GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Please take a moment to read the information below regarding the 2024 IRC Conference.

• **IRC Conference is an Open Forum**
The IRC Conference serves as an open forum and exchange of ideas and opinions. Opinions that are expressed by featured speakers, program presenters, and participants do not reflect endorsements by the Illinois Reading Council.

• **Conference Sessions**
All conference sessions will be held in the Bank of Springfield Center, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, and Wyndham Hotel.

• **Pre-Registration & Registration**
Pre-registered conferees may obtain their registration packets at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. On-site registration is also available. Hotel reservations and meal function tickets should be secured prior to arrival in Springfield. Registration Hours: Wednesday, March 13 – 5:00 – 9:00 PM Thursday, March 14 – 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM Friday, March 15 – 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

• **ISBE PD Clock Hours**
IRC is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered conference attendees can earn up to one clock hour for each session attended. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit your clock hours for the sessions that you attended and/or presented at the conference via an online form. The ISBE Evidence of Participation will be sent to you about two weeks after the conference.

• **Admission to Meetings**
Paid conferees receive a badge with their registration packet. Badges are required at all times and for all conference functions. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-purchased tickets are required for all meal functions.

• **Special Accommodations**
Individuals who need special accommodations should make specific requests in writing to the IRC office three weeks prior to the conference in order for their needs to be met.

• **Food**
All scheduled meal functions require pre-purchased tickets. The concession area in the Bank of Springfield Center will be open during exhibit hours. Springfield restaurant information will be available at the hospitality table in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

• **Hospitality & Information Table**
A hospitality and information table is located in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

• **Message Board**
There will be a message board for conferees to leave notes in the registration area in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. A phone line (309-454-1341) has been established at the Registration Desk to receive emergency phone calls.

• **Lost and Found**
Inquire at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center regarding lost and found items. IRC is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

• **Parking Options**
Downtown Springfield has many public parking options that cost anywhere from $5 to $10 a day to park. Details on the public parking will be available under the Resource Tab in the Conference APP.

• **Program Book and Conference APP**
In accordance with ILA guidelines, individuals have not been designated by titles. Acknowledgments to publishers and other companies for sponsoring speakers and special events are current as of this printing. Information in this program is subject to change. **Don’t forget to bring a device to download the Conference App or the PDF of the Final Program Book as there will not be a printed Final Program Book or a tote bag provided by IRC.**

• **No Smoking**
In consideration of others we request your cooperation in observing the NO SMOKING regulations inside buildings.

• **Cell Phones**
Please silence phones during sessions at the conference.

• **Videotaping/Audiotaping/Photos**
Unless notified in writing, registration to the conference constitutes an agreement that the registrant’s image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs of such events and activities. It is also not permitted to videotape, audiotape, or take photos of conference speakers without the speaker’s consent.

• **Anti-Harassment Policy**
The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) does not allow harassment or discrimination of any kind at any IRC affiliated event. IRC and its affiliates will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy including removal from the event. To report an issue, please visit the Event Registration Desk.

• **Cancellation/Refund Policy**
Conference refund requests must be in writing and postmarked by February 1, 2024. Requests can also be faxed to (309) 454-3512 or emailed to irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org. A $25 processing fee will be assessed. Please note that membership fees are non-refundable. Conference registrations are transferable, but replacement names must be requested by March 5, 2024.
Dear Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the Illinois Reading Council Executive Committee, the IRC staff, the Conference Committee members, and you, the IRC members, welcome to the 55th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference — Pillars of Literacy: Skills, Strategies, Joy, & Magic.

The theme of the conference holds a great deal of meaning about literacy. The Pillars of Literacy are at the core of every effective reading instruction program. They include Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. Skills are needed for decoding (phonics, pre-fixes, suffixes, root words, morphology, etc.). Key strategies (predicting, asking questions, summarizing, visualizing, making inferences, activating prior knowledge, etc.) are used to aid in understanding what we read.

In terms of Joy and Magic, we recall Louise Rosenblatt’s reader response theory that stresses the importance of the reader making meaning from the text (1988). This is where the joy comes in. When we think about the partnering of skills — code deciphering — together with our experiences, we are able to read for the purpose of enjoyment or for learning. The result of this combination is pure magic!

The national educational landscape now includes the Science of Reading, as many school districts are adopting this form of instruction. These concepts have been around for many years and refer to a body of research from the fields of education, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, and neuroscience. At this year’s conference, we added a new strand for all of the sessions on this topic, offering a range of perspectives. Other strands include: administration, literacy coaching, early career, English Language Learners, Equity and Diversity, Librarians, Reluctant Readers, Social Emotional Learning, STEAM, Technology and Writing.

This conference is packed with over 200 sessions to cover your needs. Don’t forget to visit our exhibitors and drop by the membership booth. Make plans to see the Illinois Reads Authors as well as “Hear the Authors Read” which is our late-night autograph session on Thursday!

As you move through these exciting conference days, you will also notice hundreds of volunteers who donate their time taking tickets at a meal function, registering attendees, putting up signs, guiding people to the right session room, or helping out in any way. Be sure to thank them! Special thanks to Carrie Sheridan, our Executive Director. She is the one who brings this all together for us each year.

In the conference sessions, you will find literacy SKILLS that work, STRATEGIES to help others learn, and how to encourage the JOY of reading and make MAGIC happen for ALL LEARNERS.

Have a great conference!

Melissa Stinnett
IRC President-Elect
2024 Conference Chair

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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Registration - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Welcome Reception - PAL Hotel Ballroom 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Registration - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Orientation for New Participants - PAL Hotel Bond Room 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM
Thursday Breakfast - PAL Hotel Ballroom - A.S. King 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Exhibits - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Hall of Councils - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Thursday Luncheon - Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom - Jennifer Serravallo 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday Luncheon - PAL Hotel Ballroom - Nic Stone 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Thursday Lunch Sessions - Bank of Springfield Center 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Thursday PSA Banquet - PAL Hotel Ballroom - Lesa Cline-Ransome 6:15 PM – 8:15 PM
Hear the Authors Read and Autographing - Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom 8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Friday, March 15, 2024

Registration - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center 7:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Friday Breakfast - PAL Hotel Ballroom - John Schu 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Exhibits - Exhibit Hall in the Bank of Springfield Center 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Hall of Councils - Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Coffee Break with Savvas Learning Company - BOS Center Exhibit Hall 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 9:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Friday Luncheon - Wyndham Hotel Grand Ballroom - Illinois Reads Authors 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday Luncheon - PAL Hotel Ballroom - Timothy Rasinski 12:15 PM – 2:00 PM
Friday Lunch Sessions - Bank of Springfield Center 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Refreshments in Exhibit Area - Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
IRC Annual Membership Meeting - PAL Hotel Lincoln Room 4:45 PM – 5:15 PM
Preservice Teachers’ Pizza Party - PAL Hotel Ballroom 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special appreciation is extended to the following professionals for their extensive contributions to the success of the 2024 IRC Conference.

PUBLISHERS & BUSINESSES

Anderson’s Bookshops
Illinois Reads Author Luncheon
Hear the Authors Read
Featured Speaker Books
New & Notable Books with Becky Anderson Wilkins

Crossland Literacy
Illinois Reads Author Luncheon
Jennifer Serravallo
Andrew P. Johnson
Paul L. Thomas

Heinemann
Featured Speaker Books

Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA)
Tote Bags

Imagine Learning
Name Tag Lanyards

Lake-Cook Distributors
Student Helpers

Savvas Learning Compan
Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall on Friday Morning

Visit Springfield/SCVB
Hear the Authors Read

Zaner-Bloser
Lynne Dorfman

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS & STAFF

Melissa Stinnett, 2024 IRC Conference Chair
Cindi Koudelka, Assistant Chair & 2025 Chair
Deb Augsburger, Autographing
Pat Braun, Meal Tickets
Barb Chrz-White, Registration
Lynette Evans, Preservice Pizza Party
Karen Kortkamp, Exhibits
Cindi Koudelka, Greeters/Hospitality
Brenda Kraber, Autographing
Kelly Mangan, Marketing

Roxanne Owens, Autographing
Carol Owles, Preservice Pizza Party
Sheila Ruh, Technology
Sherry Sejnost, Technology
Carrie Sheridan, Executive Director
Kristen Stombres, Student Helpers
Joy Towner, Student Helpers
Alaina Weatherford, Signs
Melissa Wheeler, Meal Tickets
Jennifer Young, Special Events
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks are extended to the exhibitors for their continued support and sponsorship of presentations at the 2024 Conference.

EXHIBITORS

3ClicksSpelling.com  Dick Briggs
95 Percent Group  Cassandra Novack
AISLE  Liza Wiener
Amplify  Karen Venditti
Crossland Literacy  Berit Gordon, Katherine McKnight
EPS School Specialty  Julie Ross
Great Minds  Meg Edwards
hand2mind  Jennifer Burchfiel, Debby Spitzer
Karyn Tomkinson
Hatch Early Learning  Kylie Rymanowicz
Heritage Schoolhouse Press  Michael Lockett
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom  Kevin Daugherty, Janice Harrington
Lee Deal, Stephanie Hospelhorn, Chris Wyant
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  Lorna Shuman
Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA)  Stefanie Crawford
Imagine Learning  Alana Benoit, Anita Parsotan
Karen DeSchryver, Susan Jones
Learning A-Z  Nicole Nelson
Reading Horizons  Ethan Lynn
ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois  Carrie Brockway, Kimberlee Wagner
Savvas Learning Company  Neilie Dobogai
SCBWI Illinois  Alice McGinty
Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant  Shelley Kenow
SLANT System for Structured Language Training  Beth Hatlen, Karla O’Brien
SLD Support Project  Tari Jansen, Kellyn Sirach
Zaner-Bloser  Angela Cammarata, Emily Larsen
Illinois Reading Council
2023 - 2024 Executive Committee

Julie Hoffman
President

Melissa Stinnett
President Elect

Cindi Koudelka
Vice President

Leslie Forsman
Past President

Melissa Wheeler
Recording Secretary

Amy Davis
ILA State Coordinator

Donna Herman
Director of Membership Development

Diana Wilkie
Treasurer

Illinois Reading Council
Office Staff

Carrie Sheridan
Executive Director

Karen Kortkamp
Public Relations Coordinator

Kelly Mangan
Marketing Coordinator
Illinois Reading Council Board of Directors

Regional Directors

Region 1
Alaina Weatherford

Region 2
Becky McTague

Region 3
Sherry Sejnost

Region 4
Lynn Keck

Region 5
Pat Braun

Region 6
Katie Russell

Region 7
Melissa Wheeler

Region 8
Amy Hewing

Region 9
Teresa Burdin

Region 10
Camille Lutz

Standing Committee Chairs

Budget, Finance, and Strategic Planning
Julie Hoffman

Bylaws, Policies & Procedures
Cindi Koudelka, Leslie Forsman

Conference
Melissa Stinnett

District PD
Leslie Forsman

Membership
Donna Herman

Nominating
Leslie Forsman

Organization/Council Bylaws
Amy Davis

Personnel and Grievance
Julie Hoffman

Special Committee Chairs

AISLE Liaison
Leslie Forsman

Advocacy
Cindi Koudelka

Book Club
Stephanie Benson

Educational Media
Sheila Ruh

Family Literacy
Barbara Ashton

ILA Exemplary Reading Program
Diana Wilkie

Illinois Reads
Sherry Sejnost

International Projects
Carol Owles

IRC Communicator Editor
Marjorie Henseler

IRC Journal Editor
Roxanne Owens

IRC Literacy Support Grants
Pat Braun

ISBE Liaison
Kimberly Johnson

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year
Melissa Wheeler

Obama Literacy Fund
Jen Brooks

Prairie State Award
Cindy Wilson

Professional Learning
Laura Beltchenko

Publicity and Publication
Sherry Sejnost

Rebecca Caudill Rep
Ruth Gheysen

ICARE - Roxanne Owens

ILLC - Leslie Forsman

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Marjorie Henseler

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Roxanne Owens

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Pat Braun

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Jen Brooks

Prairie State Award
Cindy Wilson

Professional Learning
Laura Beltchenko

Publicity and Publication
Sherry Sejnost

Rebecca Caudill Rep
Ruth Gheysen

SCIRA - Sophie Degener

Two Rivers - Open

Vermilion Valley - Lynette Evans

West Suburban - Kari Pawl

Western Illinois - Jennifer Young

Will County - Donna Herman

CIRP - Shadrack Msengi

ICARE - Roxanne Owens

ILLC - Leslie Forsman

SRL - Renee Yunker

Council Presidents

Blackhawk - Michael Carton

Central Illinois - Andrea Trencher

Chicago Area (CARA) - LaVerne Wright

East Central - Tim Wheeler

Fox Valley - Camille Lutz

Illini - Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley

Illinois Valley - Regetta Wharram

Lake Area - Stacie Noisey

Lewis & Clark - Andy Mayer

Macon County - Cara Burkhart

MID-State - Elana Heinen

Mississippi Valley - Leslie Forsman

National Road - Amy Hewing

Northern Illinois - Jacqueline Cleven

Northwestern Illinois - Janell Hartman

Prairie Area - Sheila Ruh

Sauk Valley - Kimberly Bork

South Eastern - Tambree Krouse

South Suburban - Terri Campos

Southern Illinois - Leslie Small

Starved Rock - Alaina Weatherford

SCIRA - Sophie Degener

Two Rivers - Open

Vermilion Valley - Lynette Evans

West Suburban - Kari Pawl

Western Illinois - Jennifer Young

Will County - Donna Herman

CIRP - Shadrack Msengi

ICARE - Roxanne Owens

ILLC - Leslie Forsman

SRL - Renee Yunker
IRC Reading Hall of Fame

Robert Hillerich, 1983
P. David Pearson, 1983
William Durr, 1984
Dolores Durkin, 1984
David C. Rhoads, 1985
Kathryn Ransom, 1985
Dale D. Downs, 1986
Donna Ogle, 1987
William Powell, 1988
Jerry Johns, 1989
Jane Davidson, 1990
Gene Blair, Gene Cramer, 1991
Carol Winkley, 1992
Taimi Ranta, 1993
Roberta Berglund, 1994
Camille Blachowicz, 1995
Marrietta Castle, 1996
John Logan, 1996

IRC Service Award

(Formerly known as the IRC Certificate of Recognition)

Carol Winkley, Don Meints, 1983
Kathryn Ransom, Jeanette Massey, 1984
Peg Livesay, David Rhoads, 1981
Marian Oleson, Agnita Wright, 1982
Mary Christopherson, 1983
Geneva Andrews, Mary Williams, 1983
Gene Cramer, Barbara Wyne, 1984
Donna Ogle, Jerry Johns, 1985
Ottoline Womack, Taimi Ranta, 1986
Kay Spalding, 1986
Hattie Miller, Jane Davidson, 1987
Jim Coe, Evelyn Jackson, 1988
Larry Pennie, 1988
Gene Blair, Anna Sanford, 1989
Wilma Deal, James Walker, 1990
Arlene Pennie, 1990
Nancy Venegoni, 1991
Roberta Berglund, 1992
Marlene Fletcher, Eunice Greer, 1993
Barbara Seaman, Tom Sexton, 1993
Lynee Rauscher-Davoust, 1994
Kathleen Sweeney, 1994
Peter Fisher, 1997
Margaret Richek, 1998
Susan Davis Lenski, 1999
Timothy Shanahan, 2002
Pamela J. Farris, 2006
Larry Pennie, 2009
Steven L. Layne, 2010
Lou Ferroli, 2011
Roxanne Owens, 2012
Pamela Nelson, 2013
Becky Anderson Wilkins, 2014
Roberta Sejnost, 2014
Kathy Barclay, 2015
Maria Walther, 2016
Pat Braun, 2017
Joyce Jennings, 2021
Kathleen Sweeney, 2024
Jack Barshinger, Barbara Chrz-White, 1995
Paula Schoenfelder, 1996
Barbara Johnson, 1997
Joyce Jennings, 1998
Sheila Diaz, 1999
Laura Megown, 2000
Lynette Mehall, 2003
Pat Carlson, 2006
Roberta Sejnost, 2007
Patti Foster Baker, 2010
Carol Owles, Cheryl Walker, 2012
Susan Cisna, Ronda Brown, 2013
Tammy Swinford-Potts, 2014
Sheila Ruh, Sheryl Sejnost, 2014
Leslie Forsman, 2016
Melinda Grimm, 2017
Boomer Crotty, 2018
Gail Huizinga, 2019
Joyce Jennings, 2021
Christy Ziller, Steven L. Layne, 2022
Stephanie Benson, 2023
Kevin Daugherty, Bonnie Matheis, 2024
Illinois Reading Council Past Presidents

1968 - 1969  William Powell
1969 – 1970  Mary Serra
1970 - 1971  Mary Ellen Batinich
1971 – 1972  David Bear
1972 – 1973  Wilson Stone
1973 – 1974  David Rhoads
1974 – 1975  Kathryn Ransom
1975 – 1976  Sister Cor Marie
1976 – 1977  Robin Carr
1977 – 1978  Agnita Wright
1978 – 1979  Gene Blair
1979 – 1980  Donna Ogle
1980 – 1981  Lawrence Pennie
1981 – 1982  Jerry Johns
1982 – 1983  James Coe
1983 – 1984  Dale Downs
1984 – 1985  Nancy Venegoni
1985 – 1986  Anna Sanford
1986 – 1987  Sharon Neste
1987 – 1988  Jean Clem Bailey
1989 - 1990  Linda Fuller Farruggia
1990 – 1991  Kathleen Sweeney
1991 – 1992  Lorri Davis
1993 – 1994  Paula Schoenfelder
1994 – 1995  Susan Hanks
1995 – 1996  Jeff Hildreth
1996 – 1997  Susan Davis Lenski
1997 – 1998  Claudia Anne Katz
1998 – 1999  Barb Haas Bender
1999 – 2000  Hattie Spires
2000 – 2001  Marsha Strader
2001 – 2002  Mike Ellerman
2002 – 2003  Beth Arthur
2003 – 2004  Barb Vines
2004 – 2005  Ronda Mitchell
2005 – 2006  Steven Layne
2006 – 2007  Pam Nelson
2007 – 2008  Donna Monti
2008 – 2009  Roxanne Owens
2009 – 2010  Christine Boardman Moen
2010 – 2011  Susan Cisna
2011 – 2012  Cindy Wilson
2012 – 2013  Pat Braun
2013 – 2014  Tammy Swinford-Potts
2014 – 2015  Cindy Gerwin
2015 – 2016  Lou Ferroli
2016 – 2017  Patricia Tylka
2017 – 2018  Janel Sebeny
2018 – 2019  Priscilla Dwyer
2019 – 2021  Stephanie Benson
2021 – 2022  Katie Russell
2022 – 2023  Leslie Forsman
ILLINOIS READS LUNCH

Join the authors of the 2024 Illinois Reads Books at the Friday Luncheon! Participants will get to have lunch with an Illinois Reads Author and receive a FREE Illinois Reads book (choices will be on a first-come, first-served basis). Following lunch, participants will spend the next hour moving from table to table, meeting other authors, and discussing their books. After the luncheon, there will also be an additional autograph session with the authors from 2:15 to 3:15 PM in the BOS Center Exhibit Hall. Books will be available for purchase at the luncheon and in the exhibit hall.

LUNCHEON TICKETS ARE SOLD OUT AT THIS TIME. AUTHORS WILL BE AUTOGRAPHING IN EXHIBIT HALL FROM 2:15 TO 3:15 PM!

Adi Alsaid
Grades 6-8

Neil Bradbury
Adult

Ivan Brunetti
Grades K-2

Amelia Brunskill
Grades 9-12

Darcy Day Zoells
Grades K-2

Zetta Elliott
Grades 3-5

Reese Eschmann
Grades 3-5

Jacob Grant
Birth to 4

Claudia Guadalupe Martínez
Grades K-2

Kate Hannigan
Grades 3-5

Daniel Kraus
Grades 9-12

Laurie Lawlor
Grades 6-8

Bob Raczka
Grades K-2

Jean Reidy
Birth to 4

Ruth Spiro
Grades K-2

John Sullivan
Birth to 4

Miranda Sun
Grades 9-12

Emi Watanabe Cohen
Grades 6-8

Mary Winn Heider
Grades 3-5
Prior to each autographing session, please purchase the books you wish to be autographed. Books are available at each author’s publisher’s booth or Anderson’s Bookshops booths in the exhibit area. Most authors will be signing in the designated area located at the back of the exhibit hall. A separate line will be formed for each author.

Due to the number of authors and scheduling, it will not be possible for books to be left for later autographing. Some authors will sign only their name and do no personalizing.

Each author will sign a maximum of three books per person when that person is in the author’s line. If an individual would like to have more than three books signed by an author, there are two options:

a. Bring purchased books to Authors Signing Booth and ask for bookplates. (There are limited quantities.)
b. Go to the end of the line and wait to have three more books signed by the author. The author may or may not have time to sign additional books because authors agree to sign for specific time periods.

Presentations by authors are listed on the Conference APP.

### Thursday

9:00 – 10:00 AM
A.S. King

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sarah Aronson
Jan Miller Burkins
J. Richard Gentry
Jennifer Serravallo *(Booth 328)*
Clare Vanderpool

1:00 – 2:00 PM
Andrew P. Johnson

2:15 – 3:15 PM
Nic Stone

3:30 – 4:30 PM
J. Richard Gentry
A.S. King
John Schu
Clare Vanderpool

### Friday

9:00 – 10:00 AM
John Schu

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Lesa Cline-Ransome
Lynne Dorfman
Paul L. Thomas

1:00 – 2:00 PM
Andrew P. Johnson
Pam Muñoz Ryan

2:15 – 3:15 PM
Illinois Reads Authors *(list on page 12)*
Sarah Aronson
Timothy Rasinski

### Locations

Autographing on Thursday and Friday will take place at the back of the Exhibit Hall or at the noted exhibitor’s booth in the BOS Center.

Books will be available for purchase at the conference from Anderson’s Bookshops *(Booth 409)* or Heinemann *(Booth 328)*.

A special autograph session after the Hear the Authors Read will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 PM on Thursday, March 14, 2024 in the Wyndham Ballroom. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

A special autograph session will take place for the Illinois Reads Authors from 2:15 – 3:15 PM on Friday, March 15, 2024 in the Autograph Area. Books will be available for purchase at Anderson’s Bookshops *(Booth 409)*.
Join the statewide literacy initiative! Six books in each age band, birth to adult, with fun activities, book clubs, author events, and more! Pick up bookmarks and posters in the Exhibit Hall – Booth 431 today!

Visit our website for more information
www.illinoisreads.org

Birth-4
My Hair Is Like the Sun
by St. Clair Detrick-Jules and illustrated by Tabitha Brown

Mine!
by Candace Fleming and illustrated by Eric Rohmann

No Fair!
by Jacob Grant

You Are New
by Lucy Knisley

A Book About You and All the World Too
by Jean Reidy

Ethan and the Strays
by John Sullivan

K-2
Lila Greer, Teacher of the Year
by Andrea Beaty

3x4: TOON Level 1
by Ivan Brunetti

The New Bicycle
by Darcy Day Zoells

Not a Monster
by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez

You Are A Story
by Bob Raczka

How to Explain Coding to a Grown-Up
by Ruth Spiro

3-5
Cornbread & Poppy at the Museum
by Matthew Cordell

The Enchanted Bridge
by Zetta Elliott

Etta Invincible
by Reese Eschmann

Josephine and Her Dishwashing Machine
by Kate Hannigan

Mayor Good Boy Turns Bad
by Dave Scheidt and Miranda Harmon

The Stupendous Switcheroo: New Powers Every 24 Hours
by Mary Winn Heider and Chad Sell

6-8
The Bravest Warrior in Nefaria
by Adi Alsaid

It Found Us
by Lindsay Currie

Restoring Prairie, Woods, and Pond: How a Small Trail Can Make a Big Difference
by Mary Winn Heider and Chad Sell

Lo & Behold
by Wendy Mass and illustrated by Gabi Mendez

World Made of Glass
by Ami Polonsky

The Lost Ryū
by Emi Watanabe Cohen

9-12
Messenger: The Legend of Muhammad Ali
by Marc Bernardin

Wolfpack: A Novel
by Amelia Brunskill

Saint Juniper’s Folly
by Alex Crespo

Whalefall: A Novel
by Daniel Kraus

Graceland Cemetery: Chicago Stories, Symbols, and Secrets
by Adam Selzer

If I Have To Be Haunted
by Miranda Sun

Adult
Good Night, Irene: A Novel
by Luis Alberto Urrea

A Taste for Poison: Eleven Deadly Molecules and the Killers Who Used Them
by Neil Bradbury, Ph.D.

King: A Life
by Jonathan Eig

I Have Some Questions for You: A Novel
by Rebecca Makkai

Ghostly: A Collection of Ghost Stories
by Audrey Niffenegger

On Rotation: A Novel
by Shirlene Obuobi
Welcome Reception

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
7:00 – 8:30 PM
PAL Hotel Ballroom

Complimentary appetizers will be served!
1. 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Welcome Reception

All Conference Attendees are invited to attend the opening reception and connect with other conferees. Light appetizers will be served. What a great way to start the IRC Conference!

Audience: All
Location: PAL Ballroom

CONFERENCE STRANDS

- ADMINISTRATION
- COACHING
- EARLY CAREER
- ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS
- EQUITY & DIVERSITY
- LIBRARIANS
- RELUCTANT READERS
- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING
- SCIENCE OF READING
- STEAM
- TECHNOLOGY
- WRITING
Join educators from all over the state in the online Spring 2024 IRC Book Club! Choose one, two, or all three book clubs!

Beginning March 24, participants will be reading, reflecting on, and responding in the **Shifting the Balance** book club, the **Illinois Reads** book club, and/or the **La enseñanza en el aula bilingüe** book club during the seven-weeks of online discussions. Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive **15 PD clock hours** for each book club.

For the **Shifting the Balance** book club, participants can choose either the **K-2** or the **3-5** version. *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom* (K-2) was written by Jan Burkins and Kari Yates and *Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Upper Elementary Classroom* (3-5) was written by Katie Egan Cunningham, Jan Burkins, and Kari Yates. For the **Illinois Reads** book club, participants will be selecting books from one of the age bands of the 2024 Illinois Reads list to prepare lessons plans and activities. For Birth to 2nd Grade, participants will select a new book each week for a total of seven books; for 3rd to 5th Grade, participants will select three books; for 6th to 8th Grade, participants will select two books; and for 9th to 12th Grade or the Adult age band, participants will select one book. For the **La enseñanza en el aula bilingüe: Content, Language, and Biliteracy** book club, the book was written in Spanish (and not translated to English) by Sandra Mercuri, Sandra Musanti, and Alma Rodriguez. This book club will be held completely in Spanish and provide a ton of ideas for bilingual teachers.

Required for participation:
- Gmail address (free at https://mail.google.com/). The Book Club uses Google Classroom, which does not work with Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc.
- Texts: Books can be purchased from the bookseller of your choice.

Register by March 24, 2024, to participate in the book clubs. Registration is FREE for IRC Members. The cost for non-members is $50, which includes IRC membership for one year. PLEASE NOTE: The cost of the books is not included.

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**ONE NAME ON EACH FORM** Please print or type. Form may be reproduced.

Name (Last)______________________________________________ (First)_________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City_____________________ State______________ Zip_______________
Telephone ( ) __________________________________________ Gmail Address Required ___________________________________________
Are you an IRC member? ________Yes ________No Membership Number _____________________ IEIN _____________________

**BOOK CHOICE** (Check one, two, or all three book clubs):

_______ **SHIFTING THE BALANCE**     _______ **ILLINOIS READS**     _______ **LA ENSEÑANZA EN EL AULA BILINGUE**

**REGISTRATION** (Check one):

IRC Members: ________________________________ **FREE FOR IRC MEMBERS**

Non-Members: ________________________________ $50.00

(From IRC Membership Form, indicate local council choice __________________________)

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

($2 service charge is added if paying by CC!)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_____________

Check (payable to IRC)

Visa  Mastercard  Discover  American Express  CVV Code ___________________

Credit Card Expiration Date Mo. Yr.

Cardholder’s Name__________________ Address of Cardholder__________________
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>7:00 AM – 2:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation for New Participants</td>
<td>PAL Hotel Bond Room</td>
<td>7:00 AM – 7:45 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Breakfast</td>
<td>PAL Hotel Ballroom - A.S. King</td>
<td>7:00 AM – 8:30 AM</td>
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<td>Thursday Luncheon</td>
<td>PAL Hotel Ballroom - Nic Stone</td>
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<td>Thursday Lunch Sessions</td>
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<td>Refreshments in Exhibit Area</td>
<td>Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday PSA Banquet</td>
<td>PAL Hotel Ballroom - Lesa Cline-Ransome</td>
<td>6:15 PM – 8:15 PM</td>
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<td>Hear the Authors Read &amp; Autographing</td>
<td>Wyndham Hotel Ballroom</td>
<td>8:30 PM – 10:30 PM</td>
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*Sarah Aronson, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, Lesa Cline-Ransome, A.S. King, Pam Muñoz Ryan, John Schu, Nic Stone, and Clare Vanderpool*

- Sponsored by Anderson’s Bookshops
2024 IRC CONFERENCE

Conference Sessions
Thursday, March 14, 2024

7:00 – 7:45 AM

2. 7:00 - 7:45
Orientation
Sherry Sejnost
Sheila Ruh
You just downloaded the Conference APP and/or the digital IRC Program Book. There are over 200 sessions, meal functions, special events, exhibits, and author autographing. How do you begin to plan to attend all that is offered? Attend this special session by seasoned IRC conference attendees. They will share their tactics, tricks, and survival skills for an IRC conference.
Audience: All
Location: PAL Bond

7:00 – 8:30 AM

Thursday Breakfast
3. 7:00 – 8:30
Teen Literacy Is the Solution to Everything

A.S. King
Author
Reading Pennsylvania

In these times of widespread violence, hate, and fear, we look to teenagers as harbingers of a brighter future. Teen literacy has always been important, but as fifteen generations of unresolved shame and dishonesty splits our nation into factions and leaves more than half of the adult population more pliable due to limited literacy skills, teen literacy is the only way out. The truth is the solution—but how do teens find it when so many adults pedal their own version?
Audience: Ticket Required
Location: PAL Ballroom

8:30 – 9:30 AM

4. 8:30 – 9:30
Books I’ve Loved and I Swear Loved Me Back – The Transformative Power of Story

Clare Vanderpool
Author
Wichita, Kansas

We’ve all heard that to be a writer, you must first be a reader. And we know from experience that stories have power—to touch, to heal, to transform. Join us for a journey into our reading past, to the books that provided joy, comfort, even friendship in our younger years, and discover how stories become stepping stones in the writing life.
Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11A

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Refreshments will be served from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and 3:00 – 4:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall
5. 8:30 – 9:30
Bringing Strategies to Life: Reading with Accuracy and Fluency

Jennifer Serravallo
Educator/Author
South Orange, New Jersey

Drawing from Jen’s bestselling resources on the teaching of reading, this workshop will help you to become adept at assessing and teaching to support students’ accuracy and fluency through conferences and small group instruction. You will explore strategies for supporting reading with accuracy and fluency using skills progression for thinking about how the work becomes more sophisticated over time. Video and text examples will be used to show, not just tell. With an emphasis on practicality, you’ll be able to turn what you learned around into action immediately.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: BOS Center B-11BC

6. 8:30 – 9:30
Welcome to the Writers’ Sandbox! Ten Fun Tools for Bringing the Power of PLAY to Your Classroom!

Sarah Aronson
Author
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Rogers said, “Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” And he was right! So let’s take his advice and bring play to your classroom—no matter how old your students are. In this presentation, Sarah Aronson will offer ten tips for bringing a playful mindset to the creative classroom! Together, we will examine how play can facilitate creative risk taking, social emotional learning, and decrease anxiety for students of all ages. (It has definitely worked for Sarah’s writing life.) Bring paper and pencil and your child’s eye!

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11D

7. 8:30 – 9:30
7 Essential Neurologically Based Practices to Make Your Beginning Readers Soar!

J. Richard Gentry
Educator/Author
Mobile, Alabama

This engaging, practical hands-on session for teachers and administrators clarifies best classroom practices backed by neuroscience and developmental psychology for developing reading ciruitry and comprehension in all beginning readers. Participants leave with the following: 1) A clear understanding of the essential role of structured literacy instruction for beginners along with pitfalls of popular practices to avoid. 2) Essential elements of a well-designed science-based word study curriculum. 3) Examples of multi-sensory activities for word study that really work. And much more.

Audience: PreK-3
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

8. 8:30 – 9:30
Shifting the Balance: Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the K-2 Classroom

Jan Miller Burkins
Educator/Author
Athens, Georgia

In this workshop, you’ll be invited to take an honest second look at current literacy practices, bravely considering the question, “What needs to shift?” If you are a teacher, coach, or school leader who wants to make sure daily practices are actually making it easier, not harder, for children to learn, this workshop is for you. This is a humorous, engaging, and science-filled hour of learning based on Jan’s best-selling book, Shifting the Balance: Six Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom, coauthored with Kari Yates. You will leave this session with a high-level overview of the FIRST 6 shifts described in their book.

Audience: K-2
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3
9. 8:30 – 9:30  
**Quick Writes**  
Vicki Kay  
SD #95, Lake Zurich  
Carrie Werner  
Seth Paine School, Lake Zurich  
Learn how Quick Writes can be implemented in fourth and fifth grades.  
**Audience:** PreK-6  
**Strand:** Writing  
**Location:** BOS Center B-1

10. 8:30 – 9:30  
**Let’s a Go!**  
Keta Foltz  
Eastland SD #308, Shannon  
Amber Findlay  
Watseka School District, Watseka  
Christa Curley  
West Carroll SD #314, Savanna  
Dadada, Let’s-a-go! Follow us down the green pipe for a Mario-riffic time. Learn how to level up your school with fun new ways to get your students writing, banking new words, and scoring with author visits! Who knows, we might even have our own version of Tanooki, or maybe it’s just Rocky!  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Writing  
**Location:** BOS Center B-2

11. 8:30 – 9:30  
**Connecting Visual Literacy and Artistic Expression: Using Picture Books to Inspire Creativity**  
Becky Griffith  
Northern Illinois University, Dekalb  
Picture books can be powerful tools to introduce and reinforce art, science, and social emotional concepts. In this workshop, we will showcase how integrating picture books into your curriculum with hands-on exploration projects can enhance student observation and artistic investigation skills. Participants will leave with 4 complete lesson activities pairing a picture book with an art technique.  
**Audience:** PreK-3  
**Strand:** Librarians  
**Location:** BOS Center B-3

12. 8:30 – 9:30  
**Rope More Students into Reading at the Secondary Level**  
Laura Johnson  
Glenbard SD 87, Lombard  
Participants will be introduced to Scarborough’s Reading Rope and learn ways to increase comprehension at the secondary level through word attack skills and knowledge of SAT/grade-level vocabulary. Additionally, teachers may access a literary newsletter containing the session’s strategies and resources.  
**Audience:** 6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults  
**Strand:** Science of Reading  
**Location:** BOS Center B-4

13. 8:30 – 9:30  
**Rediscover the Joy of Reading Through the Magic of Reading Communities**  
Kim Hollis  
CUSD 304, Geneva  
Kathryn Dagres  
Geneva Middle School South, Geneva  
Brenda Engelhardt  
Geneva Middle School North, Geneva  
Ashley Falkos  
Geneva Middle School North, Geneva  
How do you build students’ reading identities when they don’t identify as readers? This interactive presentation addresses the building blocks for a reading community: Choice, Access, and Time. Walk away with ideas/resources to build your classroom reading community.  
**Audience:** 4-12, ELL, Lib  
**Strand:** SRL  
**Location:** BOS Center B-6

14. 8:30 – 9:30  
**Blended/Flipped/Personalized! Using Technology to Differentiate Literacy Lessons While Improving Teacher/Student Relationships!**  
Tim Wheeler  
Riddle Elementary School, Mattoon  
In a Tiktok and Youtube shorts world, how can we use simple, short videos to flip the literacy classroom? What if this could give teachers the opportunity to give more personalized feedback and build relationships? Come see examples and hear concrete ideas for taking ideas from start to finish!  
**Audience:** PreK-9, ELL  
**Strand:** Writing  
**Location:** BOS Center B-7
15. 8:30 – 9:30
Reaching Social Emotional Learners through Picture Books
Rebecca Meisinger
   Lincoln Elementary, Oak Park
Katie Noonan
   Irving Elementary, Oak Park
Looking to supplement your SEL curriculum? Or create one? Make an impact on your K-5 students by using picture books to teach your social emotional lessons. Picture books are the perfect avenue to teach SEL standards so that students are able to manage their emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, handle challenging situations, and understand the neurodiversity in themselves and others. We will share some of our favorite books and have lists related to SEL topics for each grade level. Participants will be able to browse the books after the presentation.

Audience: PreK-6, Lib
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: BOS Center B-8

16. 8:30 – 9:30
Best Practice for Reading Instruction in K-5 Including the Bilingual Perspective
Gabriela Escobedo Garcia
   Mannheim District 83, Northlake
Jacqueline Curiel
   Roy Elementary School, Northlake
We are bilingual elementary teachers currently enrolled in a Reading Specialist program and are passionate about best practices in literacy instruction and assessment. We will be taking a look at the Five Pillars of Literacy and the importance of systematic phonics in cooperation with whole language to foster skilled reading in young children. We will explore using action research to examine and target areas of need. In addition, we will highlight the benefits of strategy-based small-group reading instruction.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Adults, Admin
Strand: English Language Learners
Location: BOS Center B-9

17. 8:30 – 9:30
Reading the BIG Words: Developing a Routine for Attacking Multisyllabic Words
Shawn Huisinga
   Illinois Specific Learning Disability Support Project, Charleston
Christie Johnson
   Illinois Specific Learning Disability Support Project, Charleston
As students advance through school, they must be able to decode unfamiliar, multisyllabic words encountered in text. Strong research evidence exists for providing older students (Grades 4-9) with interventions focused on decoding multisyllabic words with a recommendation of a decoding routine (Vaughn et al., 2022). This session will provide general and special educators with syllabication, morphological, and flexible strategies that can be used to teach students a routine for decoding the BIG words.

Audience: 4-9, Spec
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-10

18. 8:30 – 9:30
Maximizing the Impact of Instructional Coaches: Strategies, Models, and Tools
Stefane Beddard
   ImpactEdu, Wilmington, NC
This workshop offers an in-depth exploration of diverse coaching models, partnership strategies, coaching tools, and assessment methods. Participants will closely examine various coaching models and their real-world applications in educational settings, gaining insights into how these models adapt to different learning environments, empowering coaches to use them more effectively. Attendees will learn to develop strategies fostering strong coaching partnerships. They’ll uncover the key elements of building rapport, trust, and collaboration between coaches and educators, setting the stage for impactful coaching experiences. The session will also showcase coaching tools, demonstrating how these tools enhance coaching effectiveness and accessibility. Participants will also learn how to implement a coaching assessment and feedback framework, promoting a culture of continuous improvement vital for ongoing growth in educational contexts.

Audience: All
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center VIP Room
19. 8:30 – 9:30
Read, Write, Action! Exploring the Multimedia Memoir with Young Adolescents
Kristen Walsh
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb
Donna Werderich
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb
In this session, we describe how teachers can support adolescents’ digital writing by examining a framework for how students can read, write, and produce multimedia memoirs. Examining traditional and digital mentor texts can afford opportunities for students to examine the role of modes such as narration, sound, images, and structure to guide their own compositional choices for digital memoir writing. The multimedia memoir also creates opportunities for diverse expression, and establishes a safe, respectful, and trusting environment in which students share personal stories.
Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec, Admin
Strand: Writing
Location: PAL Ottawa AB

20. 8:30 – 9:30
Conjure The Magic Of All Students Seeing Themselves Represented in Enchanting Literature
Niki Woodruff
Alice Gustafson School, Batavia
Katie Hoving
Hampshire High School, Hampshire
Enchanting stories, representative of all students, await a place in your classroom. Individuals from kingdoms of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and ability deserve seats at the throne of literature. Experience inclusive literature book talks and strategies for tough discussions.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: PAL Altgeld

21. 8:30 – 9:30
Prediction Activities for Pre-Reading in Secondary ELA Classes
Heather Crivilare
Virginia Jr. Sr. High School, Virginia
When students make predictions about the plot and characters of a text prior to reading, it increases their comprehension and engagement with the text. While this is a common practice in elementary reading, it is no less valuable in secondary ELA classes. This session will model engaging, low-prep prediction activities for challenging high school texts, including Shakespeare’s plays. Presenters will come away with templates and ideas for adding prediction activities to their own pre-reading lessons.
Audience: 9-12
Location: PAL Bond

22. 8:30 – 9:30
Vocabulary Deep Dive: The Importance of Using Vocabulary to Build Language Comprehension Across Disciplines in Early Childhood-Primary Grade Classrooms
Kari Pawl
Concordia University Chicago, River Forest
Annette VanAken
Concordia University Chicago, River Forest
Join us for an exciting vocabulary deep dive! Explore research on vocabulary development and learn engaging and effective research-based practices to support all students. During this interactive session, participants will strengthen their understanding of why vocabulary matters, the role of background knowledge, and how to embed instructional practices to develop language comprehension across the disciplines. A variety of instructional activities and resources will be shared.
Audience: PreK-3, Univ
Location: PAL Freeport AB

23. 8:30 – 9:30
The Needs of Seasoned Educators in Today’s Literacy Classrooms
Carrie Brockway
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park
Trying to see where your current practices meet science? Elevate your expertise with evidence-based insights into phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. We will discuss the cognitive science underpinning reading instruction and how this comes to life in our classrooms. With an introduction to the nuanced strategies of structured literacy, we will restock your teaching toolkit with science-backed methods and takeaways that complement your lived-experiences as an educator.
Audience: All
Location: PAL Freeport C
Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois

Heinemann Books are in Booth 328
24. 8:30 – 9:30
The Heart of a Literacy Community
Anastasia Gruper
SD #47, Crystal Lake
Join us as share examples of how to provide opportunities for students, staff, families, and community members to grow a school-wide literacy community. Anastasia Gruper, principal of a PreK through 5th grade school, will share specific examples of how her school provides opportunities to engage in literacy activities and access to literature as they grow their school-wide reading community.
**Audience:** PreK-6, Admin, Lib
**Strand:** Administration
**Location:** PAL Yates

25. 8:30 – 9:30
5 Finger Syllables and SPORGLE: A New Way of Chunking Syllables and Flexing the Vowels
Dick Briggs
Educational Consultant, Bloomington
Research has recently questioned the need to explicitly teach the most common six syllabication rules for decoding polysyllabic words (Moats). This presentation will review that research, review new trends (Kearns and Seidenberg) and present a model that addresses the chunking trend as well as demonstrate a statistical model for vowel flexing. As part of the discussion, the infamous schwa may take the center stage. Many presentations leave the audience with concepts and/or theories. This presentation will discuss multiple sources to put the chunking and vowel flexing strategies into teaching activities.
**Audience:** All
**Strand:** Science of Reading
**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1
**Sponsored by 3ClicksSpelling.com**

26. 9:45 – 10:45 AM
Writing in the Crossroads
Clare Vanderpool
Author
Wichita, Kansas
Craft and Creativity. Fits and Starts. Beginnings, Middles, and Ends. The writing life is full of crossroads, detours, and switchbacks. This talk is a reflection on the writing life from one midwesterner’s perspective.
**Audience:** All
**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

27. 9:45 – 10:45
Teaching Writing in Small Groups
Jennifer Serravallo
Educator/Author
South Orange, New Jersey
Drawing from Jennifer Serravallo’s *Teaching Writing in Small Groups* as well as *The Writing Strategies Book*, this workshop will show how just a few minutes of purposeful, responsive teaching can have a big impact with your students. The emphasis will be in essential practices for optimizing small groups that will help you value each child’s language and literacy practices, develop relationships with your writers, teach with efficiency, improve independence, and more. The engaging videos and Jen’s ability to break down complex concepts into actionable, doable steps will equip participants to be able to try out the ideas right away.
**Audience:** PreK-9
**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC

QR EXHIBIT HALL GAME
Complete your GAME SHEET for a chance to win a FREE REGISTRATION to the 2025 IRC Conference!
28. 9:45 – 10:45
How to Get Unstuck: From a Writer Who Has Been There!

Sarah Aronson
Author
Chicago, Illinois

Everyone gets stuck! No matter how hard we try, no matter how thoughtful we are, all of us at some point in our writing journey, have found ourselves staring at the page with no clue what to do next. Being stuck can make us question ourselves. And our abilities. It can ruin our self esteem. For new writers, being stuck can make them question if they have anything to say. (And we know they do!). So how can we help? In this interactive workshop, Sarah Aronson will give you strategies to help you and your students get unstuck and producing pages. (She has needed them all—so she knows they work!) Get ready to explore the craft of writing with tools like drawing, list making, movement and stillness, improv, play, and Sarah’s sparkly side writing prompts! Together let’s make this the year we advocate for our imaginations and enjoy writing. Trust me, this will be fun!

