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# FVRC NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

## NOTE FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Teachers,

We've been thinking of you and hoping you are doing more than just surviving during these last few months of school, however you are teaching students. We know it's been stressful, yet you continue to rise above and be the best teachers you can be. Thank you!

We'd like to know what else we can do for you. We hope that continuing our professional development virtually with Wired Webinar discussions after IRC webinars, <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/wiredwednesdaywebinars.html>, and our Maria Walther & Karen Biggs-Tucker event on Nov. 14 (see below) allows you to gather with like-minded individuals and stay in-tune professionally. We are so excited to share their expertise with you and raffle off a few copies of their new book, *The Literacy Workshop: Where Reading and Writing Converge!* This event is FREE to members and is \$45 to non-members, but includes the membership to IRC and FVRC. These organizations provide all the benefits of being a member of Fox Valley Reading Council and Illinois Reading Council, including our professional development hour events, often for free, as well as IRC's Wired Webinars with famous authors and their outstanding Book Club discussions. Your ability to use us as a Domain 4 (membership in a professional organization) is just an added perk! Maybe you'd like to convince a friend to join and watch our event together. Let us know if we can help you in any way.

Don't forget that IRC is preparing for the Spring Conference and their website, [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org), is ready to take your registration and your housing reservation.

Additionally, maybe you can bring a little humor into our lives. Do you have some funny remote learning stories? Could you share some "Kids Say the Darndest Things" conversations?

Hang in there! We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Camille Lutz and Dawn Lutz, Co-Presidents FVRC

## BOOK REVIEWS:

 Accessibility

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 Fox Valley Reading Council

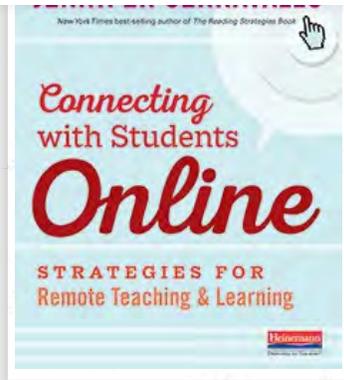
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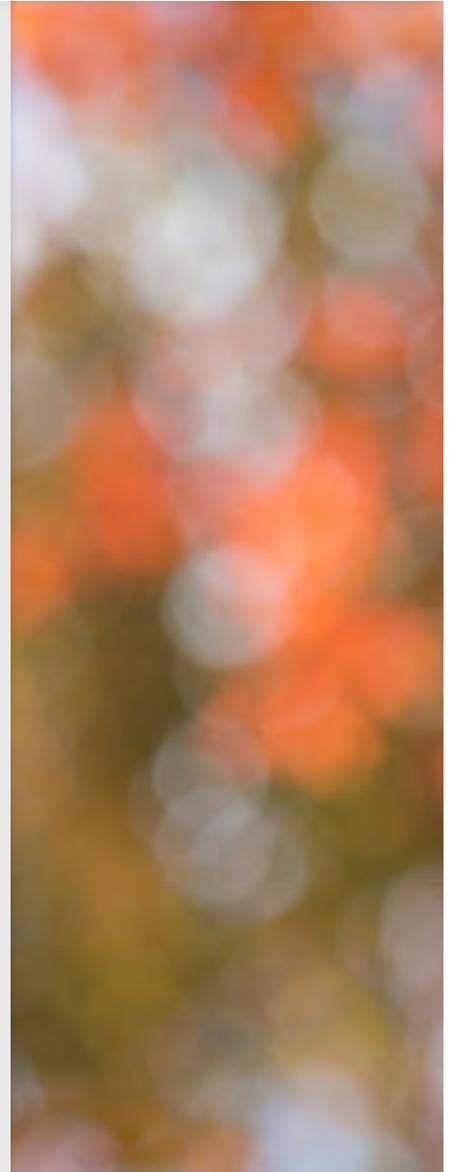
 Contact Fox Valley Reading Council



## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS ONLINE: STRATEGIES FOR REMOTE TEACHING & LEARNING BY JENNIFER SERRAVALLO

As always, Jennifer Serravallo writes with practicality for teachers in her new book. She shares tons of advice and support with plenty of details to help teachers make their way through this pandemic online. Her chapters range from cultivating relationships with students and their parents to planning and revising curriculum for online instruction, as well as managing your own time as a teacher. Serravallo also offers tech tips, strategies (e.g. how to give students access to paper books), and resources galore. One such tech tidbit is when Serravallo recommends the app Clips (an Apple product) to melt away your worries if you lack video editing skills. You can record two-to-five minute lessons and change the background, add captioning and animations, play with filters and special effects, add background music, set it to create automatic captions, and more. (Serravallo, 2020, 123.) There is access to online videos and resources through registering with Heinemann, the book's publisher. She and I hope the need for this book is short lived, but for now, it will certainly make your life easier. I strongly recommend *Connecting with Students Online* by Jennifer Serravallo.

