

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



SPRING 2021
VOLUME 49, NUMBER 2

ISSN #1082-555X

Editor

Roxanne Owens
DePaul University

Associate Editors

Joyce R. Bojko-Jeewek
Benedictine University

David Bates
Concordia University Chicago

Marie Ann Donovan
DePaul University

Adelfio Garcia
Chicago Public Schools

Sara L. Jozwik
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Mary Yockey
Indian Prairie School District 204

Deborah Augsburger
Jung Kim
Lewis University

Sophie Degener
Kristin Lems
Ryan McCarty
Ivy Sitkoski
National Louis University

Laurie Elish-Piper
Northern Illinois University

Kristine M. Schutz
Rebecca Woodard
University of Illinois-Chicago

Ronda J. Gray
University of Illinois-Springfield

Spring 2021



ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



Volume 49, Number 2

Editorial Advisory Board

Rebekah Buchanan
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL

Amy Butler
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago, IL

Valerie Cawley
Judson University
Elgin, IL

Demetra Disotuar
Evanston-Skokie School District 65
Evanston, IL

Darryn Diuguid
McKendree University
Lebanon, IL

Marygrace Farina
Archdiocese of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Angela Fortune
University of Illinois–Chicago
Chicago, IL

Mary Gardner
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL

Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley
Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club
Champaign, IL

Debbie Harrison
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL

Jerry L. Johns
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL

Lynn Keck
Rock Island School District 41
Rock Island, IL

Steven L. Layne
Wheaton College
Wheaton, IL

Samantha Morley
Indian Prairie School District 204
Naperville, IL &
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL

Kathleen A. Paciga
Columbia College Chicago
Chicago, IL

Kari Pawl
Concordia University
Chicago, IL

Margaret Mary Policastro
Roosevelt University
Chicago, IL

Kristine Schutz
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL

Frances Steward
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL

A. Gillian Stewart-Wells
Judson University
Elgin, IL

Karen Tischhauser
Barrington Middle School
Barrington, IL

Donna E. Werderich
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL

Alisha White
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL

Chyrese S. Wolf
Chicago State University
Chicago, IL

Rebecca Woodard
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Volume 49, Number 2 Spring 2021

Table of Contents

Articles

- 3 **The Value of Direct Instruction in Middle School**
Lauren A. Leifheit, Natalie R. Andzik, and Stephanie N. DeSpain
- 12 **Planning and Preparing for Read-Alouds**
Katy E. Hisrich and Megan McCaffrey
- 21 **But I'm Not a Reading Teacher: My Story**
Miguel Gómez

Columns

- 33 **Finding Common Ground: Understanding Ourselves and the World Through Literature: What Books Spark Joy?**
Jung Kim and Deborah Augsburger
- 39 **Family Engagement in Literacy: Starting the Journey Toward Cultural Competence**
Natalie Young, Guest Author
- 46 **Professional Development: Teaching with Confidence in Uncertain Times**
Sophie Degener, Adelfio Garcia, Ryan McCarty, and Ivy Sitkoski
- 52 **Honoring Young Children's Sense-Making: Lessons from Our Young Children on the Importance of Play in (Remote) School**
Kristine M. Schutz and Rebecca Woodard
- 60 **Parent/Teacher Conference: A Dialogue with Dr. Steven Layne**
Erik Parsons
- 70 **Insights from Illinois Authors: A Conversation with Patricia Toht**
Ronda J. Gray
- 77 **Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal***

The *Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ)* is published quarterly and is distributed as a service to all members of the Illinois Reading Council. Membership in the Illinois Reading Council can be obtained through local and special interest reading councils in Illinois. For information, contact the Illinois Reading Council at 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, IL 61761. IRC staff may also be reached by telephone at (309) 454-1341. Libraries and educational institutions can subscribe to *IRCJ* at an annual rate of \$40.00; address inquiries to the Executive Director at the IRC office. Because the *IRCJ* serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

Photocopies: Individuals may photocopy articles from the journal without written permission for nonprofit educational use, or may make five copies of a single article for library reserve use in an educational institution. Consent to photocopy does not extend to photos or items reprinted by permission from other publishers. Members of the Illinois Reading Council who wish to use copies of an article in a handout or coursepack and for repeated use may do so without a fee. Nonmembers must obtain photocopying permission from the Illinois Reading Council, 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, IL 61761.

©2021, Illinois Reading Council

Publication services for the *IRCJ* are provided by Sandra K. Larimer, Copy Editor, and Shanee J. Plate, Layout/Design. Erik Parsons is Roxanne Owens' Graduate Assistant for the journal.