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11D

29. 9:45 – 10:45
Best Research-based Practices for Teaching Spelling in Grades 3-8

J. Richard Gentry
Educator/Author
Mobile, Alabama

English spelling is complex yet spelling knowledge is essential for reading comprehension and meaningful writing in grades 3-8. Learning English spelling is often the missing link for students who are struggling. Find out what a research-based spelling curriculum looks like. This session clarifies what resources teachers need along with best practices for teaching spelling. Survey specific word study lessons for syllable types, prefixes and affixes, word roots, and base words and the role of phonics and morphology. Leave with key word study practices you can take back to your classroom the very next day.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

30. 9:45 – 10:45
Shifting the Balance: Ways to Bring into the Science of Reading into the K-2 Classroom

Jan Miller Burkins
Educator/Author
Athens, Georgia

In this workshop, you’ll be invited to take an honest second look at current literacy practices, bravely considering the question, “What needs to shift?” If you are a teacher, coach, or school leader who wants to make sure daily practices are actually making it easier, not harder, for children to learn, this workshop is for you. This is a humorous, engaging, and science-filled hour of learning based on Jan’s best-selling book, Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom, coauthored with Kari Yates. You will leave this session with a high-level overview of the FIRST 6 shifts described in their book.

Audience: K-2
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

31. 9:45 – 10:45
How to Match Your Student to the Right Book

Dawn Taylor
Carbondale Community High School

After years of being a middle school reading teacher and a high school librarian, I have perfected the art of matching students to the right book. You will leave this session with a variety of ideas of how to put that “just right” book in the hands of even your most reluctant reader.

Audience: 6-12, Adults, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-1

Visit Anderson's Bookshops in Booth 409
32. 9:45 – 10:45
Using the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) to Foster Student Thinking and Collaboration
Laura Beltchenko
ELA Consultant, Libertyville
The Question Formulation Technique (QFT) provides a structured approach to assist students in asking questions not just answering them. QFT works in concert with inquiry based learning and promotes learning engagement and meaningful discussions. QFT initiates the development of thought-provoking questions that help educators understand how much their students know about a topic of study. It supports critical and creative thinking and fosters students’ natural curiosity, motivation, and engagement in learning. It is an excellent strategy for social studies and science studies for K-12 grade students. This is an interactive session so get ready to collaborate!

Audience: All
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center B-2

33. 9:45 – 10:45
Unmasking Your Students: Using Strategies to Support Student Joy
Jennifer Lancaster
SD #129, Aurora
Based on work by Cris Tovani, this updated session will inform participants about 4 types of masks students wear to hide lack of confidence, motivation, and skill set to be engaged. Participants will learn strategies that can be used in all content areas, quick shifts to adjust instruction and planning strategies that help teachers connect content.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Adults, Admin
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-4

34. 9:45 – 10:45
Picture Books and Strategies for Developing Visualization Skills in Young Learners
Amy Davis
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
Visualization is the cognitive process in which images are retrieved from memory without retinal input and based on readers’ perception and experiences. Skilled readers create images while reading while others may struggle. The purpose of this paper is to introduce practitioners to five picture books that lend themselves to teaching visualization. I paired each book with a specific instructional strategy to introduce the skill, grades Kindergarten to third grade, or to use with struggling readers. This presentation will feature five picture books and accompanying strategies to reinforce this skill.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6

35. 9:45 – 10:45
What is Reading? A Renewed Focus for Professional Development to Support Students with Intersectionality of Dyslexia, Language, and Culture
Donna Herman
University of St. Francis, Joliet
Deb Augsburger
Lewis University, Romeoville
Typical fluency instruction, assessment, and interventions reinforce the importance of speed and accuracy, but students continue to struggle to comprehend. This dilemma is enhanced for students with dyslexia, ELL learners, and culture. Join us as we consider and share a professional development framework that challenges and supports educators to go beyond typical practices.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-7

36. 9:45 – 10:45
Choosing and Using Texts for Beginning Readers
Amy Butler
Berwyn South SD #100, Berwyn
Melanie Walski
Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, Indiana
This session aims to accomplish three things regarding texts for beginning readers: describe the qualitative dimensions of and purposes for controlled texts, explain criteria for choosing texts, and demonstrate effective methods for instruction with these types texts. Participants will learn the affordances and limitations of controlled texts and how to use each type to support beginning readers in various instructional contexts. This presentation will provide an evidence-based step-by-step approach for determining which texts to use, how to align texts to standards, and how to use them as instructional tools grounded in student assessment data.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-8

37. 9:45 – 10:45
Using Humorous Books: Making Serious Connections Through the Funny Bone
Alice McGinty
Author, SCBWI-Illinois
Julie Hoffman
Springfield Public Schools, Springfield
Humor. It’s the left-out genre. The always-the-bridesmaid and never the award-winner genre. Yet, higher level thinking is used in understanding humor and it can create a pathway to the language of dealing with tougher topics and a bridge to new topics and interdisciplinary learning. In this session, we share many favorites as well as techniques that are used in humorous writing, and we share how humor can engage students K-12 in across disciplines.

Audience: PreK-12, Lib
Location: BOS Center B-9
Sponsored by SCBWI Illinois
38. 9:45 – 10:45  
**Writing Woes: Searching for Focus in Student Writing**  
Steven Layne  
Wheaton College, Wheaton  
Have you reviewed a piece of student writing and thought, “I have no idea what this is even about?” Award-winning author and educator Steven Layne will share his specific lesson sequence for teaching the skill of writing “focus” to students.  
**Audience:** 4–12, Univ, Admin  
**Strand:** Writing  
**Location:** BOS Center B-10

39. 9:45 – 10:45  
**Generation Z: Who Are They and How Can We Reach Them?**  
Julie Bullard  
Regional Office of Education #30, Murphysboro  
Have you ever thought kids are just different these days? Well, you are right. In this session, you will learn the characteristics of Generation Z and how you utilize their strengths to teach and lead them.  
**Audience:** 4–12, Adults, Univ, Admin  
**Strand:** Administration  
**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room

40. 9:45 – 10:45  
**The Joy and Magic of the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award**  
Ruth Gheysen  
CCSD #46, Grayslake  
Come hear about the new books on the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award 2025 Master List! We’ll book talk the 20 new titles on our list, discuss ways you can incorporate the Caudills within your school, and share how you, too, can become a reader/evaluator of the nominated books.  
**Audience:** 4–9, Univ, Admin, Lib  
**Strand:** Librarians  
**Location:** PAL Ottawa AB

41. 9:45 – 10:45  
**Read-Aloud Revival: Awaken Reading Joy By Making It Come Alive**  
Katie Hoving  
Hampshire High School, Hampshire  
Niki Woodruff  
Alice Gustafson School, Batavia  
As kids age, read-alouds tend to dwindle. However, stories have the power to revive literacy communities immersed in the emotional landscape of life. Discover benefits, tips, and titles to implement passionate read-alouds with students of all ages.  
**Audience:** All  
**Location:** PAL Altgeld

42. 9:45 – 10:45  
**Science of Reading Only: What About Other Literacy/Reading Stances?**  
Shadrack Msengi  
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville  
This presentation examines science of reading strand in relation to other literacy stances. The findings demonstrate ways in which K–6 literacy instructional practices reciprocate and infuse other reading stances based on students literacy strengths and needs.  
**Audience:** PreK-9, Spec, Univ  
**Strand:** Science of Reading  
**Location:** PAL Bond

43. 9:45 – 10:45  
**Transforming Teachers Into Formative Practitioners Using Formative Assessment Best Practices**  
Annette VanAken  
Concordia University Chicago, River Forest  
Gena Lewis  
Concordia University Chicago, River Forest  
The program will involve teachers in a conversation about the ways to implement formative feedback in their classrooms based on the best practices examined through the analysis and results of a study by the presenters. This will help teachers to examine how the use of formative teaching can impact their students learning as well as allow them to use a rubric to continue to examine their own use of formative assessment practices P–12 as well as in Higher Education. This will assist in transforming teachers into formative practitioners.  
**Audience:** All  
**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

44. 9:45 – 10:45  
**A Picture is Worth 1000 Words: Creating and Finding Visuals to Support Multilingual Learners**  
Maggie Essig  
Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights  
Visuals are a key linguistic support for multilingual learners, but educators don’t have unlimited time to search the internet for the perfect visual! This session focuses entirely on where and how educators can create or find quality visuals to use in a range of contexts and content areas. Participants will leave with a resource list of tools, all free to educators, that you can implement tomorrow.  
**Audience:** All, ELL  
**Strand:** English Language Learners  
**Location:** PAL Freeport C

DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE
45. 9:45 – 10:45
Read Aloud in the Time of Trauma
Amy Cooley
Reinberg, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago
Jennifer Henderson
Springman Middle School, Glenview
We utilize read alouds in our middle school classrooms to build community, address Social-Emotional Learning standards, and enhance the curriculum. Ways to incorporate read aloud in ELA classes will be discussed and titles will be shared.
**Audience:** 4-9, ELL, Spec, Admin
**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
**Location:** PAL Yates

46. 9:45 – 10:45
Let’s Talk Narrative
Paige Timmerman
Salem Community High School, Salem
Kourtney Hake
Sparta Lincoln School, Sparta
Personal narrative is often overlooked because teachers must focus on test-prep. However, authentic writing is often blended with other genres. We will focus on incorporating personal stories to answer questions and feature lessons and activities from our upcoming book.
**Audience:** 6-12
**Strand:** Writing
**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1

47. 11:00 – 12:00
New and Notable Books for Grades K-3
Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson’s Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois
This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.
**Audience:** PreK-3
**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

48. 11:00 – 12:00
We Are Mental
A.S. King
Author
Reading, Pennsylvania
In this multi-media master class for educators, Amy talks about teaching students who have experienced trauma, self-care writing for educators, and how emotions and effective writing have always been tied to each other. This is a hands-on talk, and attendees will experience the “A.S. King Character Creation Wizard.” This is perfect for professional development and other educator events.
**Audience:** All
**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC

VISIT THE EXHIBITS
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
**Refreshments** will be served from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and 3:00 – 4:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall

Visit Booth 432 to see if your key unlocks the Treasure Chest for a prize!
49. 11:00 – 12:00
How to Embed the Seven Essential Literacy Skills into Your Content Area

Peg Grafwallner
Educator/Author
Germantown, Wisconsin

All learning is based on the mastery of essential literary skills, and in this interactive presentation, educators will discover tools they need to embed literacy into all subjects. We know comprehension is based on skill-building strategies that encourage purpose and engagement; as a result, educators can effectively teach those literacy skills to support developing students as they learn to read, write, and think critically. In this presentation, educators will discover how to: expand their teaching methods to include literacy skills, introduce literacy into daily lesson planning, embed reading comprehension into any subject area, and scaffold instruction using literacy strategies to boost subject-area comprehension. (Based on Peg’s book: Clearing the Path for Developing Learners: Essential Literacy Skills to Support Achievement in Every Content Area.)

Audience: 4-12
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

50. 11:00 – 12:00
What’s the Deal with the Science of Reading?

Andrew P. Johnson
Educator/Author
Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota

Science of Reading advocates seem to be putting out a great deal of misinformation about reading instruction. Literacy experts are being ignored in favor of radio journalists. For-profit entities are promoting ideas that serve only to enhance their profit at the expense of our students. This presentation will explain exactly what the science of reading is and isn’t. It will provide a simple understanding of balanced literacy, the three cueing systems, evidence-based practices, eye movement during reading, word identification, word recognition, phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, direct instruction, and educational research.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

51. 11:00 – 12:00
How to Turn your School Library into the Most Valued Place in your School

Dawn Taylor
Carbondale Community High School,
Carbondale

Five years ago I was tasked with turning my library into the hub of the school. By the end of the first year, we were well on track to achieving that goal and are now one of the most valued space in the school with students, teachers, and administration! In this session, I will tell you how I did it!

Audience: 6-12, Admin, Lib
Strand: Librarians
Location: BOS Center B-1

52. 11:00 – 12:00
The Development of Literacy for Young Literacy Learners

Laura Beltchenko
ELA, Assessment and Gifted Education Consultant, Libertyville

This session will focus on the early literacy learners of Pre-Kindergarten - 2nd grade with an emphasis on the Illinois ELA Standards. It will delve into the nuances of the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan’s “7 Components of Literacy” and how they are an integral part of an early learning literacy program. Through the use of picture books and integration of the ELA Standards, together, we will take a joyful early learning literacy journey using a plethora of picture books and materials to support meaning driven instructional practices.

Audience: PreK-6, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib
Strand: Administration
Location: BOS Center B-2

53. 11:00 – 12:00
The Decoding Triangle: The Key to Mastering Foundational Skills

Tracy Beling
CUSD #428, DeKalb

Jill Springer
CUSD #428, DeKalb

In this session, educators will learn about the importance of the three parts of the decoding triangle: alphabet knowledge, phonemic awareness, and phonics and the need to teach these skills to mastery. Attendees will learn how to use small group instruction, formative assessments, and reteaching to guide their students to mastery of foundational skills, and will see how it fits into the holistic view of literacy.

Audience: PreK-6, Univ, Admin
Location: BOS Center B-3
54. 11:00 – 12:00
Reclaiming Our History: Books, Bans, and Continued Attacks on Public Education
Jennifer Martin
University of Illinois, Springfield
Jen Brooks
Illinois State University, Normal
We continue to reflect on the current state of education by sharing recent attacks on the teaching of race and the banning of books in various US states. We share the implications of such restrictions and strategies for teachers to combat them. According to Freire, if teachers are to serve as “role models” for democracy, they must: struggle collectively, unify with other teachers, and advocate for curriculum grounded in praxis. Teachers must, especially now, band together to insist upon the value of their own knowledge to create curricula, in conjunction with their students, for the purpose of empowerment and freedom.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-4

55. 11:00 – 12:00
Tasty Books for Young Readers: Great Graphic Novels About Food and Agriculture
Stephanie Hospelhorn
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, Bloomington
Chris Wyant
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, Bloomington
Engage reluctant readers with engaging graphic novels about the agriculture all around us. By pairing graphic novels with cross-curricular texts, students will be challenged to improve a variety of literacy skills, and their love for reading will blossom!
Audience: 4-9
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6
Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

56. 11:00 – 12:00
Reach for the Books: Reenergize Daily Reading Routines
Maria Walther
Maria P. Walther LLC, Aurora
Looking for practical, evidence-based practices to refresh your students’ reading routines? In this session, you will learn easy-to-implement ideas to elevate read-aloud experiences and motivate independent readers. Leave with a list of must-have children’s books that your students will love!
Audience: PreK-3
Location: BOS Center B-10

57. 11:00 – 12:00
Equitable Foundations: Addressing Dyslexia in Tier 1 Instruction for Educators
Kellyn Sirach
Illinois SLD Support Project, Champaign
Anne Brewster
The Reading League-Illinois and Children’s Dyslexia Center, Springfield
This professional development session aims to provide educators with a comprehensive understanding of dyslexia and equip them with practical strategies to enhance Tier 1 instruction for students with dyslexia. Participants will gain insights into the characteristics of dyslexia, early identification, differentiated instruction techniques, and creating inclusive classroom environments to ensure all students learn to read.
Audience: All
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-7
Sponsored by Illinois SLD Support Project

58. 11:00 – 12:00
Moving From Decoding to Comprehension: Evidence Based Practices In Fluency
Karla Boehnke
Pleasantdale SD #107, LaGrange
Jolene Lorimer
Literacy Consultant, Frankfort
When fluency is assessed it becomes - how many words the student reads per minute. Rate alone does not create fluency. When you combine accuracy, expression, and prosody in addition to rate, comprehension increases. Come and learn some practical activities to incorporate these skills with the resources you are using in your daily reading instruction.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-8

59. 11:00 – 12:00
New YA Titles to Booktalk: AISLE’s Lincoln Book Award
Jennifer Jazwinski
Algonquin Area Public Library District
Amy Phillips
Riverside Brookfield High School, Riverside
Lincoln Award committee members will book talk the 2025 master list of nominees. We will give you keys to participating in and promoting the program in your school, ideas for collaboration with public librarian partners, plus unlock ways for you and your students to help in the selection process.
Audience: 9-12, Lib
Strand: Librarians
Location: PAL Ottawa AB
60. **11:00 – 12:00**  
**Building Allyship Through Literature: Counteracting Popular Culture and Social Media’s Impact on Bias and Hatred**  
Liza Wiemer  
Author, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Liza Wiemer, author of the Lincoln Award nominee novel, *The Assignment*, will share her extensive research on the impact of popular culture and social media on students’ beliefs and behavior and how educators can utilize literature to promote allyship within and outside the classroom. We’ll delve into why most people are bystanders and how to foster upstander action against bullying, bigotry, hatred, and injustice. Liza will share effective literature perfect for middle grade and high school students and how to utilize them in the classroom. Participants will receive helpful resources through a Google doc. After the session, you can also visit with Liza in the AISLE - Association of Illinois School Library Educators Exhibit Booth #322 on Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.  
**Audience:** 6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin, Lib  
**Strand:** Equity & Diversity  
**Location:** BOS Center B-9  
**Sponsored by AISLE**

61. **11:00 – 12:00**  
**The Book Talk: Make it a Daily Routine**  
Julie DeMicco  
City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago  
How do you shore up motivation and engagement in your students who may come to you reading less than ever, who can’t name a favorite author or genre, and who perhaps have either lost or never had the habit of reading? Book Talks! A daily book talk will expose your students to many good books across the school year, and can absolutely generate interest in reading. I will discuss all the different ways I talk about books in my classroom to promote student engagement with reading.  
**Audience:** 4-12, Univ  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** PAL Altgeld

62. **11:00 – 12:00**  
**Reading in Scientific Thinking: Engaging Concept Development**  
Abha Singh  
Western Illinois University, Macomb  
The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize educators with how science nonfiction reading was incorporated in a new online science course for undergraduate teacher candidates. The scientific reading implemented the development of different levels in comprehension to gauge the learner to deeper thinking and application ideas in the scientific concepts with big ideas introduced. The goal was to use the scientific reading with the learner in furthering scientific thought to be more progressive and engaging.  
**Audience:** PreK-9, ELL, Adults  
**Strand:** STEAM  
**Location:** PAL Bond

63. **11:00 – 12:00**  
**Teacher Teams Improving Student Learning through Learning Cycles**  
Lisa Skelly  
Regional Office of Education #17, Bloomington  
Stacie France  
Regional Office of Education #17, Bloomington  
In this session, school/grade level teams, teachers, teacher leaders, and administrators will learn about a research-based learning cycle that explicitly addresses the root cause of student learning problems. Learning cycles is a systemic approach to teacher teams collaborating to improve student learning by using data to identify a specific responsive strategy to improve student learning. This includes analysis of trend and learning gap data. Learning cycles promote distributed leadership throughout the teacher team and addresses comprehensive data analysis and review, identifying needed resources, professional learning, and setting SMART goals to measure the effect of the selected responsive strategy.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Administration  
**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room

64. **11:00 – 12:00**  
**New Uses for Music in the Language Arts and Literacy Classroom**  
Kristin Lems  
National Louis University, Chicago  
The power of music and song to “cascade” through many parts of the brain is well known, from its role in building phonological awareness to its strongly motivating properties. Young people use and enjoy music in new ways now – as a soundtrack to their lives, through musical influencers, and through movies and gaming. But it is still a powerful resource for teacher-organized curricular activity. The workshop will share research-based activities to try. Focus is on Grades 1-12 and includes special focus on English language learners.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** English Language Learners  
**Location:** PAL Freeport AB
65. 11:00 – 12:00
Let’s Talk About Dyslexia
Heather Johannes
Springfield Ball Charter School
As Educators we need to be aware of the current legislation that affects 20% of our school population. We will look at the new laws in Illinois regarding dyslexia. In this session, dyslexia will be defined and discussed to help educators have a better understanding of this disability. The characteristics, strengths, and myths will be discussed. Participants will look at possible accommodations and supports that could be provided in the classroom setting. The view of dyslexia is changing in our society and we need to be prepared to effectively support all the students in our classroom.
Audience: All
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: PAL Freeport C

66. 11:00 – 12:00
Changing Literacy Trends One Child at a Time
Becky McTague
DePaul University, Cary
Miyoshi Brown
Salem Baptist Church of Chicago
Many school-age children need to succeed with literacy in school at a greater rate of success. Twenty-five million students need to be reading at proficient levels in the US. This presentation will share two types of summer and after school programs to support students’ literacy learning, especially for black boys. The presenters will describe how two different community organizations support children’s literacy learning. Then, the presenters will show how to create a summer or after-school program to improve student literacy in your community. Some of these elements include access to books, training tutors, selection of books, and other resources.
Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Yates

67. 11:00 – 12:00
Engaging 21st Century Learners with Graphic Novels
Amy Bender
Prairie Knolls Middle School, Elgin
Teaching with graphic novels helps with engagement, meaning making, and higher level thinking. In this session, participants will learn about graphic novels to better understand the complexity of them, how to integrate them with the Common Core Standards, and how to build an understanding of how students make meaning using graphic novels. This session will give you an up-to-date list of graphic novels that can be used in the classroom.
Audience: All
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: Wyndham Plaza 1
Thursday Luncheon

68. 12:15 – 2:00
On Being Human: Why Stories Matter

Nic Stone
Author
Atlanta, Georgia

In a world where headlines are dominated by news of war, overt inhumanity, and political strife, it can be difficult to stay hopeful about a better future, let alone muster the energy to try and create one. But what if the key to a brighter tomorrow was already within reach? Better yet: what if it lives inside each and every one of us? Using a combination of philosophical and anthropological concepts, Nic Stone will explain how understanding the past, perceiving the present, and framing the future all have the same foundation: storytelling. Which means hope burns bright: if shared narratives have shaped our current world, we can use story to remake it.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: PAL Ballroom

Obama Literacy Fund Award
will be presented at the Thursday Luncheon to

Michael Kennedy
Award will be presented by Jen Brooks, Chair

Thursday Luncheon

69. 12:15 – 2:00
Reading Strategies: Essential Teaching for Every Classroom

Jennifer Serravallo
Educator/Author
South Orange, New Jersey

Drawing from the newly-released The Reading Strategies Book 2.0, a revised and reimagined update to the NYT bestselling resource, this keynote will help you use strategies effectively in your instruction – no matter what approach to literacy you use, the grade level, the developmental levels, or the ages of the students you teach. You’ll learn about the broad research base for strategy instruction in reading, ways to choose the right strategies for each reader based on reading goals and skill progressions. This keynote is designed to be highly practical with immediately applicable information.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: Wyndham Ballroom

HUNGRY?
The BOS Center Concession Stand is Open!

Purchase lunch and take it to one of the lunch time sessions planned from 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the BOS Center

Concessions are Open:
Thursday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
70.  1:00 – 2:00
Book Gossip

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson’s Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois

What are the hottest new adult titles for your reading pleasure? Come to the Book Gossip to hear about great reads for grown ups!

