill Street Bar & Restaurant, 3002B Gill Street, Bloomington, Illinois.
- **November 1, 2022: Macon County Reading Council** will host Raising Kids Who Read Book Club Part 1 and Part 2 via Google Classroom until December 31, 2022.
- **November 2, 2022: Starved Rock Reading Council** will host Book and Wine Tasting from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Prairie Fox Books, 719 La Salle Street, Ottawa, Illinois.
- **November 2, 2022: IRC Webinar** on Starfishing with Lisa Fipps from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **November 4-5, 2022: Central Illinois Reading Council** will host the Half Price Book Sale at the Capital Area Career Center, 2201 Toronto Road, Springfield, Illinois.
- **November 7, 2022: Western Illinois Reading Council** will host Book Folding with Michelle White from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at Lincoln Elementary School, 325 S 11th Street, Monmouth, Illinois.
- **November 7, 2022: West Suburban Reading Council** will host Science of Reading 101 with Kari Pawl and Gena Lewis from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.
- **November 7, 2022: Secondary Reading League (SRL)** will host an event with Janice M. Del Negro, author of Engaging Teens with Story: How to Inspire and Educate Youth with Storytelling, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.
- **November 12, 2022: Illinois Reads Book Festival** has been cancelled.
- **November 12, 2022: Fox Valley Reading Council** will host Family Reading Night from 10:00 to 11:00 am at Santori Library, Aurora Public Library, 101 S. River Street, Aurora, Illinois.
- **November 16, 2022: East Central-EIU Reading Council** will host Fight Burnout with Self-Care with Alexis Jones at Eastern Illinois University, Buzzard Hall 2440, 1920 9th Street, Charleston, Illinois.
- **November 17, 2022: Illinois Family Reading Night** is an annual statewide event sponsored by Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian, and the Illinois Center for the Book at the Illinois State Library that encourages families to spend quality time reading together.
- **November 17, 2022: Black Hawk Reading Council** will host an Illinois Reads Event from 5:30 to 7:00 pm at the Rock Island Center for Math and Science, 2101 16th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois.
- **November 17, 2022: Illini Reading Council and Vermilion Valley Reading Council** will host Using Technology to Create Innovative Learning with Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.
- **November 18, 2022: Secondary Reading League (SRL)** will host the Online Strategy Sessions for Middle and High School Reading, ELA, and Content Area Teachers over the next six-weeks via Google Classrooms.
- **November 29, 2022: Lewis and Clark Reading Council** will host Hall of Authors from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at O'Fallon Public Library, 120 Civic Plaza, O'Fallon, 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:

