

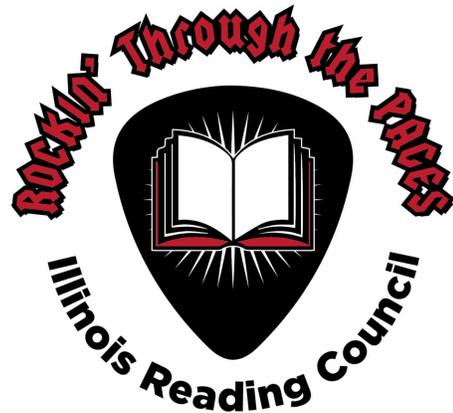


IRC CONFERENCE IS MOVING TO OCTOBER 19-20, 2021 IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) is working hard to move the 2021 IRC Conference. The new conference dates have slightly changed due to availability with the Springfield venues. The new dates for the

**2021 IRC Conference,
Rockin' Through the Pages,
will be October 19-20, 2021
in Springfield, Illinois.**



At this time, we are excited to share that Penny Kittle, Debbie Diller, Jan Richardson, John Schu, Lauren Tarshis, Carol Jago, Pernille Ripp, Brendan Kiely, Raúl The Third, Blue Balliett, Matt Tavares, Jeffrey Brown, Jacob Grant, Lynne Dorfman, and Alison Gordon are able to be there on October 19-20, 2021. We are still working to finalize plans with the rest of the speakers. We hope to have the updated Preliminary Program with the Conference Registration and Housing Forms open on the IRC Website by March 31.

If you are currently registered for the conference as an attendee or exhibitor, please note that your registration will be automatically moved to the new October 2021 IRC Conference. If you are signed up to present a session at the conference, your presentation will also be moved to the new dates. You will be receiving an email with the new date, time, and location of your presentation by March 1.

IRC is also reopening the [Call for Program Proposals](#) for others wishing to present at the October 2021 IRC Conference. Teachers, researchers, librarians, administrators, and others interested in promoting reading and related literacy areas are encouraged to submit program proposals. Please take a moment to review the 2021 Program Proposal format, general information, and criteria for selection that is available online. Program proposals are being accepted online at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org and due by **March 1, 2021**.

We hope to see you at 2021 IRC Conference! For more information, please contact the IRC Office at irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

LET THEM TALK

By Andrea Mear and Jessica Doneske

Teachers have a myriad of skills to teach, sometimes simultaneously, and regardless of the grade level being taught, all students will have to complete some form of analysis of key details. Oftentimes, immediately after we read we tend to jump right to the skill based questions, and we find that the students have already forgotten the key details. This is a result of students not having the opportunity to process and organize the important parts of a text. If we provide students the opportunity to quickly, yet efficiently, retell or summarize a text, then we can ensure that they understand the gist of what they have read before having them do something more complex.

Let them talk. Before we put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard, we need to give them the opportunity to

orally explore what happened in the text. Our struggling readers tend to shut down as soon as they are asked to write something, so if we provide them with the opportunity to talk about what they have read, they are more apt to participate because it is a low pressure situation. Students can use an organizer to help formulate their thoughts, but their response should be completely oral.

A bonus of having students retell or summarize a text before moving into skill work is that a teacher can catch any breakdowns in comprehension and provide feedback. If this becomes part of the reading routine every time students read a new text, then most likely, students will have done this routine more than 50 times before the end of a semester. As a result of the repetition and support from the teacher, students will start to retell or summarize any text without being asked because it has become a part of their personal reading routine.

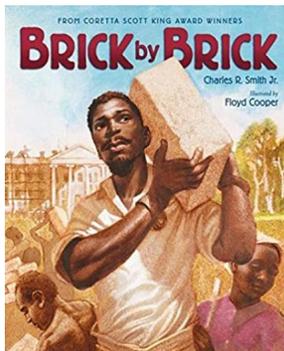
It can be beneficial to have some sort of manipulative to assist students in their oral processing of the text. A “retell rope” can be as simple as a pipe cleaner with multi-colored beads that correspond to each key detail, or it can be as complex as a digital summary line that has students drag different icons that match key details they are presenting.