Audience:  All
Location:  BOS Center B-11A

71.  1:00 - 2:00
Unlocking Learning Potential: The Art and Science of Explicit Instruction

Tari Jansen
SLD Support Project, Charleston

In a landscape where educational reform remains a topic of debate, it is vital to heed the wisdom of prominent researchers who assert that “explicit instruction is a fundamental component of effective schooling.” However, as the article Education Reform Hasn’t Failed Yet... 3 Overlooked Instructional Strategies suggests, these pivotal components, including explicit instruction, often remain underutilized in our schools. This presentation seeks to bridge this gap by providing attendees with a comprehensive overview of the components of explicit instruction. Participants will explore the impact of explicit instruction, a systematic, teacher-centered approach. In addition, explicit instruction will be defined, research validating its efficacy will be presented, and key principles including application into lesson planning and instructional delivery will be outlined. Key examples of explicit instruction and its application to literacy instruction will be provided along with a discussion of assessment’s role, decision-making, and generalization planning. Participants will leave with a practical instructional toolbox, primed to elevate teaching and promote inclusive learning. This presentation invites questions and offers additional resources for further exploration. Participants will gain practical insights into applying these strategies within the classroom, ultimately aiming to usher in an era of more effective and impactful teaching.

Audience:  PreK-6, Spec, Admin
Location:  BOS Center B-3
Sponsored by SLD Support Project

72.  1:00 - 2:00
The Science of Reading: What Is It and How to Apply It?

Ethan Lynn
Reading Horizons, Peoria

The purpose of this session is to provide educators with an overview of the science of reading from a practical perspective. To begin, we will define the science of reading and discuss the processes involved with learning to read. Next, we will demystify and unlock the English language by learning seven decoding patterns: five for single-syllable words and two for multi-syllable words. We will conclude with a focus on how to structure lessons by emphasizing multi-sensory dictation practice and the transfer of skills to connected texts.

Audience:  PreK-6, ELL, Spec
Strand:  Science of Reading
Location:  BOS Center B-1
Sponsored by Reading Horizons

73.  1:00 - 2:00
The Heavy Hitters of Intermediate Literacy: Multisyllabic Decoding and Morphology

Cassandra Novack
95 Percent Group, Lincolnshire

Not only do upper elementary and middle school students need to be adept at decoding multisyllabic words, they must also have strategies for unlocking the meanings of unfamiliar words. To equip our students with the rigorous demands of complex text in these grades, we need to bring out the “heavy hitters” of Intermediate Word Work: Multi-syllabic Decoding Routines and Morphology. This session will showcase efficient instruction to get the job done: replicable, reliable routines to teach our students to fearlessly attack big words while building morphological understandings to accelerate vocabulary growth.

Audience:  4-9, ELL, Spec
Strand:  Science of Reading
Location:  BOS Center B-2
Sponsored by 95 Percent Group

74.  1:00 - 2:00
New and Overwhelmed Literacy Teachers Deserve to Feel and BE Successful – 1 Approach with 20 + Strategies

Berit Gordon
Heinemann, Maplewood, NJ

We love our students and care deeply about our jobs. And we are stressed and overwhelmed. There is another way. With a choice-based approach and innovative tips for literacy instruction, this workshop will help you avoid burnout and boost teaching joy.

Audience:  All
Strand:  Coaching
Location:  BOS Center B-4
Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Heinemann
75. 1:00 - 2:00
Accelerating your Literacy Instruction with a Hands-On, Multisensory Approach
Jennifer Burchfiel
hand2mind, Dallas, Texas
Enhancing small group instruction with multi-sensory learning opportunities will lead early readers to master sound and spelling relationships and decoding strategies to become fluent readers. This session will provide educators with tools to help readers build language and literacy through the use of engaging phonemic awareness and phonics strategies in their small group instruction.
Audience: PreK-3
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6
Sponsored by hand2mind

76. 1:00 - 2:00
Building Inclusive Classrooms – Designing Neurodiverse-Friendly Learning Spaces
Stefanie Crawford
Illinois Digital Educators Alliance, Peoria Heights
Neurotypical expectations and environments unintentionally create barriers that exclude and isolate neurodivergent individuals. Through discussions and activities, we will uncover strategies and techniques to cultivate truly inclusive spaces that celebrate and embrace all neurotypes. See how small changes in our approach can lead to significant positive impacts, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment for everyone in our learning community.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-7
Sponsored by Illinois Digital Educators Alliance

77. 1:00 - 2:00
Unlocking the Magic: Making Trade Books the Heart of ELA Instruction
Anita Parsotan
Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, Arizona
Alana Benoit
Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, Arizona
Educators recognize that literacy extends far beyond decoding words, into the engineering of a lifelong love of reading and intellectual exploration of ideas and experiences. This proposal seeks to explore the power of trade books at the center of core ELA education as a transformative experience for students. Trade books can be used to extend the study of literature from academic achievement to molding our students into empathetic individuals capable of critical thinking and effective communication. Through diverse texts, educators can provide an integrated experience that promotes inclusivity, independent reading, and effective assessment.
Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Lib
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-8
Sponsored by Imagine Learning

78. 1:00 - 2:00
Good Questions + Good Reading = Awesome Thinking
Katie McKnight
Short, Short, Big, Antioch
Over two-thirds of adolescent students are unable to read at grade level (NAEP 2022). When students are unable to read complex subject-specific text, the tendency is to offer them easier, more literal questions and tasks. Yet, the science of reading research indicates that this is not the right approach. Learn how to create deep inferential and evaluative questions to motivate students to read and drive deeper reading comprehension. Strategies and critical research will be shared.
Audience: 4-12
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-9
Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Short, Short, Big

79. 1:00 - 2:00
Enhancing Educational Access for Students with Dyslexia: Understanding Learning Strategies and Classroom Implementation
Karla O’Brien
Classmates Educational Group, Inc., Downers Grove
Beth Hatlen
Classmates Educational Group, Inc., Downers Grove
In this presentation, we will explore vital aspects of supporting students with dyslexia. We will delve into how the brain learns to read and the intricate cognitive processes and neural pathways involved. Learn how to recognize the early “red flags” that may signal potential reading difficulties or dyslexia in students, allowing for timely intervention. Walk away with a variety of instructional strategies that can be seamlessly integrated into any classroom environment to support students with dyslexia. Learn how to provide accessibility for struggling readers and foster an inclusive classroom atmosphere that nurtures the diverse needs of all students.
Audience: All
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-10
Sponsored by SLANT System for Structured Language Training

80. 1:00 - 2:00
Story Play: Making Stories Memorable for Students
Michael Lockett
Author/International Storyteller, Normal
Plan to laugh as you learn stories you can effectively retell after this workshop. The concept of Story Play helps improve students’ vocabulary, speech, listening, reading comprehension and more. Use this enjoyable technique to raise scores in your classroom.
Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Lib
Location: BOS Center VIP Room
Sponsored by Heritage Schoolhouse Press
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 – 3:15</td>
<td><strong>Books I’ve Loved and I Swear Loved Me Back – The Transformative Power of Story</strong></td>
<td>Clare Vanderpool  &lt;br&gt; Author &lt;br&gt; Wichita, Kansas</td>
<td>BOS Center B-11A</td>
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<td>We’ve all heard that to be a writer, you must first be a reader. And we know from experience that stories have power—to touch, to heal, to transform. Join us for a journey into our reading past, to the books that provided joy, comfort, even friendship in our younger years, and discover how stories become stepping stones in the writing life.</td>
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<td><strong>Audience:</strong> All  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Location:</strong> BOS Center B-11A</td>
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<td>2:15 – 3:15</td>
<td><strong>ArtPhone</strong></td>
<td>A.S. King  &lt;br&gt; Author  &lt;br&gt; Reading Pennsylvania</td>
<td>BOS Center B-11BC</td>
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<td>In this high-energy assembly program, Amy talks to students about the science of smartphone addiction, and how to shift phone usage from the endless scroll into something more creative and useful – art! With the rise of TikTok and other creative social media, the youth of today know the power of creativity – Amy aims to get them to think bigger into the world of visual art, film, music composition/performance, and writing available right there on their phones.</td>
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<td><strong>Audience:</strong> 6-12  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Location:</strong> BOS Center B-11BC</td>
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<td>2:15 – 3:15</td>
<td><strong>This Is a Story: Connecting Hearts and Communities through Booktalks</strong></td>
<td>John Schu  &lt;br&gt; Educator/Author  &lt;br&gt; Chicago, Illinois</td>
<td>BOS Center B-11D</td>
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<td>The best booktalks are those delivered from the heart. It’s the way we share our love and passion for favorite titles and books that inspires students and colleagues. Join children’s book author and librarian John Schu as he invites us to imagine the many ways books can foster connection and understanding. He’ll share some of the best new books and ways to easily incorporate them into your school reading culture to increase reading motivation, stamina, and growth.</td>
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<td><strong>Audience:</strong> PreK-6  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Location:</strong> BOS Center B-11D</td>
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<td>2:15 – 3:15</td>
<td><strong>Understanding and Supporting Children with Dyslexia in Light of Reading Science</strong></td>
<td>J. Richard Gentry  &lt;br&gt; Educator/Author  &lt;br&gt; Mobile, Alabama</td>
<td>Wyndham Rendezvous</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Every teacher likely has dyslexic children in his or her classroom. This 2023 up-to-date session informed by today’s neuroscience helps participants understand, identify, and deal with reading and spelling problems associated with dyslexia. As a lifelong dyslexia survivor himself, Dr. Gentry provides a unique perspective including how new science supports the unexpected idea that dyslexia may include cognitive strengths and even life-enhancing gifts for achievement and success.</td>
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<td><strong>Audience:</strong> All  &lt;br&gt; <strong>Location:</strong> Wyndham Rendezvous</td>
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85. 2:15 – 3:15
Shifting the Balance: Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the 3-5 Classroom

Jan Miller Burkins
Educator/Author
Athens, Georgia

It seems that talk about the science of reading and the call for changed practices in the literacy classroom is everywhere these days. But so much of this conversation has focused on beginning readers. If you’re an educator supporting upper elementary readers—or even younger readers who have grown beyond their peers—you’ve likely wondered, “What about us? What does the current body of research reveal about practices in intermediate classrooms?” In this workshop, a companion to, Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom (Burkins & Yates), Jan Burkins will introduce six shifts for upper elementary teachers to consider as they work to make reading success more accessible for all students. Across the hour-long workshop, Jan will provide a high-level overview of the NEW 6 shifts described in the book.

**Audience:** 3-5
**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 3

86. 2:15 – 3:15
Handwriting is the Key!

Emily Larsen
Zaner-Bloser, Columbus, Ohio

Research has shown that automaticity with physically forming manuscript and cursive letters will allow students to be more proficient in reading and math skills and achieve greater growth. Students can be affected by the research proven phenomena of the reader effect and writer effect. Understanding the importance of fluent and legible handwriting is a must for educators. We must acknowledge the need to teach transcription skills specifically focusing on the automatization of handwriting in the elementary grades.

**Audience:** PreK-3
**Strand:** Writing
**Location:** BOS Center B-1
**Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser**

87. 2:15 – 3:15
Illinois Literacy Plan: Its Development and What It Means For Illinois Schools

Laura Beltchenko
ELA, Assessment and Gifted Education Consultant, Libertyville

This session will support understanding and use of the ISBE approved Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and its implications for providing districts and schools “flexibility and local autonomy” with its use. The focus will be on the 3 overarching goals cited for students, educators and leaders as well as the newly designed “7 Competencies of Literacy”: Oracy, phonological awareness, word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and writing. An overview of the 5 Sections will be highlighted as well as methods for navigation and implementation of the Plan.

**Audience:** All
**Location:** BOS Center B-2

88. 2:15 – 3:15
Enhancing Early Sequencing Skills through Coding and Robotics

Stephanie Dietrich
Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

Becky Griffith
Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

In this workshop, participants will learn how robotics and coding can be utilized to enhance early literacy sequencing skills. Learners will have the opportunity to explore different robots that can be used to support sequencing skills and will leave with the resources to easily integrate robotics into their early literacy programs.

**Audience:** PreK-3
**Strand:** Librarians
**Location:** BOS Center B-3

89. 2:15 – 3:15
Motivation Managed! Getting the Best From Your Students Because They Want To!

Jennifer Lancaster
SD #129, Aurora

Let’s face it ... student motivation has ALWAYS been a problem. The pandemic simply put a spotlight on what we already knew: the dire consequences when students are not actively engaged in their own learning. Research shows that when students are actively engaged in the classroom, learning rates increase. By building teacher-student routines, everyone in the classroom benefits! Participants in this session will walk away with both research-based ideas as well as actionable strategies to motivate students within the classroom.

**Audience:** 6-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin
**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
**Location:** BOS Center B-4

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Visit ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOPS in Booth 409

DOWNLOAD CONFERENCE APP FOR ABSTRACTS AND MORE
90. **Growing Learners with Co-Teaching**

   Erin Metaxas  
   Jennifer Lippert  
   Brian Hefferan  

   Utilizing co-teaching strategies along with SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) techniques we will discuss how all students can grow as readers, writers, and learners and find success in their classes. We will also explore how John Hattie’s research on Visible Learning relates to and supports these strategies.  

   **Audience:** 4-12, ELL  
   **Location:** BOS Center B-6  

91. **Enhancing Your Curriculum: IDNR Science Resources**

   Lorna Shuman  
   IDNR, Springfield  

   The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Education provides Illinois-specific materials and programs to the teachers in the state. On a tour using our website, we will explore ways to enhance the science curriculum with grants, lessons, professional development, publications, items for loans, and videos and podcasts. All of these resources assist educators in implementing the topic immediately into the existing curriculum to provide supplemental, Illinois-specific information.  

   **Audience:** All  
   **Strand:** STEAM  
   **Location:** BOS Center B-7  

   **Sponsored by Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

92. **Empowering Leaders to Advance Academic Equity and Excellence through Science of Reading**

   Karen DeSchryver  
   Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, AZ  

   Susan Jones  
   Imagine Learning, Scottsdale, AZ  

   Science of Reading (SOR) encompasses decades of scientific research behind the process of learning to read. But is there really a difference between Learning to Read and Reading to Learn? Does Science of Reading apply to adolescent readers? Join this session to discuss! During our time, we will explore the Science of Reading research and discuss strategies for incorporating the research into your literacy initiatives.  

   **Audience:** All  
   **Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
   **Location:** BOS Center VIP Room  

   **Sponsored by Imagine Learning**

93. **Supporting Diverse and Language Learners To Become College Ready Readers and Writers**

   Jacqueline Keeley  
   SD #214, Elk Grove Village  

   Alissa Prendergaast  
   SD #214, Elk Grove Village  

   Amanda Baran  
   SD #214, Elk Grove Village  

   Emily Mikuzis  
   SD #214, Elk Grove Village  

   If students feel confident, they will be empowered to make ambitious plans for their futures. Showing students they can do hard things is the start of their success. In this session, we’ll share methods and strategies to help diverse and language learners master the reading and writing skills necessary for post secondary success.  

   **Audience:** 9-12, ELL, Spec, Univ, Admin  
   **Strand:** Writing  
   **Location:** BOS Center B-9  

94. **Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Representation of Black Joy Matters**

   Melissa Wheeler  
   Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon  

   Julie Hoffman  
   Springfield Public Schools, Springfield  

   Jen Brooks  
   Illinois State University, Normal  

   Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Black Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black-owned independent book stores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!  

   **Audience:** All  
   **Strand:** Equity & Diversity  
   **Location:** BOS Center B-10

95. **Why They Hate to Write ... And What We Can Do About It**

   Kristen Walsh  
   Murphy Junior High, Oswego  

   How many times have you heard, “I hate writing?” This session addresses student views on writing, current practices in the writing classroom, and ways to implement change to allow students to regain their writing voices and develop agency and identity as writers. Participants will leave with practical applications for the classroom.  

   **Audience:** 4-12, ELL, Spec, Admin  
   **Strand:** Writing  
   **Location:** PAL Ottawa AB
96. **2:15 – 3:15**  
**When They Choose – They Read!**  
Niki Woodruff  
Alice Gustafson School, Batavia  
Katie Hoving  
Hampshire High School, Hampshire  
By age 9, a child’s joy of reading begins to decline. Independent reading time, for all ages, holds power to rejuvenate that essential joy. Increase students’ reading volume and stamina by discovering benefits and tips to implement choice reading.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** PAL Altgeld

97. **2:15 – 3:15**  
**Read Allowed**  
Kristin Richey  
Westmont Junior High School, Westmont  
This session will be filled with tried and true middle level read alouds AND the endless benefits of using them. You’ll leave with great new ideas for using read alouds to support your middle school classroom and all those nostalgic, “come to the carpet” feels!  
**Audience:** 6-9  
**Location:** PAL Bond

98. **2:15 – 3:15**  
**Developing Discussion-Based Practices to Cultivate Student Agency**  
Karen Schumpp  
Leyden High Schools, Franklin Park  
Paula Di Domenico  
Leyden High Schools, Franklin Park  
In the aftermath of the pandemic, a crucial lesson emerged – the key link between social-emotional learning (SEL) and literacy. This session merges the realms of SEL and literacy education. By integrating CASEL discussion strategies, we demonstrate an approach that not only enhances literacy skills but also cultivates student joy and agency. Witness the magic that unfolds when these once-separate constructs harmonize, creating an immersive experience where literacy learning becomes a conduit for both skill acquisition and emotional enrichment. Additionally, leaders will learn to apply session strategies for Tier 1 instruction, seamlessly integrating social-emotional learning and literacy throughout the school.  
**Audience:** 6-12, Spec, Admin  
**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)  
**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

99. **2:15 – 3:15**  
**Supporting Newcomer Students in your Classroom**  
Carly Spina  
Illinois Resource Center, Arlington Heights  
Many of us are welcoming more and more newcomer students into our classrooms. This session will equip educators with tools, resources, and strategies to serve and support their students who are newer to their English language journey. We will discuss small moves that can have a big impact! Educators will have the chance to try out the strategies that will be shared, and leave with a virtual bank of tools and resources to not only use the next day, but also share with colleagues.  
**Audience:** PreK-12, ELL  
**Strand:** English Language Learners  
**Location:** PAL Freeport C

100. **2:15 – 3:15**  
**The Art of Teaching a Novel**  
Lisa Burgess  
SD #118, Danville  
Reading a novel immerses children in a place and/or a time outside their experiences, and over the lifespan of the book (and sometimes a series) empathy develops for characters and historical events that spills over into their worldview; it’s so much more than reading an excerpt. This presentation will address everything about teaching a novel - from selecting, reading, and highlighting challenging vocabulary to reader’s guides, supplemental books, assessment, and discussion strategies. Units for award-winning historical novels by both a central Illinois native and one of the conference’s guest authors will be shared.  
**Audience:** PreK-9, Univ, Admin, Lib  
**Location:** PAL Yates

101. **2:15 – 3:15**  
**Keeping It Short and Sweet: Helping Students Find The Joy of Reading through Short Story Book Clubs**  
Courtney Eacker  
Mannheim Middle School, Melrose Park  
Theresa Ciupinski  
Mannheim Middle School, Melrose Park  
This session will detail the process of starting and maintaining student book clubs to help instill a love of reading for pleasure. The book club model features short stories and uses best practices for developing independent reading skills. From close reading to annotations to recognizing what a reader is and isn’t enjoying, the book club project will help students find their reading personalities. Attendees will leave with resources and actionable tips and tricks for using book clubs in any classroom.  
**Audience:** 4-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Lib  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** Wyndham Plaza 1
102. 3:30 – 4:30
New and Notable Books for Grades 4-8

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson’s Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois

This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: 4-9
Location: BOS Center B-11A

103. 3:30 – 4:30
How to FRAME the First 10 Minutes of Class

Peg Grafwallner
Educator/Author
Germantown, Wisconsin

Educators spend a great deal of time lesson planning, creating the best opportunities for learning for students. But, those first 10 minutes of class - building relationships and creating the engagement and motivation for the lesson is as critical. In this interactive presentation, Peg will show you how to: Focus your class by writing a successful Learning Intention and Success Criteria; explore different ways to Reach each student prior to class; demonstrate how to teach students to Ask/Analyze the LI and SC, briefly Model the day’s lesson to lower student concern and finally, describe ways to Encourage all students to be their best learning selves! (Based on Peg’s book: Ready to Learn: The FRAME Method for Optimizing Student Success.)

Audience: 4-12
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

104. 3:30 – 4:30
What’s the Deal with the Science of Reading?

Andrew P. Johnson
Educator/Author
Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota

Science of Reading advocates seem to be putting out a great deal of misinformation about reading instruction. Literacy experts are being ignored in favor of radio journalists. For-profit entities are promoting ideas that serve only to enhance their profit at the expense of our students. This presentation will explain exactly what the science of reading is and isn’t. It will provide a simple understanding of balanced literacy, the three cueing systems, evidence-based practices, eye movement during reading, word identification, word recognition, phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, direct instruction, and educational research.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

105. 3:30 – 4:30
Overcoming PD Obstacles: A Lesson Study Protocol

Jill Springer
CUSD #428, DeKalb
Tracy Beling
CUSD #428, DeKalb

In this session, teachers and administrators will be introduced to one district’s protocol for embedding literacy PD into the school day. This powerful tool decreases the need for substitute teachers and allows educators to work within their own realities to address the unique needs of their community of practitioners and students. The protocol amplifies collaboration and communication among classroom teachers, specialists, and administrators and is supported by data.

Audience: PreK-6, Univ, Admin
Location: BOS Center B-3

106. 3:30 – 4:30
Go From Hand-Holding To Truly Independent Readers & Writers With These 12 Strategies

Berit Gordon
Heinemann, Maplewood, NJ

Readers and writers get better through practice. But simply giving them time and space isn’t always enough. Here are 12 strategies and tips to boost students so they’re working (happily) as hard as you are.

