





### Next PARC Meetings:


- October 19, 2011 - Jim Aylesworth - *The Teacher Who Became an Author* at Marquardt District 15
- January 26, 2012 - Wine Tasting and Book Talk with Anderson's Bookshop Lisle, Hilton
- April 10, 2012 - Dr. Roberta Sejnost - *Inquiry Circles* at Marquardt District 15


**October 2011**

From Your Presidents' Desk:

 It continues to amaze me how fast the transformation from summer - rested and refreshed to school year - overwhelmed and exhausted happens. So, if you are in need of a little inspiration to combat those feelings of overwhelmed and exhausted, Prairie Area Reading Council's (PARC) line up for this year should do the trick.

 In honor of our 2012 IRC Conference theme, "Literacy in the Land of Lincoln", PARC is kicking off the year with the author of *Our Abe Lincoln* - Jim Aylesworth. During his twenty-five years of teaching, Aylesworth read hundreds of books to his young students. Aylesworth found himself wanting to be a bigger part of this world of children's stories, and so he decided to write his own books. Aylesworth will be speaking at our first General Meeting about, "The Teacher Who Became An Author". We are very excited to be hosting Jim Aylesworth at the Marquardt District 15 Administrative Center, on Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration and dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 5:30 p.m.

 In conjunction with Jim Aylesworth's presentation, PARC is holding it Annual Membership Drive. **We are looking for new members to attend the fall meeting.** Join PARC and we will donate a "Lincoln" towards your membership fee (PARC will pay \$5 of your membership fee). Also, members who bring a new member to the PARC meetings will be able to enter tickets into the prize jar - raffle for a \$100 book basket, which will be awarded at our last meeting of the year. Members will have lots of opportunities to enter tickets into the prize jar throughout the year - and you need not attend all three meetings to be eligible.

 If Jim Aylesworth's presentation doesn't leave you feeling inspired, then perhaps our Winter Event and General Meeting will do the trick. Prairie Area Reading Council will be hosting its Fourth Annual Wine Tasting and Book Talk with Anderson's Bookshop at the Lisle Hilton on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy a glass of red and/or white wine with appetizers while listening to Kathleen March fill us in on the latest and greatest children's books from kindergarten through high school, along with a few fun choices for adults to read. Kathleen always picks winners! In preparation of Harvey Daniels presentation at the IRC Conference, we will be introducing the professional development book *Comprehension and Collaboration, Inquiry Circles in Action* by Stephanie Harvey and Harvey Daniels. Books will be available for purchase and a book club discussion will begin on our PARC Facebook page.

**GROWTH THROUGH LITERACY**

*Prairie Area Reading Council*



After attending Harvey Daniel's presentation at the IRC Conference on Inquiry Circles, we will end the year with Dr. Roberta Sejnost's presentation "Inquiry Circles: Meeting the Challenge of the Common Core". The new Common Core Standards require that students work together to read and compare complex texts and apply the understanding gained from them through writing, speaking and listening. Learn how inquiry circles can facilitate the in depth understanding required by the common core standards. Dr. Roberta Sejnost will be presenting at Marquardt District 15 Administrative Office on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.



Don't forget to mark you calendars for the IRC Annual Conference in Springfield from March 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is, "Literacy in the Land of Lincoln" and the line-up of speakers for the conference this year is awesome! You won't want to miss it. As an extra treat, the International Reading Association will be hosting its Annual Conference here in Chicago at the end of April.

Cindy Gerwin  
Co-President

Ellen Kacic  
Co-President

## PARC Board Members:

Co-President: Cindy Gerwin [cggerwin@comcast.net](mailto:cggerwin@comcast.net)

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## PARC Building Representatives



Joyce Jeewek—Benedictine University ([ijeewek@ben.edu](mailto:ijeewek@ben.edu))

Cindy Gerwin—Hall Elementary, Marquardt District 15 ([cgerwin@d15.us](mailto:cgerwin@d15.us))

Melissa Love-Meadowview Elementary, Woodridge 68 ([lovem@woodridge68.org](mailto:lovem@woodridge68.org))

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([riskusj@woodridge68.org](mailto:riskusj@woodridge68.org) / [pavilioniss@woodridge68.org](mailto:pavilioniss@woodridge68.org))

### Join Us On Facebook!

Search 'Prairie Area Reading Council' on Facebook to join our page and get updated event information and participate in literacy discussions. The current discussion is about Inquiry Circles.