Reviewed by Dawn Lutz





# A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING

The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team

ARSHAY COOPER



## A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING BY ARSHAY COOPER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FThePBuW-so>

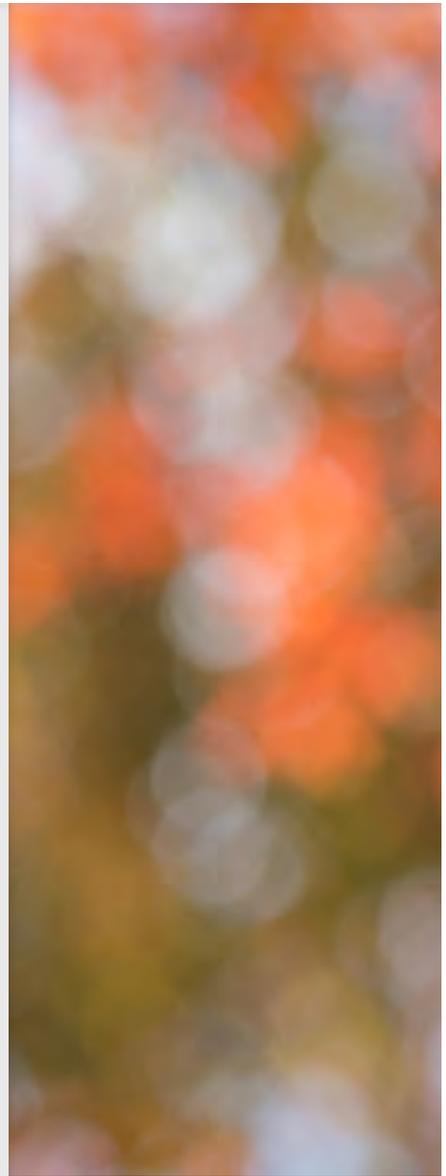
## DENISE MITCHELL'S REVIEW OF: A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING

In the midst of a Pandemic, radical unrest, and political uncertainty, this pick me up documentary is a must see and a must read. As teachers and coaches, we never know if and how we reach our students; does it go beyond the classroom? This documentary gives us answers...they listen...they learn and then apply the lessons to their lives. Not always in the way we imagine, but the students are better because of our efforts. These young men revisit their youth with a bond that brought members of rival gangs together. They bring to their families a new vision of what inner city neighborhoods can be with hope and a plan. There is a surprising twist at the end that brings a new perspective to solving the civil unrest in the city of Chicago. You will connect to these young men as they give us hope for the future in this time of uncertainty. Always remember you make a difference ...you help students find their voices.

## IL READS EVENT IN AURORA!



## IL READS-SANTORI LIBRARY EVENT



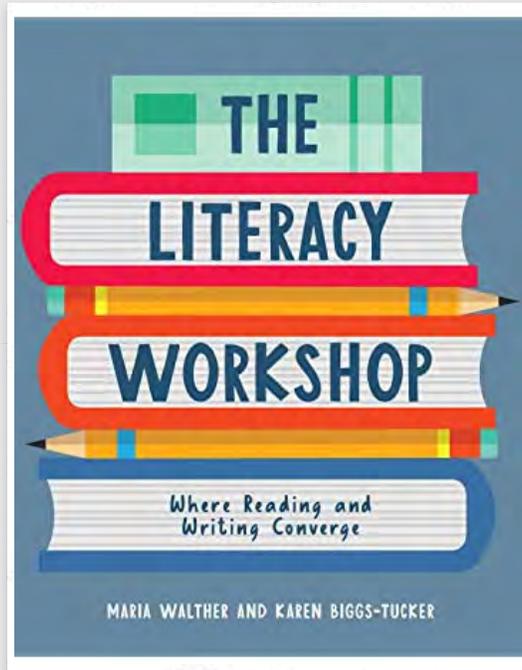


**WHERE**  
101 SOUTH RIVER STREET  
AURORA, IL

[Get Directions](#)

**MORE INFORMATION**

Come by and pick up books for your child with a drive-thru book pick up and goodie bags. This year's theme is Fortnite! Join the Fox Valley Board Members on [Zoom](#) for story time and hear children's books written by Illinois Authors.



## OUR WINTER EVENT IS QUICKLY APPROACHING! REGISTER TODAY!

So many benefits to becoming a member of FVRC! Free admission to most FVRC events, access to Illinois Reading Council webinars for free, meet like-minded professionals, and help with Domain 4 evaluation with membership to a professional organization!

## THE LITERACY WORKSHOP: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO INTEGRATING READING & WRITING INSTRUCTION, K-5

**WHEN**  
THURSDAY, NOV. 14TH 2019 AT 9-10:30AM

**WHERE**  
THIS IS AN ONLINE EVENT.



## WIRED WEBINARS BY CAMILLE LUTZ

I am sure by now that you all know about IRC's monthly Webinar series. But did you know that following each of those webinars there are Zoom discussions to chat/brainstorm ideas from all that is shared? This Zoom is hosted by your own Fox Valley Reading Council. Please consider joining us after the November 11th webinar with Clare Landrigan (poetry), December 2nd with Jon Scieszka, and/or January with Crystal Chan. Look for an email with the Zoom link the week prior to the webinar! Register online at [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org).



**Illinois Reading Council**

[www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

## WHO CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YOU CAN!

Information provided by Dawn Lutz

## STC L.E.A.R.N.: LEARNING EQUALITY AND RESOURCE NETWORK

Have you heard about this new non-profit (pending) organization that is raising money to help equalize learning in the D303 school district? Its goal is to help students close the gap in educational opportunities, especially during this pandemic. Its mission is to provide financial assistance to students needing support outside of the school environment to ensure ALL students can reach their highest level of academic achievement. Such support may include, but is not limited to, child care assistance, tutoring, academic enrichment opportunities, and school supplies for the home. With a simple referral form from a D303 staff, any family in need can apply for funding. Make a difference! Please visit the website at [www.stclearn.org](http://www.stclearn.org) or its FB page at [www.facebook.com/STCLEARN](https://www.facebook.com/STCLEARN)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DILIGENCE IN TEACHING

AND FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS

NEWSLETTER! HAPPY NOVEMBER! FVRC



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