Audience: All
Strand: Writing
Location: BOS Center B-4
Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Heinemann
107. **3:30 – 4:30**  
**Read with Me: Multi-Day Read Aloud Using Culturally Relevant Texts**  
Valencia Burney  
Back 2 Basics Educational Consulting, Chicago  
This presentation supports how students who are engaged in multi-day read aloud with culturally relevant texts will have a significant improvement in their reading engagement in the classroom. Young children who are exposed to and read daily books with more culturally relevant experiences in them are more likely to make significant personal connections to their own lives. They enjoy reading and are more likely to engage in independent reading activities in the classroom. Research tells us that children are more critical thinkers when they have the opportunity to read and discuss books that they can see themselves in.  
**Audience:** PreK-3  
**Strand:** Equity & Diversity  
**Location:** BOS Center B-1

108. **3:30 – 4:30**  
**Enhancing Social-Emotional Learning for English Language Learners through AI-Driven Professional Learning Resources**  
Gargi Sethi  
Educational Consultant, Bolingbrook  
This presentation delves into the convergence of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), English Language Learning (ELL), and Artificial Intelligence (AI), elevating educators’ capacities. It underscores the pivotal role of AI-infused professional learning resources in fortifying SEL provisions for ELLs. AI grants educators access to resources personalized to students’ unique requirements, data-driven insights, and language support tools. This pioneering approach harmonizes seamlessly with the Illinois State Teaching Standards, particularly the Professional Learning Standard. It empowers educators with the expertise and resources required to craft an inclusive, emotionally nurturing learning milieu, thus nurturing the comprehensive growth and academic achievement of ELLs.  
**Audience:** All, ELL  
**Strand:** Social Emotional Learning (SEL)  
**Location:** BOS Center B-2

109. **3:30 – 4:30**  
**Beyond the Wall**  
Karyn Tomkinson  
hand2mind, Vernon Hills  
Have you implemented a sound wall and now wonder how to extend the lesson beyond the wall? In this session we will begin with constructing a sound on the sound wall and move to instruction involving a center approach with several other sound wall resources and toolkits.  
**Audience:** PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Admin, Lib  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** BOS Center B-6  
**Sponsored by hand2mind**

110. **3:30 – 4:30**  
**Let Learning Grow with STEM, Books, and Agriculture**  
Lee Deal  
Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington  
Stephanie Hospelhorn  
Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington  
Join the IAITC team as they share bushels of STEM activities that pair with their favorite new books. This interactive session will leave attendees with acres of book recommendations, lesson ideas, and bulletin board themes to engage students all year.  
**Audience:** PreK-9  
**Strand:** STEAM  
**Location:** BOS Center B-7  
**Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom**

111. **3:30 – 4:30**  
**The Power of Play: Add Games to Your ELA Classroom**  
Stefanie Crawford  
Illinois Digital Educators Alliance, Peoria Heights  
Bringing games into the ELA classroom allows for real interaction between students/teachers and with the course content/skill. But sometimes you just don’t know where to start or what to do to adapt games for classroom usage. This session will primarily focus on taking board games and adapting them for classroom use by allowing participants to experience a few games, see the adaptations I’ve developed, and then use that experience to begin creating their own adaptations during the session, making it possible to begin playing with purpose as soon as the next day.  
**Audience:** 4-12, Adults, Univ, Admin  
**Strand:** Coaching  
**Location:** BOS Center B-8  
**Sponsored by Illinois Digital Educators Alliance**

112. **3:30 – 4:30**  
**The Science of Reading is Nothing Without the Science of Writing**  
Katie McKnight  
Short, Short, Big, Antioch  
Walk, then run. Before we can expect students to comprehend and compose complex, nuanced, multi-paragraph text, we need to ensure our kids can comprehend and compose cogent, crisp, short passages. Katie McKnight will explore the Triple C toolkit that helps students build reading comprehension, fluency, and academic vocabulary through writing instruction that has students making claims, citing evidence, and composing solid conclusions. Triple C is particularly effective with underperforming students. Raise skills, have fun, and make significant, lasting gains!  
**Audience:** 4-12  
**Strand:** Science of Reading  
**Location:** BOS Center B-9  
**Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Short, Short, Big**
113. 3:30 – 4:30
The Fifth Pillar: Nurturing Humanity Through Reading Across Content Areas
Cindi Koudelka
Fielderest CUSD 6, Minonk
A fifth pillar of literacy is providing authentic and inclusive literature across all content areas to help students deepen their understanding of the content while shaping their identity and building empathy. Join the presenter in exploring research-based cross-curricular reading strategies and an inclusive book list to incorporate literature into any content area from preschool to college.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-10

114. 3:30 – 4:30
Engage, Scaffold, Succeed: Strategies to Maximize Learning for All Students
Stefane Beddard
ImpactEdu, Wilmington, NC
Discover innovative methods to boost student engagement with complex, interdisciplinary texts. This session offers strategies for integrating vocabulary, student discussions, and scaffolding methods to elevate critical thinking and reading skills in all content areas. Come join us to learn and discuss how we can provide opportunities for all students to engage in deeper, more meaningful learning experiences across diverse disciplines.
Audience: 4-12, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center VIP Room

115. 3:30 – 4:30
Poetry Inside Out
Brandon Barr
Twain Elementary, Chicago
Albert Burford
Twain Elementary, Chicago
Mark Hauber
Center for the Art of Translation, Program Director of Poetry Inside Out, Chicago
Poetry Inside Out is a collaborative, cross-cultural language arts curriculum that celebrates classroom diversity, builds literacy skills, improves critical thinking, and unlocks creativity by teaching students to translate great poetry from around the world. Poetry Inside Out embraces – and relies upon – the cultural and linguistic diversity found in today’s classrooms, schools, and communities. As a world literature program, it treats great poets as teachers and their work as models.
Audience: 4-9, ELL, Lib
Strand: Writing
Location: Wyndham Plaza 1

116. 3:30 – 4:30
The Magic of Trees
Kristin Lems
National Louis University, Chicago
From The Magic Treehouse series to The Great Kapok Tree and beyond, the human relationship with trees is deep and enduring. Planting trees and caring for them is one of the best responses to the global climate emergency, and children of all ages can take part in the activity. Many excellent books tell us stories about trees, and the process of photosynthesis is one of the key science concepts for elementary students. Besides sharing some noteworthy tree-centered books, the workshop will share ways trees can be included in the curriculum, and ways that students can take an active role in protecting and caring for trees on the school grounds and in the community.
Audience: All
Strand: STEAM
Location: PAL Freeport AB

117. 3:30 – 4:30
Reading Games and Movement
Margaret Billhartz
Wesclin CUSD#3, New Baden
Emily Argo
Wesclin CUSD#3, New Baden
Reading Games and Movement: Tagging movement and reading together help our youngest students and those who have difficulty paying attention find reading fun. Utilizing all of our senses when reading will improve our memory and critical thinking skills. Learn how to focus the reader’s attention to all parts of reading while moving, playing games, and having fun with an upbeat MINDSET. Come and join in the discussion!
Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Title
Location: PAL Ottawa AB

118. 3:30 – 4:30
ICLP for Literacy Leaders: What do I Need to be Doing Right Now?
Carrie Brockway
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park
Literacy leaders may be wondering what to do next now that the ICLP has become law. Literacy leaders are charged in the ICLP to ensure best instructional practices for students in classrooms and to offer professional development that supports teachers navigating these adjustments. As a literacy influencer in your school or district, come learn what the practices outlined in the ICLP may mean for instructional shifts as well as the next steps to supporting teachers to be the best they can be, ensuring that all teachers and staff have the necessary knowledge and learning to help students thrive!
Audience: All
Strand: Administration
Location: PAL Freeport C
Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois
119. 3:30 – 4:30
Turning Teens into Readers: “CRISP” Strategies for Implementing Young Adult Literature Book Clubs in the Secondary Setting
Katie Hoving
Hampshire High School, Hampshire
Niki Woodruff
Alice Gustafson School, Batavia
Are teens apathetic toward the texts you teach? Try book clubs! Discover the benefits of Choice, Relevance, Interest, Success, and Peer Interaction (CRISP) in an interactive session about how to incorporate YAL book clubs in your own classrooms and schools.
Audience: 4-9, Univ
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Altgeld

120. 3:30 – 4:30
What’s the Word?
Rhonda Russell Henderson
Powerful Foundations, Crete
Are you looking for new ways to have students interact with words? In this presentation, teachers will gain an understanding of interactive strategies to improve students’ vocabulary skills. With these strategies, students will have a chance to play hands-on games that will give them a chance to touch, say, and feel the words. Researchers have proven that students need 17 timed interactions before that word can be memorized. This presentation will allow teachers to bring back the excitement into their vocabulary block of instruction, to provide students with rich experiences.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Bond

121. 3:30 – 4:30
The Writing Rainbow – Color Coding for Comprehension and Clarity
Sarah Giffin
Marquette Academy High School, Ottawa
Cassandra Rosencrans
Shepherd Junior High School, Ottawa
A writing model will be presented that promotes scaffolding and aligns to common-core and college-readiness standards. This model appeals to multiple learning styles and teachers of all content areas. The session will include step-by-step instruction for brainstorming, outlining, writing, and revising student compositions with emphasis on student ownership of the evaluation process. This model allows instructors to identify, model, and assess essay components with greater ease and clarity.
Audience: 6-12, Adults
Strand: Writing
Location: PAL Yates

Let the IRC Professional Learning & Development Team be your PD Partner!
The Illinois Reading Council is a premier professional reading organization that offers a Professional Learning Cadre of educators available for on-site and technical assistance with tools and resources to match your school professional learning needs.
IRC PL&D utilizes the educational professionalism, understanding the adult learner, and blends that with research-based teaching and student learning strategies. The professional learning and development service providers are informed by years of experience and subject matter expertise.
IRC PL&D offers custom programs, exceptional engaging speakers, timely topics, and informative programs to assist you and your school and district faculty in reaching all your educational goals.
Sessions communicate a range of topics including but not limited to:
• Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
• Vocabulary Development
• Questioning Techniques
• Process and On Demand Writing
• Literacy Curriculum Support
• Technology and Digital Learning
• Literacy Intervention
• Gifted and Accelerated Literacy Learners

For information about bringing high-quality professional development to your district, school, or community at a very reasonable cost, visit IRC’s website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org. You can also contact us by phone at 309-454-1341 or by email at pd@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.
The Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children honors an Illinois author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and embraces an important part of the Illinois Reading Council Mission – to promote lifelong literacy.

Congratulations!

**SARAH ARONSON**

Sarah Aronson began writing for kids and teens when someone in an exercise class dared her to try. Since then, she has earned an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts, and published the following books for kids and teens: *Head Case*, *Beyond Lucky*, *Believe*, *The Wish List* as well as *Just Like Rube Goldberg*, illustrated by Robert Neubecker, and *Brand New Bubbe*, illustrated by Ariel Landy. Watch for a biography of *Bella Abzug, Call Abzuggedly!* (Calkins Creek, Astra Publishing).

When Sarah is not writing or reading (or making group soup or riding her bike), she is talking to readers about creativity, writing, social action, and of course, sparkle power! She loves working with other writers in one of her classes at the amazing Highlights Foundation, SCBWI, or Writers on the Net. You can reach her at sarah@saraharonson.com. She lives in Chicago, Illinois. At the conference, IRC is thrilled to award Sarah as the 2024 recipient of the Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children.

**Thursday Banquet**

123. 6:15 – 8:15
The Stories Left Behind

Lesa Cline-Ransome
Author
Rhinebeck, New York

From blacks traveling along the Oregon Trail to the Port Chicago Disaster to the Great Migration, many of this country’s most defining historical moments have been left behind. Lesa Cline-Ransome will discuss how writing through a historic lens explores opportunities for hope and healing and how the truth and fullness of our collective past can intersect with the ways in which we navigate our present and future through story for young readers.

**Audience:** Ticket Required  
**Location:** PAL Ballroom

**Prairie State Award for Excellence in Children’s Writing**
will be presented to

**Sarah Aronson**

Award will be presented by Cindy Wilson, Chair

124. 8:30 – 10:30 PM
Hear the Authors Read

**Audience:** All  
**Location:** Wyndham Grand Ballroom

**Sponsored by**

ANDERSON'S BOOKSHOPS

Springfield, Illinois
Hear the Authors Read
and Late-Night Autograph Session

Thursday, March 14, 2024
8:30 – 10:30 PM
Wyndham Grand Ballroom

Sponsored by Anderson’s Bookshops and Visit Springfield!

Sarah Aronson
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Lesa Cline-Ransome

A.S. King
Pam Muñoz Ryan

John Schu
Nic Stone
Clare Vanderpool
IRC Awards & Grants

Are you interested in learning how to nominate individuals from your area for IRC awards or how to benefit from grant money that is available each year for various educational activities? To find out more about these IRC Awards and Grants, please visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

Barack Obama Library Award. This award is a classroom library, valued at over $1000, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the IRC from (then) Senator Obama. This collection is comprised of carefully selected literature that is “culturally relevant” for African-American readers and targets students in the middle-school (5th-8th) grade range. The award will go to a teacher in a predetermined IRC Region. Each year, the region will be announced on the IRC Website. Nominations are due by November 1st.

Family Literacy Award. This award recognizes an IRC member who promotes and supports parent involvement in children’s reading. Proposals should be postmarked by November 1st.

Gene Cramer ICARE for Reading Award. The Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education recognizes an educator who has performed in an outstanding manner to show concern for the affective domain and who has performed lifelong reading habits among students. The Nomination Form is due by November 1st.

Hall of Fame Award. The IRC has designed the Hall of Fame to recognize significant contributions to reading or reading education. The award will be given at the annual conference. The immediate Past President shall receive the nomination forms and final determination will be made by the Executive Committee no later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Deadline: All Nomination Forms must be received by November 1st.

International Grant. The International Committee of the Illinois Reading Council has created a grant to promote literacy projects internationally. The maximum amount per grant is $1,000. The application deadline is May 1st.

IRC Service Award. The IRC will present the IRC Service Award (formerly known as the Certificate of Recognition) at the annual statewide conference. Certificates are awarded to the most deserving individuals who meet the criteria listed. Deadline: All Nomination Forms must be received by November 1st.

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award. This award recognizes outstanding teachers who make contributions in promoting literacy among students, colleagues, and school communities. Application Form, letters of recommendation, and your philosophy statement are due by November 1st.

Literacy Support Grant. The Illinois Reading Council will award financial grants to local and special interest councils and individual council members for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the school and community, and/or providing professional development opportunities related to the improvement of reading and writing instruction. Application deadline will be May 1st.

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children. This award recognizes an Illinois Children's Young Adult Author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and embraces an important part of the mission of the Illinois Reading Council—to promote lifelong literacy. All Nomination Packets must be postmarked by June 15th.

Static Stick Decal Design Contest. Students in grades 4, 5, or 6 are encouraged to create an original design promoting reading. The winning design is printed on static stick decals. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 15th.
IRC will be offering the Webinar Series for members only in 2023-2024. All webinars will begin at 7:00 p.m. Members who watch the live or recorded webinars can earn professional development clock hours. Mark your calendars and register to take part in this convenient, free IRC membership benefit. Members will receive monthly emails with links to register. Nonmembers can join online and email for the registration link.

September 6, 2023 ~ Zetta Elliott
Poems Can Heal the Heart: Empower Poets in the Classroom
This interactive webinar will introduce participants to the award-winning poetry of Zetta Elliott. After sharing some of her techniques and mentor poets (Gwendolyn Brooks, Danez Smith), Elliott will lead a writing activity that will inspire and empower young poets in the classroom.

October 4, 2023 ~ Kylene Beers
When Kids Can’t Read: Strategies that Build Success
Join Kylene as she shares strategies that help all readers – but especially struggling readers – improve comprehension, vocabulary, and engagement. She will focus on strategies and scaffolds that can be used with fiction or nonfiction. This is most appropriate for teachers, coaches, and administrators who work with students in grades 4-12 though primary grade teachers can use the strategies with a few adjustments.

November 1, 2023 ~ Julia E. Torres
Liven Up Your Library: Inclusive and Engaging Programs for Teens and Tweens
Julia will discuss book banning, how and why it happens, as well as what you can do about it, ways to collaborate with literacy education practitioners, and how to create or strengthen a culture of reading in your environment. Julia has experience and education in creating educational and library environments that empower individuals and support literacy development. Julia also believes in what Brazilian educator Paulo Freire calls “education as a practice of liberation” and will be discussing the role that healthy knowledge institutions can play in transforming individuals and society.

December 6, 2023 ~ Debbie Reese
Updating Representations of Native Americans in Your Classroom Library
Today, more than ever before, teachers can choose books by Native writers to teach students about the first peoples of this land. Debbie will highlight several books, providing information about why they are exemplary texts and how they can be used in the classroom. Including Native-authored books in the classroom, however, is not enough. Books that won prestigious children’s literature awards often contain stereotypes, bias, and factual errors about Native peoples that can interfere with a reader’s ability to comprehend the information in Native-authored books.

January 3, 2024 ~ Kass Minor
Collaborate, Build, Nurture, Reflect: Roadmaps for Learning that Sticks
As educators in schools, we have been disconnected from our personal selves, from the archives of our heart that brought us to the classroom in the first place. The past few years have been tough, and reflection is often undervalued in the field of professional learning in schools, often seen as a time wasting sentiment when more “productive” experiences could occur. In order to sustain ourselves and our profession, different routes to teacher agency, engagement, and learning opportunities are required. To create sustainable learning, learning that sticks, that shifts, changes people and their praxis, it is absolutely vital to make space and time for reflective opportunities. In this session, Kass will work in community with educators through a series of reflective practices to create sustainable learning, learning that sticks, that shifts, that changes people and their praxis.

February 7, 2024 ~ Becky Anderson
Discovering the 2024 Illinois Reads Books
Join Becky Anderson as she presents the Illinois Reads books for 2024. Learn more about the Illinois Reads statewide literacy initiative that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens. Six books in six age bands from Birth to Adult will be shared. A variety of book topics and themes are chosen for each age band, highlighting the work of Illinois Authors.

March 6, 2024 ~ Stephanie R. Toliver
How Science Fiction Writing Helps Adolescents Think Through Social Justice Issues
Stephanie Toliver will broadly define science fiction and discuss how she has used the genre to help adolescents think through social justice issues that are important to them. Toliver will walk participants through a science fiction thought experiment, the same activity she used to help young people write their own science fiction stories. She will also share excerpts from student stories to showcase the various issues and solutions young people brought forth in their narratives. Science fiction makes space for young people to challenge what is and imagine what can be, and this webinar will show just how valuable the genre can be for adolescents growing up in today’s world.

April 3, 2024 ~ Maria Walther and Katie Walther
Reach For The Books: Reenergize Reading Routines
Looking for practical ideas to refresh your students’ reading routines while staying rooted in evidence-based practices? In this session, you’ll learn innovative ideas to elevate read-aloud experiences, small group work, independent reading, and more.

May 1, 2024 ~ Vera Ahiyya
Rebellious Read Alouds
Students need to see themselves and their peers in the books they read, and to engage with varying viewpoints. How can educators create a safe and nurturing space that inspires young children to explore diversity and ask curious questions? Spark meaningful conversations about race, identity, and social justice in your classroom using read alouds as an entry point.

June 5, 2024 ~ Karen Biggs-Tucker and Brian Tucker
Swing into Summer with the Tuckers: A Few Strategies to Begin Curating Your Classroom Library to Prepare for Readers, Writers, and Researchers
Don’t miss this informative evening with Karen and Brian! Join two veteran teachers as they share their classroom-tested strategies choosing texts that will not only grow the minds of your literacy learners, but will build your classroom library with diverse, engaging books. Then, peek into their classrooms to see how they use these texts in authentic, engaging ways when you return to your classrooms in August!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
<td>Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall</td>
<td>7:00 AM – 2:00 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Breakfast</strong></td>
<td>PAL Hotel Ballroom - John Schu</td>
<td>7:00 AM – 8:30 AM</td>
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<td><strong>Exhibits</strong></td>
<td>Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Hall of Councils</strong></td>
<td>Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level</td>
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<td><strong>Sessions/Featured Speakers/Workshops</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Coffee Break in Exhibit Area</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Refreshments in Exhibit Area</strong></td>
<td>Bank of Springfield Center Exhibit Hall</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Luncheon</strong></td>
<td>Wyndham Hotel Ballroom - Illinois Reads Authors</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Luncheon</strong></td>
<td>PAL Hotel Ballroom - Timothy Rasinski</td>
<td>12:15 PM – 2:00 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Friday Lunch Sessions</strong></td>
<td>Bank of Springfield Center Lower Level</td>
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<td><strong>IRC Annual Membership Meeting</strong></td>
<td>PAL Hotel Lincoln Room</td>
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<td><strong>Preservice Teachers’ Pizza Party</strong></td>
<td>PAL Hotel Ballroom</td>
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**7:00 – 8:30 AM**

**Friday Breakfast**

125. 7:00 – 8:30

**The Gift of Story: Exploring the Affective Side of the Reading Life**

John Schu
Earnest/Author
Chicago, Illinois

When we share our hearts through story, we inspire others to think more deeply about their own hearts and how stories connect us all. In this presentation of the heart, teacher, librarian, book lover, and story ambassador John Schu invites readers to consider literacy beyond its academic benefits, highlighting the ways story speaks to our hearts and brings us together. Presented through a study of five affective elements of story --- healer, inspiration, clarifier, compassion, and connector --- participants will explore how the universal truths found in stories can change us, inspire us, connect us to others, answer our deepest questions, and help us heal.

**Audience:** Ticket Required  
**Location:** PAL Ballroom

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**

126. 8:30 – 9:30

**Lessons from Sold a Story**

Emily Hanford  
Senior Education Correspondent for APM Reports  
Washington, D.C.

Reporter Emily Hanford will talk about her hit podcast Sold a Story. She’ll explain why this story needed to be told, take you behind the scenes on the making of the podcast, and share what she’s been hearing in response from teachers, parents and kids. She’ll also highlight some of the actions taken by states and school districts in recent months and provide a journalist’s perspective on what’s next for the science of reading.

**Audience:** All  
**Location:** BOS Center B-11A

**127. 8:30 – 9:30**

**Introducing The Night War**

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
Author  
Bristol, Tennessee

Kim’s new World War II book, The Night War, will release on April 6, 2024. Very different from her Ada books, it features a Jewish refugee outwitting Nazi soldiers in a centuries-old castle in France. Come get a glimpse of this exciting new story.

**Audience:** PreK-6  
**Location:** BOS Center B-11BC
128. 8:30 – 9:30
Effective and Artful Teaching of Reading Fluency – The Neglected Component of the Reading Curriculum

Timothy Rasinski
Educator/Author
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

Fluency in reading has been found to be a critical element of any successful reading program (National Reading Panel). Despite its importance many students fail to achieve sufficiently in this area and many teachers do not feel completely competent in their knowledge and teaching of this reading component. In this workshop, Tim Rasinski will provide theoretical and research background and definition to fluency. He will share approaches to assessing and monitoring progress in this key aspects of reading. Finally, he will share effective and engaging strategies for teaching this all-important reading component that will move students toward better comprehension and greater proficiency in reading.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: BOS Center B-11D

129. 8:30 – 9:30
Everyone’s a Teacher in a Writing Community

Lynne R. Dorfman
Educator/Author
Dresher, Pennsylvania

Together with participants, the facilitator will explore peer, small group, and whole group conferences with anchor charts and video clips that will give participants a close-up of writing workshop in action, K-6. Techniques for management, record keeping, and conference routines will be discussed, and examples will be provided. The importance of a student-centered classroom where students’ roles in conferences, as both teachers and learners, will be examined. Throughout the presentation, teacher reflection will be highlighted, and templates to aid teachers in reflection processes will be demonstrated.