<http://tinyurl.com/FBPARC>



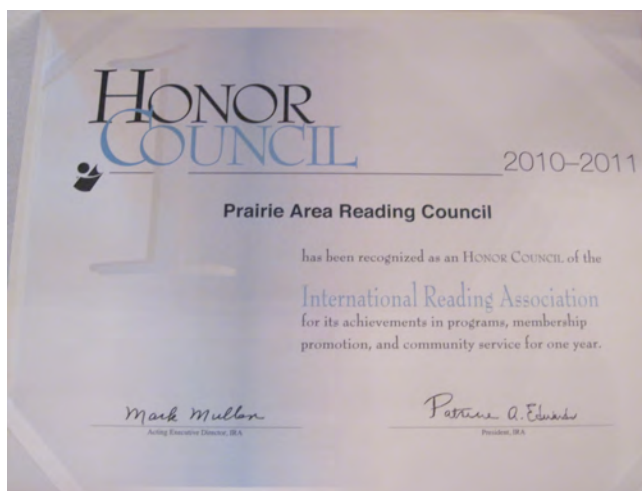


## PARC PRIDE

### Congratulations



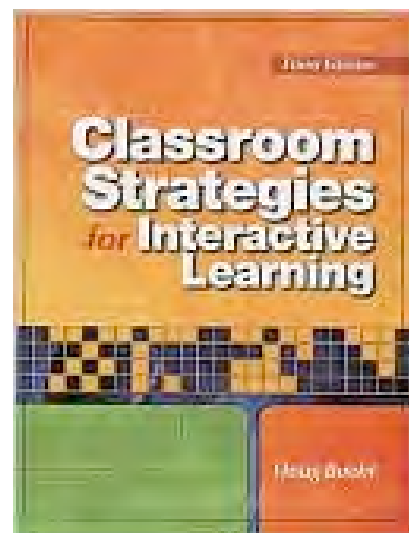
Joyce Jeewek, Cindy Gerwin, and Ellen Kacic worked to submit artifacts/materials as part of the application process for consideration to receive the Honor Council Award from the International Reading Association. PARC received the award at the International Reading Association Conference in Orlando, Florida this past spring. Way to go ALL PARC members!!



## Reading Tip

Doug Buehl has a great strategy in his book, *Classroom Strategies for Interactive Learning*, called “You Ought to Be in Pictures”. It allows the students to visualize and place themselves into a setting. First you select an interesting picture, and then lead your students through discussion to place themselves into the picture noticing the important details. Once the students can verbally place themselves into the setting a writing activity can conclude the lesson.

I have used this strategy with both elementary and middle school students across subject levels.

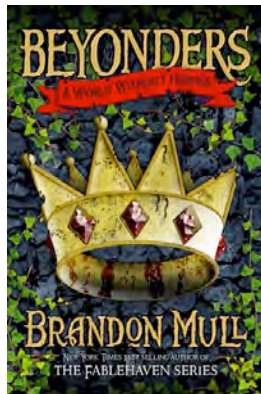


# Book Reviews



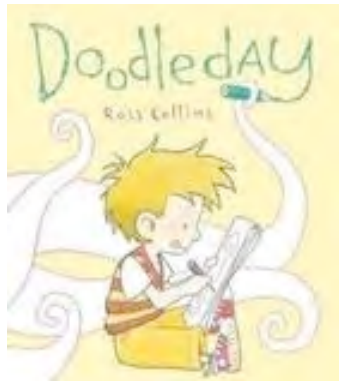
## Adult Book Review *Mentor Author, Mentor Texts* By: Ralph Fletcher Reviewed by Melissa Love

