

Special points of interest:

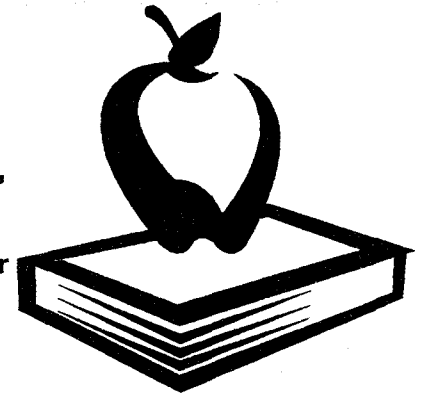
- Short Story Contest information.
- Come and see Author Patricia McKissack at Jonesboro School November 14.
- IRC Membership form, share it with a friend.

Fall 2007

From the President:

Welcome to a fun and exciting year! As the old saying goes, "time flies when you are having fun" and our fall meeting is quickly approaching.

As the crisp feeling of fall fills the air along with thoughts of warm coffee and tea, the board members of the Reading Council are busy preparing for our fall meeting. I am so excited to announce that in November you will have a chance to meet Patricia McKissack, an author from St. Louis. You will enjoy getting to know this well known children's storybook author.



Share a good book with a colleague!

She is not only an outstanding writer, but she loves telling stories that take you back in time to the "good old days." Many of her books are stories that have been passed down from family members.

I look forward to seeing everyone in November for warm drinks, sweet desserts, and relaxation as Patricia McKissack shares her life and stories with us.

Happy Fall!

Jennifer Osman
President

SIRC Board Members

Thank you to the SIRC Board members for a successful kick off to the new year.

Board Members:

Jennifer Osman
Kathy Stegle
Beth Arthur
Deanna Diel
Lori Rich
Kathy Merz
Roberta Shrake

Cindy Pender
Johanna Tolbert
Evelyn Bailey
Suzanne Dillow
Margaret Grueninger
Eleanor Parrish
Shiryl Walquist

Jennifer Abate-Barrett
Pam Gawrych
Hannah Corzine
Kathleen Gaare-Weise
Concetta Lamendola
Amy Sanders
Darl Young



2008 Short Story Contest

How to Enter

Up to three stories per classroom may be submitted, postmarked by **March 14, 2008**. 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 2008

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 2008 Short Story Contest Yearbook*. Each first, second, and third place winner will receive a copy of the yearbook.

All winners will be invited to attend Southern Illinois Reading Council's Spring Celebrations Program and Reception on Tuesday, April 15, at the Carbondale Civic Center. There they will receive their awards and a bookstore gift certificate. First place winners will read their winning stories.

Winners will be notified by **March 31, 2008**.

Send entries to:

Second Grade: Concetta Lamendola, P.O. Box 221, 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

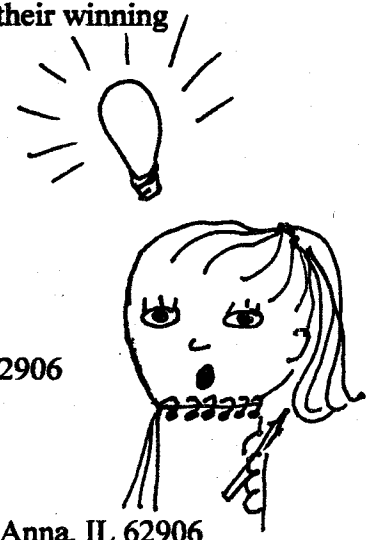
Fifth Grade: Judy White, 492 E. Industrial Pk.Rd., Murphysboro, IL 62966

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 14, 2008.



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 _____

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.



Southern Illinois Reading Council's Fall Meeting

Come and Join The Fun!

Author Patricia Mckissack
Wednesday, November 14th
6:00 p.m.

Jonesboro Elementary School

(Directions From Carbondale: Hwy 51 South, Turn Right on E. Vienna Street (IL 146) Go about 1 mile. Turn Left at the four-way stop – S. Main Street Go about 1 mile (Go around Jonesboro Square) Turn Left on Cook Ave. at Casey's General Store. Jonesboro Elementary School will be on the right.

**The evening will begin with a special presentation by
Author Patricia Mckissack followed by a dessert buffet.**

**This event is free for all SIRC Members and
Students (SIU, JALC, SCC).**

Non-Members \$5.00

Please contact Cindy Pender to reserve a seat!
Cindy Pender darrellcindy@earthlink.net or call 697-1643

See you on November 14th!