The bottom line: A student can reread a page multiple times but may struggle with how to interpret the information they have just read. The purpose of the oral summary routine is that it is an additional support for your struggling readers. The benefit of making this process an oral routine is that it can be done anytime and anywhere. The power of doing this as a routine is soon the students will be doing this automatically every time they read a new text. This is a lifelong skill that will help them in any class and beyond the four walls of whatever their classroom may look like.

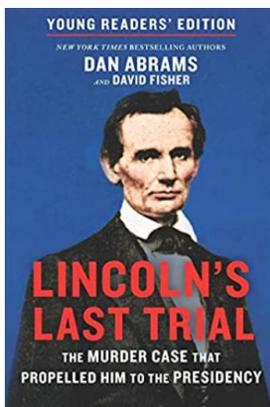
FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

Welcome to February, the shortest month of the year. We begin February by wondering if the groundhog will see his shadow. This will be followed by cheering for our favorite Super Bowl team, Valentine’s Day, President’s Day, Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year, and the monthly celebration of African American History month.

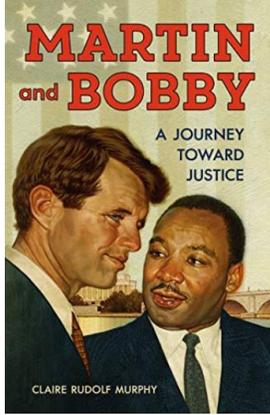


America has a new president. President Biden and his family have a new home, the White House, to live in. ***Brick by Brick*** by Charles R. Smith Jr. tells the story of how the White House was constructed and the part slave labor played in building this iconic home for America’s presidents. We learn about the pain and suffering of the slaves who were brought in from nearby plantations to assist the skilled European workers in building the White House. While the slaves had limited skills, many of them learned new trades and were able to earn enough money to “purchase their freedom” and move to other parts of America. *Brick By Brick* is told in poetic verse accompanied by the beautiful illustrations of Floyd Cooper, who gives a face to these unknown slave workers. *Brick By Brick* is a great read aloud and discussion starter on slavery, racism, etc., and would be an excellent addition to all libraries.

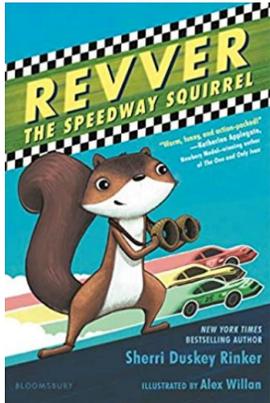


Lincoln’s Last Trial Young Reader’s Edition: The Murder Case That Propelled Him to the Presidency by Dan Abrams and David Fisher takes place at the end of summer of 1859 in Springfield, Illinois. Abraham Lincoln has been hired to defend the murder suspect – Simeon (Peachy) Quinn Harrison. The victim in this case, Greek Crafton, was an apprentice in Lincoln’s law office. Peachy was also the son of a close friend and supporter of Lincoln. This posed several personal challenges for Lincoln, especially since Lincoln was being considered as the nominee of the Republican Party for President of the United States. In order for Lincoln to win this case he needed to come up with the best defense possible and apply his best legal skills while all eyes were on him. The advent of daily newspapers allowed the nation to follow the trial as well. *Lincoln’s Last Trial* has many twists and turns and gives the reader a different look at who Lincoln was.

Martin and Bobby: A Journey Toward Justice by Claire Rudolf Murphy follows Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy during the final days of their lives before each was assassinated within two months of each other. While the men were not exactly friends, they became allies and continued to work for the same goals of fighting poverty and racism. Throughout the book the boxed notes and quotes along with the black and white photographs give a further insight into each man’s life. The back of the book includes a timeline, websites, and bibliography for further reference and reading. *Martin and*



Bobby: A Journey Toward Justice is an informative read; it also makes a good reference book for younger students of all abilities to help them understand MLK and RFK and the Civil Rights Movement, along with the anti-war (Vietnam) movement.