Audience: PreK-12
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous
130. 8:30 – 9:30
Everything You Know Is Wrong: SOR Edition

Paul L. Thomas
Educator/Author
Furman University
Greenville, South Carolina

The “science of reading” movement has perpetuated several compelling and highly influential stories about reading; however, much of those claims are misleading or even completely false. This session will examine some of those stories and claims in the context of the full body of evidence. Topics include NAEP reading data, grade retention, the Mississippi “miracle,” phonics research, dyslexia, teacher education (NCTQ), multiple cueing, and reading programs and theories (balanced literacy).

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

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131. 8:30 – 9:30
Coaching 101: Creating Systems to Support Your Staff

Julie Fleisch
SD 90, River Forest

Academic Coaching is only as effective as your system! One of the critical details to get started is clear and straightforward communication with your team of teachers. Come learn about a system that works with takeaways like an engaging Coaching Menu, effective scheduling tools, and more.

Audience: 4-9
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center B-1

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132. 8:30 – 9:30
12 Tips for Getting to a Well-Managed Literacy Classroom – While Avoiding Management

Berit Gordon
Heinemann, Maplewood, NJ

Say goodbye to energy-sapping behavior issues and management tools that don’t work. Here are 12 strategies and tips to boost routines, build relationships, and create a culture where students thrive. You’ll free up your energy for teaching, not correcting misbehaviors.

Audience: All
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center B-4

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133. 8:30 – 9:30
Literacy Workshop: Creating a Foundation for Readers and Writers to Build Upon

Karen Biggs-Tucker
Wild Rose Elementary School, St. Charles

In this session, we demonstrate that when students have opportunities to participate in an integrated literacy workshop they take an active role in developing the competencies of literate citizenship where students are empowered to be their best and build upon the literacy found in each of them. The literacy workshop approach offers teachers more time to study their students and then support them as they engage in authentic literacy experiences and learner-driven inquiries. We provide details for teachers about time-efficient ways to integrate learning so they can guide students to uncover the connections among the language arts. Eventually, this understanding of the power of literacy will flow into students’ everyday literacy habits preparing them to name and confront the inequities they encounter outside the classroom.

Audience: 4-6
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-2

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134. 8:30 – 9:30
Rebellious Reading in Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Classrooms in the Era of Banned Books

Suzanne Creer
Churchville Middle School, Elmhurst

Daisy Ayala
Churchville Middle School, Elmhurst

Elvira Pichardo
Lewis University, Romeoville

As the number of book bannings increases, we, as educators of culturally and linguistically diverse students, must answer the call to read rebelliously. How can we continue to ensure that our emergent bilingual students are represented, validated, and affirmed through diverse mentor texts that center languaging? Using a case study of a suburban middle school, our presentation will explore how educators and students disrupt linguistic and cultural hierarchies by addressing our positionality as bilingual educators and strategically using culturally and linguistically responsive texts in mainstream and bilingual classrooms. We will be providing resources and examples that educators can implement into their own practices to help support and encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion in all classrooms.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Spec
Strand: English Language Learners
Location: BOS Center B-8

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CANCELED
135. 8:30 – 9:30
Empathy, Equity, and Digital Literacy: The Pillars of a Progressive Society
Cindi Koudelka
Fieldcrest CUSD 6, Minonk
In a world of sound bytes, memes, and instant information, how do we help students ethically navigate it all with empathy to connect, rather than divide, our society? The session will focus on moving beyond individual skills or tools to understanding how to engage in responsive digital instruction that grows with technology advancements and disrupts equity gaps. The presenter will share strategies and resources to support a digital literacy framework for any content area that facilitates authentic learning opportunities for students to produce, communicate, interpret, and socialize fluidly between the digital and print worlds.
Audience: 4-12
Strand: Technology
Location: BOS Center B-10

136. 8:30 – 9:30
Science of Reading and the Impact on Special Education
Charlene Heggemeier
MCCSD #160, Millstadt
Christine Mitchell-Endsley
Belleville Area Special Services Cooperative
How does science of reading affect special education students and regular education students? Do all students benefit from science of reading? Join us to learn how science of reading can help your regular education and special education students along with great strategies to use in your classroom.
Audience: PreK-3, Spec
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-9

137. 8:30 – 9:30
The Ethical Use of Technology in the Literacy Classroom
Ben Kuhlman
CCSD #21, Wheeling
Teachers don’t talk about technology as much as they used to – because technology has become the air we breathe. But is this really what’s best for kids? There are many great resources available to teachers, but there are real costs to teaching entirely through screens. This session will review current research on the affordances of paper versus screen, and will discuss ways that teachers might productively and strategically use old-fashioned tools and processes instead of apps and screens.
Audience: 4-12, ELL
Strand: Technology
Location: BOS Center B-7
141. 8:30 – 9:30
Write Yourself Into Existence: The Power Behind Memoir Writing
Kimberly Millard
Hampshire High School, Hampshire
Katie Hoving
Hampshire High School, Hampshire
Do you feel like fun has been removed from writing instruction? Are students groaning when informed they will be completing a writing assignment? Writing memoirs brings excitement back and allows students to explore their identities while improving writing abilities.
Audience: 6-12, Spec
Strand: Writing
Location: PAL Altgeld

142. 8:30 – 9:30
Leveraging Language and Culture to Best Serve All Students
Dana Hagerman
National Louis University, Lisle
Our brains use cultural information to turn every day happenings into meaningful events and we are constantly trying to make sense of the world around us. In this session, participants will examine ways in which both culturally and linguistically responsive instruction can best serve minoritized students. We will consider the language variations of African American students and how teacher ideologies about language might either support or hinder the academic trajectory of these students. Participants will then explore impactful research from the Science of Learning & Development Alliance to leverage culturally and linguistically responsive instruction within classroom and/or intervention settings.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: PAL Bond

143. 8:30 – 9:30
25 Book Talks that Rock: Culturally Responsive and Relevant Books to Change the World
Margaret Policastro
Roosevelt University, Chicago
Heather Cook
Roosevelt University, Chicago
Noreen Wach
Roosevelt University, Chicago
This session will highlight the most recent culturally relevant and responsive children’s and adolescent literature. Participants will be engaged in why book talks matter, how to do them and featuring books that prepare students to become activists for change in their community. This will be an interactive session with audience participation and resources to bring back to the classroom and use.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: PAL Freeport AB

IRC Publications
The Illinois Reading Council offers many resources to their members. Take advantage of these great materials to share with organizations, parents, or teachers! The items listed below can be ordered from the IRC Office by phone at 309-454-1341. Prices and order forms are available on the IRC website.

Some ABC’s for Raising a Reader
Parents are their child’s first teachers, and it’s never too soon to introduce your child to books. By reading aloud to your child, you provide the sounds of written language, demonstrate book handling skills, develop your child’s expectation that the print and pictures carry a message and build positive attitudes toward reading. Use this ABC listing of ways that you can encourage a love of reading and make reading fun for your child.

Attempting Unknown Words: Suggestions for Parents
As the parent of a young child, you are a very important person for your child’s reading and language development. You are your child’s first teacher! This tri-fold brochure will provide strategies to aid your child as s/he attempts unknown words.

Help Me Grow To Be A Reader
This little 16-page booklet helps parents understand how children grow to be readers, as told from the child’s point of view. Strategies for helping young readers develop their reading skills are outlined in a fun format.
144. 8:30 – 9:30
What’s Culturally Relevant About The Illinois Literacy Plan?
Sophie Degener
National Louis University, Chicago
Hannah Graham
National Louis University, Chicago
The presenters will introduce a framework for culturally relevant literacy pedagogy based on ISBE’s Culturally Relevant Teaching and Leading Standards. Using this framework, we will examine the Illinois Literacy Plan to assess the degree to which the plan reflects culturally relevant practices and to consider how we might utilize the instructional practices within the plan in culturally relevant ways. Presenters will demonstrate how they use their framework and will provide examples of ways to reflect the CRTL standards in literacy instruction. Audience members will consider how to modify their instruction to reflect effective literacy instruction through a culturally relevant lens.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: PAL Ottawa AB

145. 8:30 – 9:30
Fueling Engagement in Interventions: Practical Solutions for Primary-Aged Readers
Loren Myers
Kildeer Countryside SD #96, Long Grove
This program will be all about engaging primary-aged readers during reading intervention. First, the research behind engagement and “gamifying” learning will be presented to show how important it is that students are interested in what they are learning and having fun. Next, different types of games, manipulatives, and collaborative activities will be presented that align to the types of activities done in small group/1:1 reading intervention including phonemic awareness, decoding/encoding, and reading books. Last, a sample intervention scenario will be shared that includes some of the activities presented based on sample data.
Audience: PreK-3
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Freeport C

146. 8:30 – 9:30
Handwriting Without Tears in the Second Grade, An Intervention Using Small and Gross Motor Activities
Eileen Richardson
Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma
Holly Rice
Cameron University, Lawton, Oklahoma
Kayla Smalley
Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma
Lakyn Hawkins
Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma
Gracie Reid
Cameron University, Claremore, Oklahoma
A study looked at how motor activities affect 2nd graders’ handwriting, during a four-week intervention with small groups to improve hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. Pre- and post-assessments showed improvement.
Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec
Location: PAL Yates

147. 8:30 – 9:30
I (Used) to Hate Reading: Successful Strategies for Engaging Your Most Reluctant Readers
Yvonne Schmid
Grayslake Middle School, Grayslake
Jennifer Everett
Grayslake Middle School, Grayslake
Two middle school reading specialists share their ideas, activities, and resources from their reading class, RISE (Reading is Everywhere). Our class goal is not only for students to increase their reading proficiency and success, but also to foster their enjoyment of reading, ultimately enabling students to be more confident in their reading abilities and foster their appreciation for reading.
Audience: 4-9, ELL, Spec
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: Wyndham Plaza 1
148. 9:45 – 10:45
Turn Left at the Comma

Lesa Cline-Ransome
Author
Rhinebeck, New York

Sometimes stories find us. Sometimes we find our way to stories. Both paths require the work of listening, seeing, remembering and imagining. Discover tools writers use to generate story ideas from research, childhood and real world encounters that help to develop authentic characters and compelling narratives.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11A

149. 9:45 – 10:45
Historical Fiction in the Classroom

Pam Muñoz Ryan
Author
Encinitas, California

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Author
Bristol, Tennessee

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley and Pam Muñoz Ryan talk Historical Fiction in the Classroom. Newbery Honorees discuss The War That Saved My Life, and Echo, titles which are set during world wars, and address their approach to difficult topics for young readers, research and the writing of these notable books.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11BC

150. 9:45 – 10:45
Phonics and Vocabulary Instruction: Artful Word Study that Works

Timothy Rasinski
Educator/Author
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

Proficiency with words is critical to reading success at every grade level. Students who struggle in reading and other content areas do so because of difficulty in word decoding and understanding the meaning of key vocabulary. Tim Rasinski will present effective and engaging methods for helping students learn to decode, spell, and understand the meaning to words, and also to take delight in words. Do you believe people have the ability to see patterns in their environments? Do you like word games? Is vocabulary learning all Greek to you? Then this session is for you!

Audience: PreK-9
Location: BOS Center B-11D

151. 9:45 – 10:45
Awakening Our Dormant Writers: Finding Engaging Topics to Write About

Lynne R. Dorfman
Educator/Author
Dresher, Pennsylvania

How can you help students find engaging topics to write about when they are stuck? Join Lynne to discover creative idea-generating strategies, including heart maps, memory chains, hand and neighborhood maps, author’s notes, and list making. In addition, explore ways to find out who your writers are at the beginning of the year and to discover a student’s writing identity during independent writing time. Lynne shares teacher models, student samples, and ready-to-launch practices that can help all students become successful and confident writers. Leave with tips and step-by-step procedures for introducing Lynne’s strategies in your own classroom.

Audience: PreK-6
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous
152. 9:45 – 10:45
Reclaiming Teacher Authority and Autonomy in the SOR Era: When Structured Literacy Becomes a Script

Paul L. Thomas
Educator/Author
Furman University
Greenville, South Carolina

Increasingly since 2013, states have adopted reading legislation identified as the “science of reading.” Since curriculum and instruction should be driven by classroom teachers, not media narratives, parental advocacy, or political mandate, this session examines key reading topics framed with current research to support teacher authority and autonomy.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

153. 9:45 – 10:45
Let’s Battle! Using Rebecca Caudill Nominated Books to Enhance Your Literacy Program

Christine Lewis
CESD #317, Carthage
Jenny White
CESD #317, Carthage
Sarah Roberts
CESD #317, Carthage

How can you use Rebecca Caudill books effectively in your classrooms to enhance your middle school literacy program? Our presentation shares a variety of ways that we utilize Rebecca Caudill books inside and outside of our classrooms. We use book clubs, contests, and competitions to create a culture of literacy. All activities lead up to the main event: “The Battle of the Books” which is a huge event each year in our school. Join us to learn all about it and much more!

Audience: 4-9, Spec, Lib
Strand: Librarians
Location: BOS Center B-4

154. 9:45 – 10:45
Ditch the Worksheet

Patricia Tammen
I-KAN Regional Office of Education, Kankakee
Elaina O’Hara
Iroquois West Upper Elementary School, Thawville

Oftentimes we can fall into habits of assigning and grading written work despite the overwhelming reality that it is not creating the kind of growth or learning we are hoping for. What if we could take our well loved and well intentioned worksheets, quizzes, and pen and paper activities and transform them with instructional strategies that allow for a more engaging classroom that factors feedback and assessment into the class period. Gone are the days of written feedback being handed back to a student 3 days after the assignment. Join us in ditching the worksheet and providing your students with immediate and meaningful feedback!

Audience: 4-9
Location: BOS Center B-1

155. 9:45 – 10:45
Shared Reading in Action! Featuring Foundational Skills

Maria Walther
Maria P. Walther LLC, Aurora

Need a quick, effective way to enhance your students’ foundational skills? Learn how short bursts of shared reading enrich systematic word study instruction by boosting phonological awareness, strengthening letter-sound knowledge, and expanding vocabulary. Leave with a list of books and actionable ideas.

Audience: PreK-3
Location: BOS Center B-2

156. 9:45 – 10:45
Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Queer Representation Matters

Cindi Koudelka
Fieldcrest CUSD 6, Minonk
Melissa Wheeler
Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon
Julie Hoffman
Springfield Public Schools, Springfield

Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Queer Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black or queer-owned independent bookstores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!

Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-10
157. 9:45 – 10:45
The Gems of Multicultural Children’s Literature
2.0
Amy Davis
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston
Multicultural children’s literature offers a variety of cultural gems that may be implicitly or explicitly stated in both text and illustrations. This presentation will highlight these gems to share with students while reading aloud to students.
Audience: K-6, ELL
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-6

158. 9:45 – 10:45
Grow a Garden of Great Readers: Innovative Ways to Connect School Garden Efforts to Great Literature
Chris Wyant
Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington
Lee Deal
Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington
Engage students with innovative and easy-to-integrate school garden activities that pair well with exciting new books about food, farming, gardening, and growing. Participants in this hands-on presentation will leave with a harvest of new lesson ideas and book recommendations.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-7
Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

159. 9:45 – 10:45
Cultivating a Reading Environment Filled with Love and Joy
Emily Gasca
Chicago Public Schools, Chicago
A presentation on how teachers can create an environment to prepare students to grow as readers. The presentation is aligned with the Danielson Framework and can be implemented immediately. It will bring awareness to our environment by breaking through old mindsets. There’s a direct correlation between learning and the impact of our social-emotional well-being. I will walk teachers through a framework that will help cultivate an environment of joy and love for reading!
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-8

160. 9:45 – 10:45
The Student Knows: How to Bridge the Familiar with the Unfamiliar to Build Exploration
Alice McGinty
Author, SCBWI-Illinois
When Alice McGinty and Alan Havis wrote The Sea Knows (Simon and Schuster), they wrote from the perspective of what the child already knows. Learn how to use foundational concepts in picture books to start students from a secure place, growing from there, to lead to the confident acquisition of knowledge across disciplines and topics.
Audience: PreK-3, Lib
Location: BOS Center B-9
Sponsored by SCBWI Illinois

161. 9:45 – 10:45
Vocabulicious Ways to Differentiate Literacy Instruction Through Games
Carrie Brockway
Regional Office of Education #4
Science of Reading reminds us that we already know a lot about how brains learn, and brains learn best through PLAY! Come prepared to play literacy games that incorporate the use of hands-on materials: Literacy dice, letters of all shapes and sizes, and word decks will help you teach and support learning in the novel ways young brains learn best. We will explore grammar, vocabulary, rhymes and RIMES, spelling simple CVC words, and work with vowels and blends. These activities will fit into centers or whole group instruction, and can even be adapted for intervention, assessment, and progress monitoring.
Audience: All
Location: BOS Center VIP Room
Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois

162. 9:45 – 10:45
The Science of Reading Made Easy
Diana Brannon
Elmhurst University, Elmhurst
The Science of Reading is based on a vast collection of research collected over the last five decades. Key concepts of the Science of Reading and structured literacy will be discussed. More importantly, you will learn about extensive free resources available online to help support your teaching. Information about instructional strategies, DIY manipulatives, free decodable, sound wall, lesson planning, vocabulary, and interactive read aloud resources will be shared. We will also discuss how to incorporate writing and integrate science and social studies in your lessons through interactive read alouds. Walk away with ideas, resources, and lessons you can use today!
Audience: PreK-3, ELL
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: PAL Ottawa AB
163.  9:45 – 10:45  
**Reclaiming Our Expertise: The Role of Literacy Leaders to Cultivate Student Learning**  
Michael Manderino  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb  
Corrine Wickens  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb  
This presentation is focused on the critical role of literacy leaders in reclaiming expertise around literacy instruction. Literacy education is poised to be at the forefront of supporting students in culturally responsive ways that honor and accentuate the literacies of young people. There are a number of strong literacy practices that we have known to support literacy development. Approaches that center students include using cultural responsive literacy instruction to reengage students with text, supporting strategic and independent approaches to literacy, increasing opportunities to write and create traditionally and digitally, using teacher expertise in formative and diagnostic assessments. Examples of each will be shared.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Coaching  
**Location:** PAL Altgeld

164.  9:45 – 10:45  
**Yes, Skilled Reading Matters! And, Relationships With Reading Matters Too! Exploring Love-Hate Relationships With Reading and Writing**  
Mary E. Lyons  
Knox College, Galesburg  
Our relationships with reading and writing are complex! Come learn about how to bring knowledge of this complexity into your teaching. Participants will reflect on their journeys of learning to read and their relationships with reading and writing over time – to then consider their students’ relationships with reading and writing. For teachers who have had long-lasting healthy relationships with reading and writing, it can be a challenge to understand why many students do not. Participants will brainstorm ideas and discuss tools for supporting their students’ relationships with reading and writing.  
**Audience:** All  
**Location:** PAL Bond

165.  9:45 – 10:45  
**When a Student Needs More: How to Intensify Tier 2 and Tier 3 Instruction and Interventions**  
Kari Harris  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb  
What do you do when student(s) are not responding to an intervention? This session will provide evidence-based strategies to improve intervention outcomes for these students. You will learn how to systematically make changes to an intervention’s strength, dosage, alignment, and generalizability to improve learning outcomes. Join us to learn more and take helpful new ideas and tools back to your classroom to strengthen intervention for all your students!  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Science of Reading  
**Location:** PAL Freeport AB  
**CANCELLED**

166.  9:45 – 10:45  
**Interactive Read-Aloud as a Teaching Tool**  
Deborah Setchell  
Waltham Elementary, Utica  
Interactive read-alouds present an opportunity for early elementary educators to support their students’ academic skills as well as their social skills. Participants will learn the benefits of using an interactive read-aloud in class. Participants will learn what they need to make the interactive read-aloud an effective teaching tool. We will collectively brainstorm a list of books to use for interactive read-alouds and model how they are done.  
**Audience:** PreK-3  
**Location:** PAL Freeport C

167.  9:45 – 10:45  
**Future Directions in the Reading Education Policymaking Process: Implementation, Outcomes, and Dynamics**  
Susan Foster  
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville  
Renewed reading wars highlight the need for increased understanding of how reading education policies are formed and transformed. This presentation offers a historical review and analysis of the reading education policymaking process, from policy enactment through implementation and outcome. This analysis reveals wide-ranging policy actors and media influences that shape reading education policies. Moreover, this analysis informs contentious public discourse surrounding reading achievement because variations in the way research-based ideas are implemented significantly impact policy outcomes. Findings include implications for future directions in the field of reading that are grounded in collaboration rather than political spectacle reminiscent of reading wars.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Administration  
**Location:** PAL Yates
168. 11:00 – 12:00
New and Notable Books for Grades K-8

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson’s Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois

This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: BOS Center B-11A

169. 11:00 – 12:00
A Messy Evolution with Pam Muñoz Ryan

Pam Muñoz Ryan
Author
Encinitas, California

Newbery Honor Recipient and New York Times Best Seller, Pam Muñoz Ryan, will discuss her diverse childhood in the San Joaquin Valley of California, her path to publishing, and her journey to writing Esperanza Rising, Becoming Naomi León, Riding Freedom, Paint The Wind, The Dreamer, Echo, Mañanaland, and Solimar. She will share research, publishing issues and her writing and editorial process. Up close and personal and Q & A.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11D

170. 11:00 – 12:00
The Joy of True Stories! Sharing Extraordinary People with Readers of All Ages

Sarah Aronson
Author
Chicago, Illinois

Tanya Lee Stone
Author
Burlington, Vermont

Nonfiction picture books are a fun and captivating way to introduce readers of all ages to extraordinary people who have shaped our world. These books are mostly read aloud in the elementary school classroom. But they can also play an important role in the middle school and high school classroom and library. At a time when student stress has reached an all-time high, these picture books can offer students a springboard to understanding literary foundations, research, corroboration, analyzing the nuance and balance between images and language, developing domain specific vocabulary, and exploring career pathways. Sarah Aronson (Just Like Rube Goldberg) and Tanya Lee Stone (Who Says Women Can’t Be Doctors?!?) will showcase several nonfiction picture books—their own titles as well as other authors’ work—and demonstrate how you’re never too old to learn something new!

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11C

171. 11:00 – 12:00
Teachers as Professionals, Teaching as a Profession

Matt Renwick
CESA 3, Fennimore, Wisconsin

We know that the teacher is the number one factor in student learning. So why aren’t teachers more empowered as agents of positive change in their classrooms? In this session, veteran educator and author Matt Renwick will offer strategies and resources for teachers and leaders to engage in equity projects: student-centered action research experiences. Outcomes include a greater sense of authority as professionals along with more joy and impact in classrooms.

Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-1
172. 11:00 – 12:00
What Does It Mean to be a Not Yet Teacher?

