

"No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance."
- Confucius

The Connection

Southern Illinois Reading Council

SIRC HOSTS CANDACE FLEMING

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **March 1: Deadline for \$200 SIRC Classroom Mini Grant**
- **March 16-19: IRC Conference in Springfield**
- **March 25: Deadline for SIRC Short Story Contest**
- **April 26: SIRC Spring Celebrations at Carbondale Civic Center**

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SIRC BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

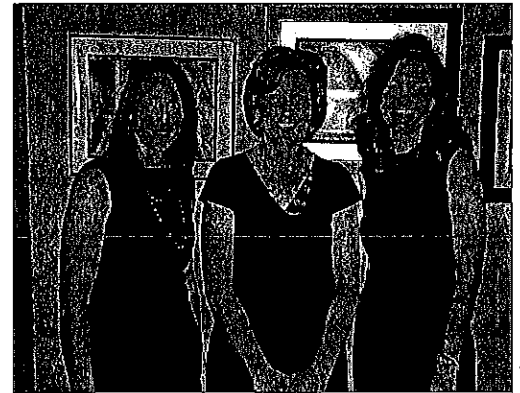
Over forty educators attended "An Educators' Evening Out" on October 10, at StarView Vineyards. The Little Black Dress party was a fun time for all. IRC President, Susan Cisna, also attended our SIRC event.

Ms. Fleming's heart-felt and humorous presentation explained her journey as a writer and many of her experiences that have happened to her along the way.

Ms. Fleming read some of her award winning books to the audience. She also told the background of some of her books and the

countless hours of research that she did to write the biographies.

Two area schools were fortunate to have Ms. Fleming visit their students. Candace visited Anna's Lincoln School on Thursday and Jonesboro School on Friday. These school visits were made possible by a \$3000 grant from Illinois Reading Council, which was written by Cindy Pender, Pamela Rich, and Lori Rich.



SIRC Past President, Cindy Pender; Author, Candace Fleming; SIRC President, Pamela Rich at "Educators' Evening Out."

"An Educators' Evening Night Out" was mostly paid for by a \$1000 Speaker Grant given by IRC.

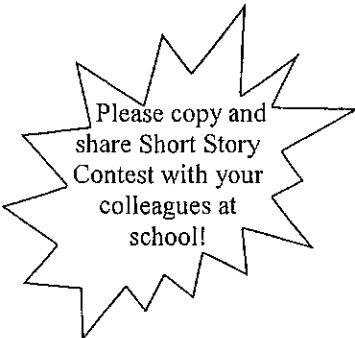
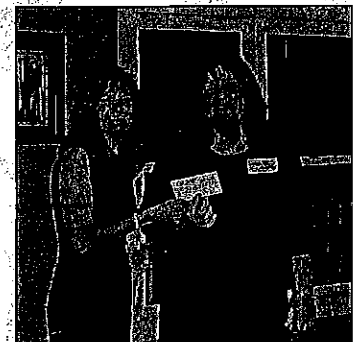
Thank you to all who attended!

SIRC ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The 3rd Annual SIRC Scholarship Winner was awarded to Nyla Montgomery from Mulkeytown, IL. SIUC student teachers who student taught in the Fall of 2010 or Spring of 2011 were eligible to apply for the \$500 scholarship. Applicants also had to be an SIRC/IRC member. Nyla is

student teaching at Mt. Vernon Elementary School in the 2nd grade.

Pictured right: SIRC President, Pamela Rich, awarded Nyla Montgomery her \$500 check at the "Educators' Evening Night Out" event in October.





2011 Short Story Contest

How to Enter Up to three stories per classroom may be submitted, postmarked by **March 25, 2011**. There will be three Southern Illinois winners per grade level. To be eligible, **all entries must have an entry blank attached.** (Master on the back of this sheet.) Identifying information is to be only on the entry blank; only the title may be on the story. Entries will not be returned, so please keep a copy. **First place winners are asked to read their stories at the awards dinner.**

Judging Criteria Stories will be judged on the *creativity* and *organization* of the short story. *Appropriateness of language, theme, and message* will also be considered. *Conventions* will be considered, but to a lesser extent. Emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. There is a word limit of 1500 words. Illustrations are optional and will not influence the outcome.