With the Daytona 500 scheduled for February 14, *Revver the Speedway Squirrel* by Sherri Duskey Rinker is the book to read. Revver, a young squirrel, lives with his family in a tree overlooking a racetrack. He has become fascinated by the speeding cars and the roar of their engines. Revver doesn't care about climbing trees, searching for food, and other squirrel chores. He'd rather spend his days at the racetrack. On the day Mother Squirrel tests Revver and his siblings to see if they're ready to leave the nest, Revver heads directly to the racetrack. While checking out the racetrack, Revver meets Bill, a member of a pit crew. Bill and Revver become friends and he helps Revver learn about racecar driving. Will Revver ever fulfill his dream about racecar driving? Start your "Reading Engine" with *Revver the Speedway Squirrel* to find out about Revver and to enjoy a delightful fun read on a cold winter day/night or weekend.

Looking Ahead

- February 1** – World Hijab Day
- February 2** – Groundhog Day
- February 3** – World Read Aloud Day
- February 11** – National Inventors Day
- February 12** – Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
Chinese New Year – Year of the OX
- February 14** – Valentine's Day
- February 16** – Mardi Gras
- February 15** – Presidents Day
- February 22** – George Washington's Birthday
- February 27** – Polar Bear Day

LITERACY LINKS

By the IRC Educational Media Committee

Take a moment to review some of the Literacy Links provided by the IRC Educational Media Committee to help Illinois educators in today's classrooms.

Reading Passage Resources

[BBC Newsround](#)

This online tool provides daily headlines and new articles with videos for current events. There are also vocabulary words and definitions related to the daily news. It is a very interactive resource to use with students of all ages, with quizzes, games and much more!

Interactive Resources

[Educaplay](#)

This website provides students with an assortment of educational games that help students develop a variety of skills. It integrates with Google Classroom, tracks students' progress, and allows students to engage in challenges with other students.

Web 2.0 Resources

[Mindmup](#)

This free online tool allows the user to create mind maps that allow for collaboration in real time. It also allows for incorporation of videos, spreadsheets and linking to files in Google Drive. This is a helpful tool for remote and hybrid learning.

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

Don't forget to take advantage of some upcoming PD opportunities planned throughout Illinois.

- **February 3, 2021: IRC Webinar** on A Virtual Book Gossip with Becky Anderson.
- **February 6, 2021: Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)** will host Literacy is a Political Act with David Stovall from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm via Zoom.
- **February 9, 2021: Secondary Reading League (SRL)** will host an Author Chat with Samira Ahmed from 6:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.
- **February 17, 2021: Central Illinois Reading Council** will host the monthly CIRC Book Chats on alternating professional books and literature topics from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.
- **February 22, 2021: Western Illinois Reading Council** will host Teaching in a Post-COVID Classroom with Grace Stevens from 7:00 to 8:30 pm via a virtual platform.
- **February 24, 2021: Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA)** will host Culturally Competent Teaching: The Power, Profile, and Place of the N-Word with G. Kwesi Logan from 6:00 to 7:30 pm via Zoom.
- **February 27, 2021: East Central-EIU Reading Council and National Road Reading Council** will host the Literacy & Learning Conference from 8:15 am to 12:20 pm at Eastern Illinois University, Buzzard Auditorium, 1920 9th Street, Charleston, Illinois.
- **February 27, 2021: Western Illinois Reading Council** will host Developing a Love of Literacy 3.0 where educators will present on many literacy topics from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm via Zoom.
- **March 3, 2021 IRC Webinar** on The Power of Wordless Picture Books with Matthew Cordell.
- **March 11, 2021: Will County Reading Council** will host the Spring PD Event from 5:00 to 8:30 pm at Lewis University, 1 University Parkway, University Dining Room, Romeoville, Illinois.
- **March 13, 2021: Illinois Reads Book Festival** will be held virtually. Please visit the Illinois Reads website for more information.
- **March 17, 2021: Central Illinois Reading Council** will host the monthly CIRC Book Chats on alternating professional books and literature topics from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom.
- **March 22, 2021: Western Illinois Reading Council** will host A Fresh Look at Phonics with Wiley Blevins via a virtual platform.

To view the full **IRC Events Calendar**, please visit the [IRC Website](#).

QUICK LINKS

[Visit the IRC Website](#)

[Full IRC Events Calendar](#)

[Latest on the IRC Conference](#)

[Available IRC Awards and Grants](#)

[Bring IRC PD to your School District](#)

Questions? Please feel free to reach out to the Illinois Reading Council by email at irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org or by phone at 309-454-1341.

See what's also happening on our social media sites:

