

# South Suburban Reading Council



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Dear South Suburban Reading Council Members,

At our January meeting Michelle Kuhn and Dawn Zuffante gave a wonderful presentation on Literacy and Math Centers. We were able to take home the ideas and start with a new center right away. What a wonderful presentation and a great way to start the New Year.

Our next meeting is March 4, 2008. Dr. Tamby Allman will give a presentation about "Using Technology to Teach Reading." This presentation should give us new ideas about how to use technology in our reading program.

Thank you for all the you do everyday to teach reading to our children. It is a challenging job and every one of you provide the children with wonderful opportunities to soar in their reading. You give them the power to read.

It is that time to start thinking about being part of the Board for the South Suburban Reading Council. We would love to have new faces join us. Without your help we can't provide the speakers and resources that our teachers count on. Please consider getting involved. If you, or someone you know, would like to be nominated for a position for the upcoming year please contact myself, Anne Wallace, or another board member.

Have a wonderful time at the Illinois Reading Council Convention: Unleash the Power. I hope that this convention will be inspiring and education for you. I hope to see many of you in Springfield.

Anne Wallace  
President  
708-798-9026  
awalla1@aol.com

## Books for Shelter

Please bring in your new and gently used adult and children's books to our March meeting. Your donations are given to the South Suburban Crisis Center. It is a great way to share your love of books and help others. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Studies and Research**

### **Question Answer Relationships: A Strategy for High Stakes Testing**

If you find yourself searching for a surefire strategy to increase student ISAT performance, don't overlook an oldie but a goodie: Question Answer Relationships (QAR). Created by Taffy Raphael in response to her observation that students overly rely on the text OR memory and experience when answering questions, QARs teach students to look at both. Providing students with a framework and a common language in which to organize their thinking, QARs encourage students to analyze a question in terms of what the question is asking and where the answer may be found. Initially, students are taught to categorize a question in one of two ways: *IN THE BOOK* versus *IN MY HEAD*. These two categories are further broken down as follows:

#### **IN THE BOOK**



1. **RIGHT THERE QUESTION:** The answer can be found "right there" in the book. You can point to the answer.
2. **THINK AND SEARCH:** The answer can be found in the book, but you have to search for it in several places.

#### **IN MY HEAD**



1. **AUTHOR AND YOU:** The answer cannot be found in the book. You have to think about what you have read and what you already know to formulate the answer.
2. **ON MY OWN:** The answer cannot be found in the book. Your own experiences can be used to answer the question.

What's new with QARs? One thing that's new is that schools are using QARs to frame comprehension strategy instruction. For example, comprehension strategies to be taught for THINK AND SEARCH QUESTIONS might include summarizing, visualizing, using context, determining important information, etc. (Raphael, Highfield and Au, 2006).

Picture-Question-Answer Relationships are another exciting new development. In this use of the strategy, students answer questions using the text's pictures (Cortese, 2003). Students are taught to use four picture question answer relationships (*Right There, Artist and You, On My Own and Putting It Together*) to increase their understanding of a story.

Why use QARs? Most importantly, research (Raphael, 1986) demonstrates an increase in achievement when students are taught to use QARs. Besides its documented effectiveness, it is a flexible strategy in that it can be easily embedded into instruction across grade levels and content areas.

More information on QARs may be found at:

[www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org) (Search for Question Answer Relationships)

[www.k5literacy.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://www.k5literacy.mpls.k12.mn.us) (Look under Resources on the right side)

#### References:

Cortese, E. E. (2003). The application of question-answer relationship strategies to pictures. *The Reading Teacher*, 57, 374 – 380.

Raphael, T. E. (1986). *Teaching question answer relationships, revisited*. *The Reading Teacher*, 39, 516-152.

Raphael, T. E., Highfield, K., & Au, K. H. (2006). *QAR Now*. New York: Scholastic.

## **Technology and Reading Instruction It's Not All Just Glitz and Glitter**

**Presented by Dr. Tamby Allman**

**March 4, 2008**

How can a reading specialist or classroom teacher use technology to help more students become literate? We all want and need to put thoughtful and purposeful tools in place that will compliment the expertise of our reading instruction, however there are so many options available and more being created every day, it can be truly mindboggling to sort it all out. This meeting is your opportunity to make some sense of the cyber-jungle and personally experience some of the exciting tools that are meeting the challenge of today's changing demands of reading instruction.