Peg Grafwallner
Educator/Author
Germantown, Wisconsin

Every learning challenge is an empowering opportunity to grow. Peg shares how teachers can help students celebrate the academic experience and all it has to offer. Learn specific ways to cultivate a not-yet classroom where productive struggle is encouraged, obstacles are valued, and students see themselves as capable learners and risk-takers. Peg will demonstrate how to design classrooms and routines that normalize productive struggle as part of the learning process. She will show you how to write and apply rigorous learning intentions and scaffolded success criteria that are student friendly, and finally we will discuss how to communicate with colleagues, students, and parents and guardians to foster positive relationships. (Based on Peg’s book: Not Yet… And That’s Ok: How Productive Struggle Fosters Student Learning.)

Audience: 4-12
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous

173. 11:00 – 12:00
What’s the Deal with the Science of Reading?

Andrew P. Johnson
Educator/Author
Minnesota State University
Mankato, Minnesota

Science of Reading advocates seem to be putting out a great deal of misinformation about reading instruction. Literacy experts are being ignored in favor of radio journalists. For-profit entities are promoting ideas that serve only to enhance their profit at the expense of our students. This presentation will explain exactly what the science of reading is and isn’t. It will provide a simple understanding of balanced literacy, the three cueing systems, evidence-based practices, eye movement during reading, word identification, word recognition, phonics instruction, phonemic awareness, direct instruction, and educational research.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

174. 11:00 – 12:00
Foundational Skills: The Building Blocks for Reading Success

Angela Cammarata
Zaner-Bloser, Ormond Beach, Florida

A robust body of research, known as the science of reading, tells us that systematic, explicit foundational skills instruction is crucial for students as they are learning to read and write. Although automatic and accurate word recognition skills are only one-half of Scarborough’s Rope, mastery of phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency are recognized as the best predictors of reading success (NRP, 2000). This session provides a deeper understanding of current research and effective instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency.

Audience: PreK-3, Admin
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-4
Sponsored by Zaner-Bloser

175. 11:00 – 12:00
Books for Struggling Readers Grades 5-12

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

Leslie Forsman
Triopia CUSD #27, Concord

Tambree Krouse
Edwards County High School, Albion

Meaghan Terry
SD #34, Silvis

The Struggling Readers Committee will share this year’s recommendations by IRC members of books that engage older struggling readers. Participants receive handouts that include titles, summaries, and reading levels and best practices for choosing books. Participants will be encouraged to share their own suggestions.

Audience: 4-12, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6

176. 11:00 – 12:00
The ABCs of What Readers Need: Access, Books and Conversation

Karen Biggs-Tucker
Wild Rose Elementary School, St. Charles

Are you looking for ways to engage your readers? If so, this session is for you! I will help you see that engagement of even your most reluctant readers can be as easy as A, B, C! Join the conversation about how we can help our learners grow into readers who will continue reading long after they leave our classrooms! Leave with a collection of ideas about developing a thriving literacy community and book recommendations that will be at the heart of it.

Audience: 4-6
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-2
177. 11:00 – 12:00  
Culturally Responsive Teaching in Literacy and Mathematics Instruction for ELs with LD  
Qingli Lei  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
This presentation focuses on supporting ELs with LD in literacy and mathematics instruction by equipping teachers with Culturally Responsive Teaching. Effective instruction scaffoldings are also discussed to create an inclusive learning environment for all students. This approach helps teachers support students from diverse backgrounds, ensuring effective learning for all.  
**Audience:** PreK-9  
**Strand:** English Language Learners  
**Location:** BOS Center B-3

178. 11:00 – 12:00  
May Evidence-Based Practices Be With You: Systematizing Foundational Literacy and the Science of Reading  
Neili Dobogai  
Savvas, St. Francis, Wisconsin  
Learners require access to high-quality language acquisition and word recognition skills to become college and career ready. Yet, data often shows a gap in both foundational skills and in comprehension. During this session, we will unpack critical elements about reading in the Illinois Literacy Plan and the strategies and routines educators can employ to build these standards/skills. During this session, we will cross walk evidence-based practices and routines relating to foundational skills and the Science of Reading. We will also address formative data, the importance of prerequisite skills, and learning objectives in connection with foundational literacy.  
**Audience:** PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Adults, Univ, Admin  
**Strand:** Science of Reading  
**Location:** BOS Center B-7  
**Sponsored by Savvas**

179. 11:00 – 12:00  
Accurate Agriculture, Powerful Stories, Diverse Voices  
Kevin Daugherty  
Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Bloomington  
Janice Harrington  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Join IL Ag in the Classroom and Illinois author Janice Harrington as they explore the value of teaching students about food and agriculture through literature while also celebrating the impressive and important diversity that allows us to get food on our tables every day.  
**Audience:** PreK-6, Lib  
**Strand:** Equity & Diversity  
**Location:** BOS Center B-9  
**Sponsored by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom**

180. 11:00 – 12:00  
Nonfiction Text, It’s Too Boring! Teachers, Let’s Change That!  
Tamara Springer  
CUSD #4, Clifton  
Nonfiction texts have often been thought of as dull. With the emphasis on teaching nonfiction increasing, teachers need to look into many avenues of teaching this genre. The importance of teaching nonfiction and its relevance to state standards will be discussed. This presentation will highlight assignments, projects, student presentations, and a handout will be provided.  
**Audience:** 4-9, Spec  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** BOS Center B-8

181. 11:00 – 12:00  
Book Chat Magic: Engaging Reluctant Readers Via Teacher-Led Book Chats  
Steven Layne  
Wheaton College, Wheaton  
Karsten Baldwin  
Wheaton College, Wheaton  
Maggie Bergevin  
Wheaton College, Wheaton  
This fast-paced session is designed to inspire and equip interested teachers with both the rationale and the actionable steps to deliver impactful book chats. The results of a field-based study in an urban and a suburban setting will be shared.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** BOS Center B-10

182. 11:00 – 12:00  
Building Strong Networks of Support  
Kimberlee Wagner  
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park  
Carrie Brockway  
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park  
Teachers thrive when they are the beneficiaries of a continuous network of support as they move from teacher preparation programs to the classroom, and then back to the university for continuing education. Come and find out ways one university and ROE are partnering together to create and cultivate collaborative relationships that support the professional development needs of teachers in the region –and find out how you can participate too!  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** Administration  
**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room  
**Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois**
183. 11:00 – 12:00
Coach Leadership: Strategies to Help Literacy Coaches Soar
Cathy Toll
Partnering to Learn, Green Lake, Wisconsin
This session will provide school and school district leaders with methods for supporting literacy coaches’ success. It will provide: 1) general findings about coaches’ needs; 2) strategies to further coaches’ insights; and 3) tactics that create transformational shifts in coaches’ partnerships with teachers.
Audience: Adults, Univ, Admin
Strand: Coaching
Location: PAL Ottawa AB

184. 11:00 – 12:00
Coaching to Facilitate Continuous Growth
Tracee Farmer
National Louis University, Lisle
Literacy coaches play a vital role within a school and/or district by supporting effective teaching with the goal of impacting student learning. Coaches must work collaboratively, meeting a wide range of needs from novice teachers to veteran teachers. Even with clear goals, coaches make daily decisions regarding what should be addressed immediately and what might be held back for future learning. This interactive session will focus on how to increase ownership within the coaching process, how to facilitate productive dialogue, and how to integrate reflection for continued growth that will support shifts toward more effective teaching.
Audience: Adults
Strand: Coaching
Location: PAL Altgeld

185. 11:00 – 12:00
Injustice and MG/YA Fiction: Reading to Inspire Hope and Social Action
Carol Saller
Illinois Author, Chicago
Barbara Gregorich
Illinois Author, Chicago
Middle-grade/young adult fiction is a rich and inspiring resource for teaching about social justice issues for readers. A well-researched novel can not only present historical and political facts in an inviting and even exciting context, but also provide role-model characters who form strong beliefs and take action. An exciting story - even science fiction and fantasy - can teach and inspire individuals to see injustice and contribute to a solution. Many issues facing the world today seem overwhelming and hopeless. Showing how one person can make a difference is a powerful way to give students hope and direction while encouraging a love of reading.
Audience: 6-12, Lib
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: PAL Freeport C

186. 11:00 – 12:00
Unlocking the Magic of Discussion
Amina Chaudhri
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago
Barbara Dillon
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago
Do you struggle to keep discussions alive in your literacy classroom? Wish your students could engage with text in a more meaningful way? Talking about text can lead to both self-discovery and a deeper understanding of the power of words. This hands-on workshop is designed to revive and energize conversation in your literacy classroom. In this presentation we share specific, proven protocols designed to spark powerful discussions about text among elementary and middle level students, and solicit your ideas about what works in your classroom.
Audience: PreK-9
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: PAL Yates

187. 11:00 – 12:00
Supporting Reluctant Middle School Readers
Kristin Richey
Westmont Junior High School, Westmont
This presentation is designed to provide educators with strategies to support their readers- specifically those who are reluctant. We will discuss ways to utilize class time to most effectively support students – as well as data collection, book recommendations, and more!
Audience: 6-9
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Bond

188. 11:00 – 12:00
Moving Students Forward: Interventionist Strategies for Tutoring Under Performing Students
Margaret Policastro
Roosevelt University, Chicago
Mark Valencia
Roosevelt University, Chicago
Noreen Wach
Roosevelt University, Chicago
Heather Cook
Roosevelt University, Chicago
This session will report on a university partnership that entails tutors working in schools with under performing students. There will be audience participation that highlights specifically promoting love, joy and passion for reading. Further, interventionists strategies that include developing student agency and self-efficacy will be featured. Examples of tutor to student feedback to move students forward in real-time will be featured. Also included will be a the development of students’ self-monitoring of their own learning. Examples of exit slips where tutors self monitor their learning will be promoted.
Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Freeport AB
Friday Luncheon

189. 12:15 – 2:00
Let’s Get Back to the Art (and Science) of Teaching Reading?

Timothy Rasinski
Educator/Author
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio

With the publication of the report of the National Reading Panel as well as the Common Core Standards, reading instruction has been viewed as a science. (i.e. SoR) Scientific inquiry has identified phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension as key critical reading competencies for students to master. While not denying the need for scientifically validated approaches to teaching reading, it is important to note that teaching reading is also an art – great teachers are both artists and scientists. Yet, the emphasis on the science of teaching reading has diminished artful approaches to reading instruction. In his presentation, Tim Rasinski will make the case that effective teaching reading is an art and science, and he will explore ways that reading can be taught as both an art and a science.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: PAL Ballroom

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award will be presented at the Friday Luncheon to Kevin Frederick

Award will be presented by Melissa Wheeler, Chair

Friday Luncheon

190. 12:15 – 2:00
Illinois Reads Author Luncheon

Join the authors of the 2024 Illinois Reads Books at the Friday Luncheon! Participants will get to have lunch with an Illinois Reads Author and receive a FREE Illinois Reads book (choices will be on a first-come, first-served basis). Following lunch, participants will spend the next hour moving from table to table, meeting other authors, and discussing their books. After the luncheon, there will also be an additional autograph session with the authors from 2:15 to 3:15 pm in the BOS Center Exhibit Hall. Books will be available for purchase at the luncheon and in the exhibit hall.

Audience: Ticket Required
Location: Wyndham Ballroom

Static Sticker Decal Contest Winner
Jameson Lundy
Moye Elementary School, O’Fallon, IL

Award will be presented by Kathleen Sweeney, ICARE

VISIT THE EXHIBITS

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Refreshments will be served from 9:00 – 10:00 AM and 3:00 – 4:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall

Illinois Reading Council
Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education
1:00 – 2:00 PM

Friday Lunch Session
191. 1:00 – 2:00
Discovering the Science of Reading: A Reporter’s Story

Emily Hanford
Senior Education Correspondent
for APM Reports
Washington, D.C.

Emily Hanford knew nothing about the “science of reading” six years ago. She was interviewing community college students who were telling her about their reading difficulties; they told her they’d never been taught how to read. She thought – what’s up with that? That started her on a journey to understand how children learn to read and what they need to be taught. Emily will tell the story of what she has learned and why it matters.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11A

192. 1:00 - 2:00
Nurturing Young Authors Creative Writing
Valencia Burney
Back 2 Basics Educational Consulting, Chicago

Research tells us that writing is the process of communicating with written language and it is more than tracing letters on a piece of paper. Writing begins with rich conversations, a shared read aloud and children having various opportunities to write about their experiences. Nurturing creative writing with young children starts with them learning how to write from the heart and then expressing it on paper or out loud for others to experience it.

Audience: PreK-3
Strand: Writing
Location: BOS Center B-1

193. 1:00 - 2:00
How to Build a Sound Wall Using a Scope and Sequence or Informal Assessment
Karyn Tomkinson
hand2mind, Vernon Hills

Are you wanting to implement a sound wall but you are unsure where to start? In this session, we will use a scope and sequence to build a sound wall. We will also look at informal assessments and how those can be used in upper elementary to middle school to identify sounds that aren’t yet mastered.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Admin, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6
Sponsored by hand2mind

HUNGRY?
The BOS Center Concession Stand is Open!

Purchase lunch and take it to one of the lunch time sessions planned from 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the BOS Center

Concessions are Open:
Thursday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
194. 1:00 - 2:00
Key Foundations & Ignite by Hatch: Nurturing Literacy through Engaging Play
Karen Venditti
Hatch Early Learning, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Audience: PreK-3
Strand: Technology
Location: BOS Center B-2
Sponsored by Hatch Early Learning

195. 1:00 - 2:00
Igniting Joy: The Critical Role That Knowledge Plays in Classrooms
Kylie Rymanowicz
Amplify, Brooklyn, NY
Three key ingredients that can create joy and fulfillment are curiosity, seeking expanded knowledge, and the continuous desire to learn. This session will provide you with strategies to give your students the understanding, skills, and insights necessary to learn and grow. The session is designed to serve educators who wish to build a solid foundation of knowledge that can fuel and amplify the learning process. It explores how knowledge acts as a catalyst, enhancing critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and overall academic performance. Participants will leave this session with a renewed appreciation for knowledge’s pivotal role in the educational journey.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-3
Sponsored by Amplify

196. 1:00 - 2:00
Skill-based Small Group Instruction: Where Do I Start?
Nicole Nelson
Learning A-Z, Cleveland, Tennessee
Trying to implement flexible, skill-based small group instruction into your classroom, but are feeling overwhelmed? You know to make truly impactful student growth requires intentional planning, research-based strategies, and meaningful practice, but you don’t know where to start. In this session, we will not only show you where to start, but also how to put it all together. Walk away with a framework that includes a planning template, recommended instructional strategies, and an easy to implement practice routine to grow students’ academic skills.
Audience: PreK-6, ELL
Location: BOS Center B-4
Sponsored by Learning A-Z

197. 1:00 - 2:00
Reading, Math, and Science ... Integrate, Don’t Segregate: All Content is Created Equal!
Yolanda Williams
The W.H.I.R.L. LLC, Covington, GA
This session is for 3rd - 5th grade teachers to experience the integration of reading, math, and science instruction and get more bang for their buck. The session will also discuss and demonstrate differentiation to support all learners. The hands-on session provides ideas on classroom management for integrated stations and centers, detailed small-group instruction, Lexile-leveled lessons, and much more! There is also a rotation simulation to get some brain stimulation!
Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-7

198. 1:00 - 2:00
RTI and Strategies for Struggling Students & Students with Characteristics of Dyslexia
Julie Joynt
EPS School Specialty, Alton
During the session in-depth information on the five critical steps that need to be addressed for an effective RTI strategy will be reviewed: awareness of the tiers, commitment, capacity, implementation, and evaluation. We will explore the importance of Phonological Awareness and how it is the “bridge” that connects speaking to reading and should be paired with phonics. Practical ideas and strategies for manipulating of phonemes, creating new words, and listening for word families will be presented to help you build your own successful program in support of young children with diverse needs – understanding one-size-does not fit all.
Audience: PreK-12, Spec, Admin
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-10
Sponsored by EPS School Specialty
199. 1:00 - 2:00
Cultivating Secondary Readers: Building a Vibrant Reading Culture in Middle & High Schools
Shannon Bosley
Reading Ways, Lakeside Park, KY

“Cultivating Secondary Readers” focuses on the foundational elements essential for fostering a robust reading culture in middle and high school settings. This session will guide educators through key components that are crucial in nurturing a love for reading among adolescents: Connections, Collections, Creativity and Consistency. Whether you’re initiating a new reading program or enhancing an existing one, this presentation will offer valuable insights and strategies to engage and inspire secondary students in the world of books. Join us to learn how to transform your school into a lively center for literary exploration and enthusiasm.

Audience: 6-12, Admin, Lib
Location: BOS Center B-8

200. 1:00 - 2:00
What Does the Science of Reading Mean for Content Area Teachers
Katie McKnight
Short, Short, Big, Antioch

Science of Reading research has become increasingly popular for raising adolescent reading comprehension in the subject areas. This research is based on the belief that literacy is a complex set of skills that need to be taught explicitly and systematically. When focusing on comprehension, Science of Reading research suggests that teachers provide explicit instruction in genre-specific strategies, such as summarizing, note taking and inferencing. By providing explicit instruction, modeling and scaffolding, teachers will be better equipped to help their students develop the skills needed to comprehend and analyze text. Specific instructional scaffolds and examples will be provided that are easy to implement and yield big results.

Audience: 4-12, Spec
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-9
Sponsored by Crossland Literacy and Short, Short, Big

201. 1:00 - 2:00
The Power of Complex Texts
Meg Edwards
Great Minds, St. Louis, MO

In this session, participants will learn a framework for reading complex texts. Participants will apply the framework in a collaborative study of the Depression-era photograph, “Migrant Mother” by Dorothea Lange. Participants will leave the session with a powerful process for reading complex texts with a range of learners.

Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Spec
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center VIP Room
Sponsored by Great Minds

202. 2:15 – 3:15
Success in the Mountains: How Appalachian Literacy Initiative Increases Student Reading Proficiency – And You Can, Too
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Author
Bristol, Tennessee

In 2018, in response to the very high child poverty rate where she lives and the correlation between poverty and reading level, Kim and a friend founded a nonprofit called Appalachian Literacy Initiative. In their sixth year they will give out over 50,000 books to low-income Appalachian students—and they’ve seen a 10% increase in reading proficiency for a cost of less than $35 per student. Come learn about the organization, the key elements of their success, and how you can adapt these elements to your classroom and school.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: BOS Center B-11D

203. 2:15 – 3:15
Connecting Mentor Texts with SEL Practices Across the Day
Lynne R. Dorfman
Educator/Author
Dresher, Pennsylvania

This session will explore key social-emotional factors in creating and sustaining a thriving community of readers and writers. Connections with mentor texts and SEL practices will be demonstrated through many examples at different grade levels and across the day. Lynne will provide a bibliography of books used in this session and samples of writing across the curriculum using mentor texts as a springboard to engage writers in grades K-8. Social and emotional education enables us to prepare students for the challenges that await them. Mentor texts provide many opportunities to write about what students know, care about, and want to share with others.

Audience: PreK-9
Location: Wyndham Rendezvous
204. 2:15 – 3:15
New and Notable Books for Young Adults

Becky Anderson Wilkins
Anderson’s Bookshops
Naperville, Illinois

This is a presentation of new and notable books recommended for classroom reading. A variety of genres, including picture books, poetry, fiction, and informational books will be presented, and books will be available for inspection.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11A

205. 2:15 – 3:15
A Messy Evolution with Pam Muñoz Ryan

Pam Muñoz Ryan
Author
Encinitas, California

Newbery Honor Recipient and New York Times Best Seller, Pam Muñoz Ryan, will discuss her diverse childhood in the San Joaquin Valley of California, her path to publishing, and her journey to writing Esperanza Rising, Becoming Naomi León, Riding Freedom, Paint The Wind, The Dreamer, Echo, Mañanaland, and Solimar. She will share research, publishing issues and her writing and editorial process. Up close and personal and Q & A.

Audience: All
Location: BOS Center B-11BC

206. 2:15 – 3:15
Classroom Environment: Can We All Just Get Along?

Valencia Burney
Back 2 Basics Educational Consulting, Chicago

The classroom environment is more than just setting rules, hanging them up and expecting young students to follow them all year long. Creating an environment where young students feel heard and are valued is about building family and community relationships. This is done by learning about the social and cultural contexts in which children live, selecting and using teaching strategies that empower young students and creating a community of learners where all are welcome.

Audience: PreK-3
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: BOS Center B-1

207. 2:15 – 3:15
Reclaiming Teacher Authority and Autonomy in the SOR Era: When Structured Literacy Becomes a Script

Paul L. Thomas
Educator/Author
Furman University
Greenville, South Carolina

Increasingly since 2013, states have adopted reading legislation identified as the “science of reading.” Since curriculum and instruction should be driven by classroom teachers, not media narratives, parental advocacy, or political mandate, this session examines key reading topics framed with current research to support teacher authority and autonomy.

Audience: All
Location: Wyndham Plaza 3

208. 2:15 – 3:15
How Adult and Family Readers Theater Engages Children and Families, Empowering Fluency and Fun!

Laura Mudd
ARTSiE Inc., Hanover Park

Jennifer Reynolds
Greenbrook Elementary School, Hanover Park

To provide an overview of ARTSiE’s Literacy through the Arts program by sharing teachers’ experiences using anchor texts to integrate reading with the arts and highlights from past programs, in particular last spring’s Adult and Family Readers Theater using Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe as the readers theater script. How to expand and deepen connections between home and school integrating literacy strategies through readers theater to strengthen child and family engagement, improving fluency and reading comprehension. Educator highlights include family readers theater dinners and workshops, artist collaboration and a final co-created readers theater dramatic reading performance.

Audience: PreK-9, ELL, Spec, Adults, Admin, Lib
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: BOS Center B-2
209. 2:15 – 3:15
Adolescent and Young Adult Novels that Help Support Social Emotional Learning
Gina Romer
SD #186, Springfield
Some students struggle in a regular classroom setting, and do better in an environment that is more conducive to their social emotional learning needs. Trauma, anxiety, stress, and depression, are a few of the reasons that might keep a child from succeeding in a regular classroom. SWIS is an acronym for “School With In a School” and is a program that helps serve these kinds of students. Within the literacy curriculum, certain novels are read that help build empathy, compassion, and love even amongst some of our most challenging students.

Audience: 4-9
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: BOS Center B-3

210. 2:15 – 3:15
Increasing Reading Achievement in Black and Brown Students with Diverse Literature
Kimberly Peterz
Homewood Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor
This presentation will define and present the impact of diverse literature on reading achievement and interest with Black and Brown children, present practical strategies to incorporate diverse literature in the classroom, provide examples and resources for getting started, and provide a time for reflection for the participant to determine next steps. The objectives of this presentation will be: To provide educators with the tools to determine what qualifies as diverse literature; To use diverse literature in the literacy block and support students of color to increase reading achievement.

