



# IRC Webinar Series

All webinars will begin at 7:00 p.m.

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.

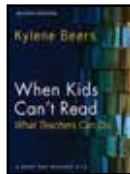


## October 4, 2023 ~ Kylene Beers

### When Kids Can't Read: Strategies that Build Success



Join Kylene 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



Dr. 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.

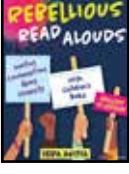


## May 1, 2024 ~ Vera Ahiyya

### 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.

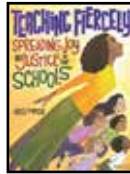


## January 3, 2024 ~ Kass Minor

### 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



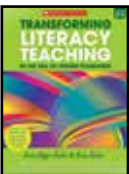
create sustainable learning, learning that sticks, that shifts, changes people and their praxis, it is absolutely vital to make space and time for reflective opportunities. In this session, Kass will work in community with educators through a series of reflective practices to create sustainable learning,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



To register, sign into your IRC Membership Account at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)