Dr. Tamby Allman is a reading specialist in the Bannockburn School District 106 and an adjunct professor at St. Xavier University. She uses technology every day to improve the literacy skills of her students. Her presentation will guide us in becoming wise consumers and users of technology. Dr. Allman will discuss the various types of technology available, demonstrate the use of technology, and offer advice as to how to choose what is best for students. You will see and experience this new technology firsthand thanks to an arrangement with Frostline, Inc. which is providing us with an actual Smart Board and other high-tech equipment that will help Dr. Allman demonstrate the wonderful ways in which technology supports the acquisition of reading skills. You will go home with a wealth of information and a resource guide to propel you forward into the new age of reading instruction.

**DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING EVENING!**

**INVITE YOUR ADMINISTRATORS AND FRIENDS!**

### **LINCOLN ESSAY CONTEST**

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is encouraging students in grades 5-12 to read President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and take part in a statewide essay contest to mark the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

"In November 1863, President Lincoln was invited to say 'a few appropriate remarks' at the dedication of a cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which would be the final resting place for more than 50,000 Americans who died in the Civil War," White said. "Our nation was divided between North and South, and in fewer than 300 words President Lincoln made what has become one of the most revered speeches ever written.

"In 300 words or less, this essay contest represents an opportunity for students to share their personal thoughts and dreams about where we are as a nation, and their ideals for freedom, democracy and equal opportunity."

The Illinois Center for the Book, for which White serves as Honorary Chair, will select judges to determine first, second and third place winning essays in three competition levels: grades 5-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-12.

The Illinois State Library will send winners and their parents or guardians to Springfield for an awards presentation in conjunction with the bicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birthday on February 12, 2009.

Winners will read their essays at the awards ceremony, tour the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and receive a plaque and cash award: \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. Winning essays will also be published in the 2009 Handbook of Illinois Government.

The deadline to submit essays is May 31, 2008. Winners will be notified in December 2008. Essay forms have been sent to all Illinois public and private elementary and secondary schools. Forms may also be downloaded at .

The Illinois State Library, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Center for the Book are co-sponsoring the competition. The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Lincoln Illinois Bicentennial Commission have also endorsed the contest. For more information about the essay contest, contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or bmatheis@ilsos.net .

## South Suburban Reading Council Board Members 2007 - 2008

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### SSRC Events for 2007 – 2008

Megan Hillegass  
Thursday, May 8, 2008

Language Development for  
ELL students  
Rivera Country Club, Orland Park

### Congratulations to our newest members:

Amy Baumgartner, Donna Boddy, Darcel Brady, Rosemary Brown, Natalee Ciesiun, Melissa Conway-Stefanko, Katie DaLuga, Mary Entsminger, Margaret Finnegan, Patti Gervais, Carole Heifert, Jessica Howard, Leslie Jackson-Roberts, Katie Kokaisl, Carol Larsen, Mary Lawton, Rachel Massa, Christine Milazzo, Doris O'Connor, Julie O'Connor, Myra Patterson, Denise Peck, Kimberly Perisin, Susan Quarino, Peggy Reipsa, Lisa Rost, Nancy Schwab, Femi Spearman, Nancy Szelag, Therese Tobecksen and Argia Watson.

We are so glad you joined the South Suburban Reading Council. As of 11-30-2007, we are 417 members strong. If you enjoy our meetings, have a desire to better our profession and provide an even better education for our students, please volunteer to work on the SSRC Board. We are always looking for extra hands; we can find you a job big or small to fill our many needs. Please contact a Board member if you wish to volunteer or contact Pam Bartusiewicz at [pbart167@hotmail.com](mailto:pbart167@hotmail.com).



South Suburban Reading Council presents:

Dr. Tamby Allman

*Using Technology to Teach Reading*

*Tuesday, March 4, 2008*

*Menu*

*Tossed salad with French, Ranch or Poppy Seed dressing*

*Baked boneless double breast of chicken with stuffing*

*Oven roasted red potatoes*

*California Medley*

*Vanilla Ice cream with chocolate topping*

*Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Tea (Hot and Iced), Milk*

DiNolfo's  
9425 W. 191<sup>st</sup> St.  
Mokena, IL 60448  
5:00 Cash Bar  
5:45 Dinner  
708-349-7878

Come early for convenient seating.

Reservations are due by **February 23, 2008.**

Mail this form and payment to:

Gail Prindle  
17203 Parkside Ave.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

There is limited seating and first come  
will be first served.

Late reservations cannot be honored.  
No smoking please.

Please PRINT clearly and make check payable to SSRC

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ District & School \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate: (Amount due)

\_\_\_\_\_ Member (\$22.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Non-member (\$29.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Teacher (\$10.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would  
like to receive 1 CPDU  
for attending this dinner.