



IRC Webinar Series

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

EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

IRC will be offering the Webinar Series for members only in 2020-2021. 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 2, 2020 ~ Timothy Rasinski

Word Study that Works



Word decoding, vocabulary, and spelling are essential skills in learning to read at every grade level. Students who struggle in reading and other content areas often do so because of difficulty in word decoding and understanding the meaning of key vocabulary. In this session Dr. Rasinski will share effective and engaging methods for helping students learn words and take delight in words.



February 3, 2021 ~ Becky Anderson

Discovering the 2021 Illinois Reads Books



Join Becky Anderson as she presents the Illinois Reads books for 2021. 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.

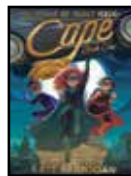


October 7, 2020 ~ Kate Hannigan

Tools for Making Historical Figures Come to Life



Join Chicago author Kate Hannigan as she talks about getting kids excited about history by connecting with real-life figures. Kate shares specific tools she uses in conducting research for her historical fiction and nonfiction books, including her newest World War II historical fantasy series, *The League of Secret Heroes*. Through her research, Kate is hoping to highlight for young readers how seemingly ordinary people did extraordinary things.



March 3, 2021 ~ Matthew Cordell

The Power of Wordless Picture Books



Wordless picture books are a treasured sub-genre in the world of children's literature. But they can be intimidating or misunderstood if an educator or classroom has not yet encountered, read, or taught with one. Join Caldecott Medalist Matthew Cordell as he discusses the many ways wordless picture books can have a significant and lasting impact in classrooms and libraries.



November 11, 2020 ~ Clare Landrigan

Using Poetry to Expand Content Knowledge and Structure Informational Text



Poetry is a structure that writers can use in any unit of study. This session will make the case for including poetry in content area and nonfiction literacy units of study. In reading, it is a great way to build one's schema in a content area and to synthesize the big idea in an area of research. In writing, poetry offers choice in terms of how a writer wants to convey information. We will explore poetry mentor texts and craft moves to teach your students.

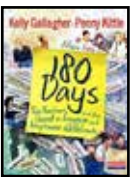


April 7, 2021 ~ Penny Kittle

The Literacy Lessons I Learned from Hamilton



The Pulitzer Prize winning play by Lin-Manuel Miranda has lessons to teach us all about passion, creativity, genre, and the process of writing. Each year we have the opportunity to help students construct identities of power and opportunity, to challenge themselves as readers and writers, and to act with agency in our classrooms. We will unpack the classroom conditions and practices that are grounded in key principles for motivation: relevance, engagement, and community.

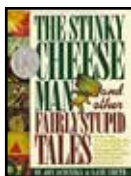


December 2, 2020 ~ Jon Scieszka

Inspiring Lifelong Readers



First National Ambassador of Young People's Literature Jon Scieszka draws on his 10-year elementary school teaching career, and recent literacy studies, to make a case for self-motivation being the essential ingredient for inspiring kids to be true readers. With plenty of bad jokes and tales of Mr. Scieszka's own classroom thrills of victory... and agonies of defeat.



May 5, 2021 ~ Donalyn Miller

Making a Case for Reading Joy



Adults who continue to read long after formal schooling ends read because they find some intellectual or personal enjoyment. Unfortunately, too many young readers endure reading experiences at school that disconnect them from reading enjoyment or actively discourage it. In this webinar, Donalyn will describe the conditions, rituals, and instructional opportunities that engage young people with reading and set them on the path to reading joy for a lifetime.



January 6, 2021 ~ Crystal Chan

Dark, Absurd Humor...for Dark, Absurd Times



In these tumultuous times, dark humor and the absurd can be not just catharsis but can also critique the world in ways that pedantic, straightforward storytelling cannot. Join Crystal Chan as she walks you through her recent novel, *All That I Can Fix* which includes a based-on-real-life exotic zoo breakout, a suicidal father, a small Indiana town deeply divided over the gun debate, and a mixed-race teen navigating the absurdity of the adults in an absurd world, with more than a couple of laughs to boot.



June 2, 2021 ~ Samira Ahmed

Fighting the Good Fight: Literacy as the Foundation of Democracy & Social Justice



In this webinar, Samira Ahmed will discuss the power of literacy to shape our world, the difficult conversations we must have to re-tool and re-evaluate our curriculum to address institutionalized -isms and how schools and libraries are not neutral spaces. The texts we place on our shelves and our ability to hold adults, not merely students, accountable, will define civic engagement for years to come.



Register online at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org