About the Cover Artists

Susie Williams

I have always been drawn to detail and love the transparency and fluidness of watercolor. I try to capture the beauty and grace that are inherent in plants and nature while giving each subject its own particular identity. I majored in Art and went on to receive a PhD in Communicative Disorders/Learning Disabilities. I have taught in public and private schools and University settings where I have enjoyed and used my art background. I have exhibited my work in juried and non-juried exhibitions.

www.susiewilliamsbotanicalart.com



Molly Cranch

Molly Cranch received her BFA in Painting from Washington University in St. Louis and a K-12 certificate in Art Education from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has taught art and yoga in public schools, museums, and art centers for over 20 years. Alongside her teaching practice, she has exhibited her paintings in galleries at the local, national, and international level. In 2019, Molly Cranch illustrated her first children's book, *Little Seed's Journey*. A member of SCBWI and the Storyteller Academy, she is currently writing and illustrating her own picture books. Working in children's book illustration is a lifelong dream and a culmination of her professional experience as both an artist and an educator.

www.mollycranch.com



The botanicals on the cover are all by Susie Williams; the bird drawing is by Molly Cranch.

Front Cover: *Top left:* "Purple Orchid," *Bottom right:* "Waiting," *Right:* "Pastel Orchid"

Back Cover: *Top left:* "Single Stem Purple Orchid," *Bottom left:* "Red Amaryllis," *Right:* "White Orchid"

You can find more artwork from Molly Cranch on pages 11, 38, 59, and 74.

ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND



Join the statewide literacy initiative! Six books in each age band, birth to adult, with fun activities, book clubs, author events, online blogs, Skype visits, and more! Order bookmarks and posters today!

*Visit our website for more information
www.illinoisreads.org*

Birth-4

Bear's Scare
by Jacob Grant
Beware!
by Bob Raczka and illustrated by Larry Day
Chinese New Year Colors
by Rich Lo
Mermaid Dreams
by Kate Pugsley
Peekity Boo What You Can Do!
by Heidi Bee Roemer
Pick a Pumpkin
by Patricia Toht

K-2

Jasper & Ollie
by Alex Willan
Just Read!
by Lori Degman
My Teacher is a Robot
by Jeffrey Brown
Oak Leaf
by John Sandford
Sofia Valdez, Future Prez
by Andrea Beaty
This Is How I Do It: One Day in the Life of You and 59 Real Kids from Around the World
by Matt Lamothe

3-5

Cape – The League of Secret Heroes, Book One
by Kate Hannigan
Captain Superlative!
by J.S. Puller
The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street
by Lindsay Currie
The Superlative A. Lincoln: Poems About Our 16th President
by Eileen R. Meyer
Time Castaways #1: The Mona Lisa Key
by Liesl Shurtliff
Weird Little Robots
by Carolyn Crimi

6-8

Fireborne
by Rosaria Munda
Ninja: Get Good: My Ultimate Guide to Gaming
by Tyler Blevins
Powers in Action, Volume 1: The Hero Squadron!
by Art Baltazar
Robert E. Lee: The Man, the Soldier, the Myth
by Brandon Marie Miller
Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers
by Celia C. Pérez
Windy City Magic, Book 1: The Best Kind of Magic
by Crystal Cestari

9-12

All That I Can Fix
by Crystal Chan
Sorry for Your Loss
by Jessie Ann Foley
The Waking Forest
by Alyssa Wees
Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All
by Laura Ruby
Verify
by Joelle Charbonneau
We Speak in Storms
by Natalie Lund

Adult

An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago
by Alex Kotlowitz
The Boat Runner: A Novel
by Devin Murphy
Midwest Made: Big, Bold Baking from the Heartland
by Shauna Sever
Monument: Poems New and Selected
by Natasha Trethewey
Radio Flyer: 100 Years of America's Little Red Wagon
by Robert Pasin
The Vanishing Man: A Charles Lenox Mystery
by Charles Finch

Lake-Cook Distributors

Paperbacks Fast!

Class sets our specialty

Grades 6 through 12

In Stock Orders Shipped Same Day

30% Discount

FREE SHIPPING*

*1 TO 9 COPIES ADD \$7.50 SHIPPING CHARGE

Illinois Reading Lists Available
Monarch, Bluestem, Caudill and Abe Lincoln

Visit us on the web at

www.lake-cook.com

Lake-Cook Distributors, Inc.

951 N. Old Rand Road, #114

Wauconda, IL 60084

Phone 800-677-6047

Fax 847-526-5810

E-mail sales@lake-cook.com