Ralph Fletcher's latest book, *Mentor Author, Mentor Texts*, provides teachers with 24 mentor texts for teaching students to write. The short, high-interest texts are written by Ralph and include fiction, nonfiction, poetry and more. There are whiteboard-ready versions of the texts online as well as recordings of Ralph reading 17 of his pieces. There are writer's notes that give students insight into the writing process along with classroom-tested suggestions to try in your classroom. For more information on this title and other books by Ralph Fletcher, check out his website at: <http://www.ralphfletcher.com/>. His website also provides Teacher handouts, tips for young readers, and book titles.



## YA Book Review *A World Without Heroes* By: Brandon Mull Reviewed by Melissa Love

If your students loved the *Fablehaven* series, they will love Brandon Mull's newest series, the *Beyonders*. The book is action packed as the main characters are on a quest to find the Word that will free the land of Lyrian from the evil emperor, Maldor. *A World Without Heroes* is the first book of the trilogy. The main characters, Jason and Rachel, are transported through a portal to the land of Lyrian. Their only wish is to return home but in order to do so they must first help restore order to Lyrian. They begin their treacherous quest facing many foes along the way. This book takes a dramatic twist at the end leaving readers anxiously awaiting book two, *Seeds of Rebellion*, scheduled to be available on March 13, 2012. (Grades 5-8)



## Picture Book Review

*Doodleday*

By: Ross Collins

Reviewed by Melissa Love

Doodleday is a great picture book, which appeals to kids in kindergarten through 2nd grade. This book is a wonderful springboard for the Ideas trait of writing. Harvey is told explicitly by his mother that he is not allowed to draw on Doodleday. He doesn't know why he can't draw on Doodleday but soon finds out. He draws a fly to discover that the fly has come out of his sketchpad and is wrecking havoc in his kitchen. What must he draw to get rid of the fly? Harvey now has a crisis on his hand. How will he undo the mess he has made by drawing? As you read this book aloud to your students they can make predictions along the way as well as invent their own Doodleday!

**Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.**

Maya Angelou





*Jim Aylesworth*

*presents*

# The Teacher Who Became an Author

In honor of our 2012 IRC Conference theme, "Literacy in the Land of Lincoln", PARC is kicking off the year with the author of *Our Abe Lincoln* - Jim Aylesworth. During his twenty-five years of teaching, Aylesworth read hundreds of books to his young students. Aylesworth found himself wanting to be a bigger part of this world of children's stories, and so he decided to write his own books. "Writing children's books," he says, "is my way of being the teacher beyond the walls of my classroom for the children that I may never know."

*Jim Aylesworth's books will be available for sale after the presentation. CPDU's will also be provided.*

**Where:** Marquardt District 15 Administrative Office  
1860 N. Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights, IL 60139

**When:** Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Dinner: 4:30p - 5:30p - Presentation: 5:30p - 7:00p

**R.S.V.P.** by Sunday, October 16, 2011

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Cost:  \$15.00 Members  \$18.00 Non-Members  \$10.00 Students

*Register online and earn a ticket for the \$100 Book Basket drawing in April!*

*Online link - <http://www.regonline.com/jimaylesworth>*

*If you are a member or student please enter the correct code to your online registration*

*Codes: member student*

*OR - Mail this form and check to: Kim Van Horn*

*Murphy Elementary - 7700 Larchwood Lane; Woodridge, IL 60517*

*Please make you checks payable to: Prairie Area Reading Council*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

District and School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



*In honor of this year's IRC Conference theme:  
Literacy in the Land of Lincoln:*

**JOIN Prairie Area Reading Council at the  
General Meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

*and*

**The PARC MEMBER: will receive 5 tickets towards the  
\$100 Book Basket drawing at the April General Meeting  
(Book Basket drawing winner need not be present.)**

**FOR THE NEW MEMBER: PARC will donate a 'Lincoln' towards  
the membership fee (PARC will pay \$5)**