Awards for 2011 A first, second, and third place winner will be chosen in each grade, second through eighth. The 21 winning stories will be compiled into an *SIRC 2011 Short Story Contest Yearbook*. **Each first, second, and third place winner will receive a copy of the yearbook, a plaque and a bookstore gift certificate.**

Winners will be notified by April 8, 2011. All winners will be invited to attend Southern Illinois Reading Council's **Spring Celebrations Program and Reception on Tuesday, April 26, 2011**, at the Carbondale Civic Center, where they will receive their awards. First place winners will read their winning stories.

Attention busy teachers: writing short stories supports ISAT preparation! Students develop writing fluency and learn in a most meaningful way as they write and edit their stories: story terminology (plot, moral, theme), spelling, punctuation (even dialogue), capitalization, paragraphing, and more. (Some teachers have found ISAT week is good time to assign students to write stories as homework.)

Send entries to:

Second Grade: Concetta Lamendola, 1308 N. 14th St., Murphysboro, IL 62966

Third Grade: Kathy Merz, 506 Cambridge Dr., DeSoto, IL 62924

Fourth Grade: Kathy Stegle and Karen Hubbs, 2185 Lick Creek Rd., Anna, IL 62906

Fifth Grade: Judy White, 492 E. Industrial Pk.Rd., Murphysboro, IL 62966

Sixth Grade: Debbie Braden. 9985 Old Highway 51N, Cobden, IL 62920

Seventh Grade: Margaret Grueninger and Jennifer Osman, 105 Woodland Trail, Anna, IL 62906

Eighth Grade: Cindy Pender and Pat Searcy, 33964 Wilderness Retreat Rd., Jonesboro, IL 62952

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 25, 2011.

Questions?
Shiryl Walquist
634-2255
shirylwalquist@agristar.net

SIRC Short Story Contest Entry Blank
(Entry blank **required**; attach to front of story)

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's full name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____ School phone: _____

Teacher's email address: (optional) _____

Story title: _____

Total word count: _____

Verification:

We verify that this story:

_____ is original work of this student

_____ has been typed*

_____ meets the word count limit of **1500 words**.

Student signature: _____

Teacher signature: _____

Entries failing to meet the above criteria will be disqualified.

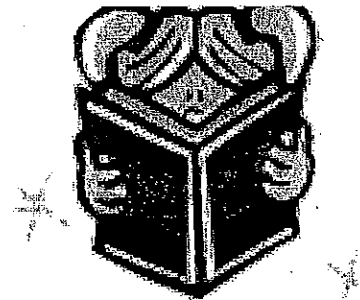
Notes:

Three stories may be entered per classroom. If a teacher has more than one section of a class, three may be sent from each section.

Someone other than the student may type the entry. However, no changes in content, spelling, etc. may be made.

*Double spacing, size 12 font is preferable.

SIRC Classroom Literacy Grants



PURPOSE

The Southern Illinois Reading Council will award financial grants to individual council members for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the classroom.

All submitted proposals must list specific anticipated expenditures in the itemized budget.

GUIDELINES

Each grant applicant will

1. submit a proposal for the program or project which includes:
 - a. a statement of purpose
 - b. a needs statement, including population to be served (e.g. 1st grade classroom, K-2 Reading Resource Room, etc.)
 - c. a description of the project
 - d. an itemized budget which projects expenditures
 - e. a description of how the project supports the Illinois Learning Standards for Reading and Language Arts
2. agree to acknowledge the Southern Illinois Reading Council as a sponsor on any publicity.
3. within thirty days of the conclusion of the project, submit a written report on the success of the project which includes an itemized list of expenditures.
5. plan to make a presentation of the project at a SIRC function and/or submit an article to the SIRC Newsletter.
6. be a member of the Southern Illinois Reading Council.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Individuals applying for grants should submit proposals by the deadline, **March 1, 2011**. Late proposals will not be considered.

You will be notified by email within two weeks of receiving your grant application verifying that it has been received.

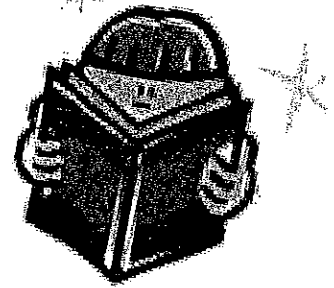
TIME LINE

Proposals will be reviewed, and the grant recipients will be notified by April 15, 2011. Grants will be awarded for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Applications must be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN March 1, 2011**.

REVIEW PROCESS

The SIRC Board of Directors will review each proposal using a blind review process. **If there are any identity-revealing references in the text of the grant application, the grant will be immediately disqualified.**

**SIRC Classroom Literacy Grant
APPLICATION**
(Grants for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012)



Please follow this format and type or generate on a computer. The review will be a blind review process. Avoid ANY identity-revealing references in the text. **Identifying information will result in the grant being immediately disqualified.**

I. Project Title:

II. Statement of Purpose:

(How will this project promote literacy with the population being served?
Please include Illinois Learning Standards for Reading and Language Arts.)

III. Needs Statement: Including population served
(e.g. 1st grade classroom, K-2 Reading Resource Room ,etc.).

IV. Description of Project:

V. Itemized budget: (Please be specific.) Amount requested _____

VI. Plan for evaluation: Include how you will measure the success of the project.

For more information

Send completed forms to:

SIRC Grants Committee
c/o Jennifer Abate-Barrett
1698 Grand Chain Rd.
Metropolis, IL 62960

Jennifer Abate-Barrett
SIRC Board Member
C 618-771-1025
H 618-695-2821
Email jabatebarrett2@gmail.com

YOUR PROPOSAL MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE
March 1, 2011.

SIRC Classroom Literacy Grant
Cover Page
(Grants for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012)

(Please type or print clearly.)

Program/Project Title

Amount Requested (up to \$200)

I am a member of the Southern Illinois Reading Council.

Grant Applicant Contact Information: (Must be an SIRC Member)

Name

Home Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email

I verify that all submitted information is accurate.

Signature of Grant Applicant

Signature of School Administrator/ Position

Any identity-revealing references beyond this page will result in the grant being disqualified.

SIRC Classroom Literacy Grant Rubric

_____ Title: _____ Amount Requested: \$ _____

Reminder: No identifying information within text of the grant proposal;

CRITERIA	Rating			
	1 Below Average	2 Average	3 Above Average	4 Outstanding
NEEDS	Need for a literacy project is inferred	Some needs are described but not complete	Description of project group identifies the need for a literacy activity	Description of the project group strongly indicates the need for a literacy activity
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Project is incomplete with no time line	Project or timeline are sketchy with insufficient detail	Project & timeline are realistic and attainable	Project & timeline are well thought out & implementation plans are detailed
IMPACT ON LITERACY	Little or no impact on improving literacy.	Some impact on improving literacy.	Strong impact on improving literacy.	Impact promotes life-long learning.
PUBLICITY	No announcements	Local announcements referencing SIRC support	#2 announcements + will present at an SIRC function OR write for the Newsletter	#2 announcements + will present at an SIRC function AND write for the Newsletter
EVALUATION	No evidence of evaluation process described	Simplified evaluation process is described	Evaluation process well thought out and described	Unique evaluation process described
BUDGET	Cost per participant C is unreasonable	Cost is reasonable and budget is general	Cost is reasonable and budget is specific	Budget is detailed & demonstrates outstanding stewardship of funds.