Audience: All
Strand: Librarians
Location: BOS Center B-4

211. 2:15 – 3:15
Developing and Building Confidence in Phonics and Vocabulary with 3rd to 5th Grade Students
Jennifer Burchfiel
hand2mind, Dallas, Texas
Reinforcing vocabulary with the use of phonics skills through explicit, multisensory strategies will enable students to build confidence as they master important reading skills. Readers will acquire a toolbox of strategies to use to tackle unknown words that will lead them to greater comprehension and fluency. The gradual release process during small group instruction will allow readers to take charge of their learning and grow as readers.

Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: BOS Center B-6
Sponsored by hand2mind

FRI
DAY

212. 2:15 – 3:15
Going Beyond Phonics: Supporting High School Readers with Poor Decoding and Word Recognition
Cynthia Rousseau
Governors State University, University Park
Middle and high school students who struggle with poor decoding and fluency require targeted, age-appropriate interventions to improve their reading rate and accuracy. This presentation will include research-based instructional strategies for helping high school students improve their ability to decode multisyllabic words and improve their reading fluency. Strategies presented can easily be adapted across grade levels 6-12 and all content areas.

Audience: 6-12, ELL, Adults
Strand: Science of Reading
Location: BOS Center B-7

213. 2:15 – 3:15
Seventeen Habits of Highly Effective Readers
Kimberlee Wagner
Regional Office of Education 4, Rockford
You have heard what makes a highly effective person, but what makes a highly effective reader? In this session, we will examine what research and the world have had to say about the habits and characteristics of good readers. Why seventeen? Come to this session and find out!

Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Administration
Location: BOS Center B-8
Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois

214. 2:15 – 3:15
Maximizing Paraprofessionals in Early Elementary Literacy Classrooms
Carrie Brockway
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park
Unlock the full potential of paraprofessionals in PreK-2 classrooms! This dynamic workshop empowers educators with innovative strategies to maximize the impact of paraprofessionals on student learning. Explore research-backed approaches for effective collaboration, task delegation, and fostering a supportive classroom environment. Learn to tailor instructional support to diverse student needs, ensuring that paraprofessionals seamlessly integrate into daily lesson plans. Discover communication techniques that enhance teamwork between teachers and paraprofessionals, creating a harmonious learning environment. Walk away with a toolkit of practical ideas, resources, and actionable insights that will transform your classroom and elevate the educational experience for every young learner.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Spec, Adults, Univ, Lib
Strand: Administration
Location: BOS Center VIP Room
Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois
215. 2:15 – 3:15
Culturally Sustaining Read-Alouds: From Theory to Practice
Amanda Brown
SD #150, Peoria
Lindsay Bohm
SD #150, Peoria

With the increased focus on culturally sustaining practices in education, many of us have participated in professional development that provides an excellent theoretical overview. However, these sessions don’t provide practical ideas for how our instruction should change. Join us to learn how our district’s primary school teachers used Gholdy Muhammad’s pedagogical framework to write and teach thematic read aloud units. Each unit is centered on a picture book with learning targets that attend not only to skills but also student identity, intellect, criticality, and joy.

Audience: PreK-3, Lib
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-9

216. 2:15 – 3:15
Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Latinx Representation Matters
Melissa Wheeler
Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon
Julie Hoffman
Springfield Public Schools, Springfield
Jen Brooks
Illinois State University, Normal

Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Latinx Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black-owned independent book stores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!

Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-9

217. 2:15 – 3:15
Coaching Teachers Under Duress
Cathy Toll
Partnering to Learn, Green Lake, Wisconsin

Literacy coaches are eager to help their teacher colleagues, but sometimes the stress of teaching gets in the way of a strong coach-teacher partnership. This session will provide a brief overview on research related to teacher stress and then offer lots of practical strategies for coaches to use when the teachers they work with are under duress.

Audience: Adults, Admin
Strand: Coaching
Location: PAL Ottawa AB

218. 2:15 – 3:15
Developing Empathy: Changing the World Through Reading
Christy Moore
Taylor University, Upland, Indiana

Reading and discussing great literature can develop the deepest form of comprehension that has the power to transform our readers and the communities that they live in. Participants will observe how this can be done with even our primary students and is an authentic way to approach social and emotional learning.

Audience: PreK-6, ELL, Spec, Lib
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: PAL Altgeld

219. 2:15 – 3:15
Collaborating to Increase Reading Engagement in the Intermediate Grades
Katy Boehm
Scott School, Melrose Park
Victoria Dellinges
Scott School, Melrose Park

As a Media Specialist and a classroom teacher, we have implemented different strategies to motivate and engage students in reading while making students active participants in the process. We have found that students in third through fifth grade sometimes struggle to choose books and/or engage in reading for a variety of reasons. In this session we hope to share strategies we use in the classroom as well as the library to engage students in reading and goal setting, allowing students to have ownership and independence, and to foster a lifetime love of reading.

Audience: 4-6, ELL, Spec, Lib
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Bond

220. 2:15 – 3:15
A Child-Centered Approach to Intermediate Reluctant Readers: Tapping into Their Media Literacy to Increase Traditional Literacy
Beth Bacon
Author, St. Louis, MO

Many intermediate reluctant readers with low literacy levels have high levels of media literacy because of their online experience. They can quickly decode images; they are eager to interact with materials; they readily consume complex stories. In this talk, I will demonstrate how, as an author, I include media literacy elements in my books to reach older reluctant readers. I will explain how educators can harness children’s media literacy to improve traditional literacy. I will also introduce a reading list that can help bridge the learning gap of older literacy learners so educators can immediately apply this learning in their classrooms.

Audience: 4-6
Strand: Reluctant Readers
Location: PAL Freeport C
221. 2:15 – 3:15
What About L2 Writing?
Jocelyn Vazquez
Mannheim SD #83, Northlake
Currently, schools across the United States are looking for ways to improve second language (L2) writing. In their quest to improve their writing skills, they are drawing on a variety of teaching strategies to be successful since research suggests that their use is the key to improving L2 writing. Second language learners L2 writing test scores are not reaching the required standard to be considered proficient in the L2. Tests that evaluate students’ L2 writing evidently reflect that something is not right with students’ L2 writing instruction. The purpose of this study was to explore elementary language teachers’ understanding of writing strategies with second language learners (SLL). Using a qualitative method, specifically a phenomenological approach, semi structured interviews with second language elementary level teachers revealed that there is a need for more support in the availability of uniform resources to instruct second language writing. The findings highlighted effective strategies but also the need for more consistent and comprehensive support for language teachers in the area of second language writing instruction, including the development of more specialized curriculums and resources that are specifically designed for this purpose.

Audience: PreK-3, ELL, Admin
Strand: English Language Learners
Location: PAL Freeport AB

222. 2:15 – 3:15
Concept Attainment: Group Problem-Solving To Strengthen Inductive Reasoning
Patricia Rieman
Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin
Concept attainment fosters in students a strong sense of curiosity and engagement. Inductive reasoning is key as students generate hypotheses about which concept they are being shown examples of, and they predict whether the examples shown are exemplars or non-exemplars.

Audience: 4-12, Adults, Univ
Location: PAL Yates

223. 2:15 – 3:15
#ungrading: Humanizing the Gradebook & Letting Learning Take Center Stage
Jennifer Connolly
Granite City High School, Granite City
Learn how to go “gradeless” emphasizing learning over grades and feedback over ranking. I’ll share how I’ve been almost gradeless in the high school English classroom for the last four years. Inspired by Alfie Kohn, Jesse Stommel, and a host of other proponents of non-traditional grading, we’ll explore what grades are really for, whether they are necessary, and how we can better serve students through other means of evaluation. Take the leap and pilot your own version of ungrading with the tips and tricks presented here.

Audience: 6-12, Univ
Location: Wyndham Plaza 1
227. 3:30 – 4:30
Classrooms That Matter: Using PBL To Teach Literacy With Purpose
Terra Tarango
Van Andel Institute for Education, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Teachers want to connect literacy instruction to memorable, meaningful experiences that give an authentic context for learning, but who has the time!??! Discover how to implement project-based learning with cross-curricular content, collaboration options, and real-world connections. Explore specific literature-aligned PBL units and discover how to implement these projects in your classroom. Come ready to be that teacher students will never forget. Leave with lesson-by-lesson project ideas to make it happen.
Audience: PreK-9, Admin
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: BOS Center B-2

228. 3:30 – 4:30
From Research to Practice: Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction for the Secondary Classroom
Shannon Bosley
Reading Ways, Lakeside Park, KY
Join us to explore the Science of Reading as it applies to middle and high school education. This session focuses on transforming literacy instruction through the latest research, emphasizing the shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Discover practical strategies in disciplinary literacy, including explicit vocabulary techniques, fostering academic discourse, and using text sets to build knowledge across subjects. Learn how to integrate writing to reinforce comprehension and critical thinking. Ideal for secondary educators, this session provides research-backed methods to enhance literacy instruction and improve Tier I instruction for all students.
Audience: 6-12, Admin
Location: BOS Center B-3

229. 3:30 – 4:30
Increasing Student Engagement and Learning with Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards
Jaclyn Turner
Edison Middle School, Champaign
Melissa Wheeler
Mattoon Middle School, Mattoon
Learn about ISBE-issued Culturally Responsive Teaching & Leading Standards through collaborative exercises. Create and share instructional practices and supplemented curriculum materials in a digital community.
Audience: All
Strand: Equity & Diversity
Location: BOS Center B-10

230. 3:30 – 4:30
What Matters When Implementing Literacy Coaching for Disciplinary Literacy?
Susan Cangro
West Prairie CUSD #103, Good Hope
Secondary literacy coaches, 6th to 12th grade administrators, secondary content-area teachers, and university literacy professionals will not want to miss this! Topics include how schools can prepare for a secondary disciplinary literacy coach, best practices for disciplinary literacy coaching in support of content-area teachers, professional development ideas for collaborative learning, and how to effectively structure content-area reading classes. Findings from my dissertation research will show how we can move disciplinary literacy instruction forward in Illinois.
Audience: 4-12, Adults, Univ, Admin
Strand: Coaching
Location: BOS Center B-4

231. 3:30 – 4:30
CANCELED
Reading to Regulate - Fostering Healing Through Story
Victoria Dotson
Judson University, Chicago Public Schools
Maryjane Reilly
Relate Family Therapy and Counseling, Denver, CO
This presentation will take educators on a journey of understanding a trauma-informed literacy classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to gain understanding of psycho-education in the classroom through a literacy lens: discussion guides, strategies, and tools paired with authentic literature will empower empathy in the K-5 classroom.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
Location: BOS Center B-6

232. 3:30 – 4:30
The Needs of New Educators in Today’s Literacy Classrooms
Kimberlee Wagner
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park
Feeling overwhelmed in your first few years of teaching literacy? In this session, we will explore the must-knows for new teachers in literacy instruction, including phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. You will walk away with new ideas and resources for your toolkit, empowering you to instill strong reading skills and cultivate a lifelong love for learning in your students.
Audience: PreK-6
Strand: Early Career
Location: BOS Center B-8
Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois
### 233. 3:30 – 4:30
**Maximizing Paraprofessionals in Upper Elementary Literacy Classrooms**
Carrie Brockway  
Regional Office of Education #4, Loves Park  
Unlock the full potential of paraprofessionals in grades 3-6 classrooms! This dynamic workshop empowers educators with innovative strategies to maximize the impact of paraprofessionals on student learning. Explore research-backed approaches for effective collaboration, task delegation, and fostering a supportive classroom environment. Learn to tailor instructional support to diverse student needs, ensuring that paraprofessionals seamlessly integrate into daily lesson plans. Discover communication techniques that enhance teamwork between teachers and paraprofessionals, creating a harmonious learning environment. Walk away with a toolkit of practical ideas, resources, and actionable insights that will transform your classroom and elevate the educational experience for every learner.  
**Audience:** PreK-6, Spec, Univ, Admin  
**Strand:** Administration  
**Location:** BOS Center VIP Room  
*Sponsored by ROE 4’s Literacy Collective of Illinois*

### 234. 3:30 – 4:30
**Those Who Can’t Teach**
Shelley Kenow  
Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant, Albers  
Teachers and parents need to have the “know, like, and trust” factor with each other in order for our students to reach their fullest potential. Educators will learn how to build and cultivate this important factor with parents.  
**Audience:** All  
**Location:** PAL Yates  
*Sponsored by Shelley Kenow IEP Consultant*

### 235. 3:30 – 4:30
**Playing With Purpose!: Crafting Child-Led Centers That Leverage Play as a Vehicle for Standard-Aligned Learning**
Debby Spitzer  
Debby Spitzer Consultants, Forth Worth, Texas  
Play is a powerful instructional method for PreK that leads to rigorous learning for students across all backgrounds and abilities. This session takes a closer look at center time to explore ways that teachers can intentionally craft opportunities for child-directed play that hits on key early learning concepts and skills. Learn easy to implement strategies that guide student inquiry and cultivate meaningful play experiences with standard-aligned outcomes.  
**Audience:** PreK-3  
**Strand:** Equity & Diversity  
**Location:** PAL Altgeld  
*Sponsored by hand2mind*

### 236. 3:30 – 4:30
**Five Ways to Inspire Reluctant Adult Readers to Engage in Literacy**
Claudia Gates  
Elgin Community College, Elgin  
The presentation will discuss various methods to motivate adult learners in adult basic education courses to immerse themselves in reading activities. Participants will engage in exploratory activities to help them understand the challenges of adult learners and how to keep them enthusiastic about learning.  
**Audience:** 9-12, Adults  
**Strand:** Reluctant Readers  
**Location:** PAL Bond

### 237. 3:30 – 4:30
**Strategies for Contextualizing, Rather Than Memorizing Vocabulary for Students in Kindergarten Through Grade 12 For All Especially Multilingual Learners**
Kari Harris  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb  
Knowing vocabulary words is imperative to reading comprehension as a student will only comprehend to their level of vocabulary knowledge, especially for English Language Learners. However, the knowledge of what vocabulary words mean is only part of the process. Learning about parts of words (prefix, suffix, and root words), and how they come together to make up the English language can help readers understand words while reading. Attend this session to learn more about evidence-based vocabulary strategies that will help all learners, including multilingual/English learners contextualize, rather than memorize vocabulary. Strategies will cover Pre-Kindergarten through High School.  
**Audience:** All  
**Strand:** English Language Learners  
**Location:** PAL Freeport AB

### 4:45 – 7:30 PM

| 238. 4:45 – 5:15 PM | Annual Membership Meeting  
**Audience:** IRC Members  
**Location:** PAL Lincoln Room |

| 239. 5:30 – 7:30 PM | Preservice Teachers’ Pizza Party  
**Audience:** Tickets Required  
**Location:** PAL Ballroom |
Don’t miss picking up your GAME SHEET at the Registration Booth!

There are 20 Color-Coded QR CODES in the Exhibit Hall. Ask the EXHIBITORS to scan their QR Code AND get their OFFICIAL STAMP. After scanning QR Code, write the SECRET PHRASE into the matching Color-Coded Square.

Once the GAME SHEET is completed, return to the Registration Booth to be eligible to win ONE of TWO FREE REGISTRATIONS to be given away for the next IRC Conference.

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Thursday, March 14, 2024
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Complimentary Refreshments
9:00 - 10:00 AM
3:00 - 4:00 PM

Friday, March 15, 2024
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Complimentary Refreshments
9:00 - 10:00 AM
3:00 - 4:00 PM

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Hungry?

The BOS Center Concession Stand will be open in the Exhibit Hall.

Grab lunch and head to one of the lunch time sessions planned from 1:00 – 2:00 PM in the BOS Center.
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Joe Bauer
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Imagine Learning
Susan Jones
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President Abraham Lincoln Springfield, A Doubletree Hotel
Wyndham Hotel

MEZZANINE LEVEL

CONCOURSE LEVEL

29TH FLOOR
Bank of Springfield Center

Exhibit Hall on First Floor
Meeting Rooms in Lower Level
The Illinois Reading Council is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered attendees can earn one clock hour for each session attended. Please note that meal functions and other events are available for one (1) clock hour only. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight (8) clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit your clock hours for the sessions that you attended and/or presented at the conference via one of two options.

**OPTION 1 – ONLINE CLOCK HOUR FORM:** You can enter your Record of Sessions Attended and Conference Evaluation Forms via the online form at: https://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/IRC-Conference-Evaluation-Form.

**OPTION 2 – PRINT PDF COPY OF THE CLOCK HOUR FORMS:** You can print the Record of Sessions Attended and Conference Evaluation Forms prior to your arrival at the conference and drop off the completed forms at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall. The forms can also be mailed or faxed to the IRC Office within one week after the conference. The PDF Form is available at: https://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/assets/docs/Clock Hour Forms.pdf.

Please review your personal License Renewal Plan to determine which sessions fit. Be sure that your goals are broad enough to include a variety of literacy topics. The Illinois Reading Council is merely the provider. The responsibility for determining which sessions agree with your plan and are granted credits by your school district is yours.

The Illinois Reading Council will process the forms following the conference. Your clock hours will be entered directly into the ISBE PD Plus System. When entered, you will receive an email notification to log into your ISBE ELIS Account to complete the ISBE Evaluation Form through the ISBE PD Plus System. Once completed, you can print off your ISBE Evidence Form to keep for your records and your clock hours will be automatically added to your ISBE ELIS Account.
# IRC Record of Clock Hours Earned Form

**You must complete both sides of this form and place in an evaluation box.**

**Instructions:** Each registered participant must complete both sides of this form. This form must be signed and placed in an evaluation box prior to leaving the conference. Failure to complete this form or failure to turn it in may result in the loss of professional development credit. For each session attended, you must list the session number, the title of the session, and the presenter(s) name. As a presenter, you may also earn additional clock hours. Other activities may also be listed. **Participants earn one (1) PD hour per hour of participation at the conference. For meal functions and special events, only one (1) PD hour is earned for the presentation and not the meal or autographing. Following the conference, the ISBE Evidence of Completion Form with your verified clock hours will be mailed to registered participants.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session #</th>
<th>Title of Presentation</th>
<th>Name of Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
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<td>9:45 AM</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td>12:15 PM</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>___________________________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL HOURS EARNED:** ___________________________

*I state, to the best of my knowledge, that this form is true, correct and complete.*

Signature of participant ___________________________ IEIN # ___________________________

Name of participant *(Must be registered to earn PD hours)* ___________________________

Address ___________________________ City ___________________________ State ________ Zip ________

Email ___________________________ Phone ___________________________
HELP US PLAN FOR 2025

Please use this form to evaluate this year’s conference. Your reactions and suggestions are valued and will help us plan subsequent conferences with your preferences in mind.

Drop this in one of the evaluation boxes located at the Registration Desk (Thursday and Friday) OR complete the online form on the Conference App OR return to: Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8-2, Normal, IL 61761.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Item</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Overall, I was satisfied with the <strong>2024 Conference</strong>.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Conference offered a wide <strong>variety of speakers/activities</strong>.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Author/illustrator</strong> presentations were enjoyable.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Featured educational speakers</strong> were valuable &amp; relevant.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Teachers</strong> sharing their classroom practices were valuable.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Research-based</strong> presentations were valuable &amp; relevant.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Who would you like to see present at a future IRC Conference?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic/Area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact info (if available):</td>
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<td>8. I attended the Conference on (circle all that apply):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. I especially enjoyed this special event/program:</td>
<td>Strongly Agree</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Somewhat Agree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Wednesday evening <strong>Welcome Reception</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Thursday evening <strong>Hear the Authors Read</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Friday afternoon <strong>Illinois Reads Luncheon</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Other</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
10. In the Exhibit Hall, I would like the following products and services to be available: ________________  
______________________________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________________________  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Overall, the exhibits were helpful and informative.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. The complimentary refreshments were good.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. How much time did you spend in the exhibit hall?</td>
<td>1 hour or less</td>
<td>1-3 hours</td>
<td>3-6 hours</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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</table>

11. Additional comments or suggestions about presentations, special events and/or the conference:  
(Please remember that IRC has limited control over issues such as parking, hotel accommodations & service.)  
______________________________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________________________  

12. Please tell us about yourself.  

**Age Range:**  
- ___ 18-24  
- ___ 25-39  
- ___ 40-54  
- ___ 55 and over

| Distance Traveled: | ___ less than 100 miles | ___ 101-200 miles | ___ 201-300 miles | ___ 300 + miles |

**Years in Education:**  
- ___ 0-4  
- ___ 5-14  
- ___ 15-29  
- ___ 30 and over

**Distance Traveled:**  
- ___ less than 100 miles  
- ___ 101-200 miles  
- ___ 201-300 miles  
- ___ 300 + miles

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<th>Current Position (Select One)</th>
<th>Administrator:</th>
<th>Classroom Teacher:</th>
<th>Other:</th>
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<tr>
<td>___ Principal</td>
<td>___ Preschool</td>
<td>___ Pre-service Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Superintendent</td>
<td>___ K – 3</td>
<td>___ Title I/Remedial Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Curriculum Supervisor</td>
<td>___ 4 – 6</td>
<td>___ Reading Spec./ Lit. Coach</td>
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<td>___ Other: _________________</td>
<td>___ Middle/Jr. High</td>
<td>___ Gifted Teacher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>___ High School</td>
<td>___ Spec. Ed. Teacher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>___ Post Secondary</td>
<td>___ Librarian/Media Specialist</td>
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<th>Administrator:</th>
<th>Classroom Teacher:</th>
<th>Other:</th>
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<td>___ Preschool</td>
<td>___ Pre-service Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Suburban</td>
<td>___ K – 3</td>
<td>___ Title I/Remedial Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Small City</td>
<td>___ 4 – 6</td>
<td>___ Reading Spec./ Lit. Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ Rural/Small Town</td>
<td>___ Middle/Jr. High</td>
<td>___ Gifted Teacher</td>
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<td>___ High School</td>
<td>___ Spec. Ed. Teacher</td>
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<td>___ Post Secondary</td>
<td>___ Librarian/Media Specialist</td>
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<td>___ Speech/Language Pathologist</td>
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<td>___ Teacher Aide/ Paraprofessional</td>
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<td>___ Other _________________</td>
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The Illinois Reading Council invites you to join us for the 56th Annual Conference

March 13-14, 2025 Springfield, Illinois

Liberating Literacy
Embrace Love, Joy, & Empowerment

March 13-14, 2025 Springfield, Illinois

Featured speakers include

Laurie Halse Anderson
Liz Kleinrock
Kass Minor
Adam Peterson
Darius Phelps
Dan Santat
Amy Stewart

Duncan Tonatiuh
Julia Torres
Becky Anderson Wilkins
Alicia D. Williams
Kristin Ziemke
Illinois Reads Authors
And More To Come!

Interested in Presenting?

Program Proposals are being accepted online until September 1st!

Registration and Housing opens on October 1st!

For more information, visit the IRC Website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org