



# Communicator

EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

## IRC CONFERENCE IS MOVING TO MARCH 11-12, 2021 IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

By the Illinois Reading Council



Due to COVID-19, the IRC Conference, **Rockin' Through the Pages**, has been moved to March 11-12, 2021 in Springfield, Illinois.

IRC is in the process of updating the Preliminary Program including the registration form and hotel reservation links. We are currently working with our Featured Speakers to move to the new dates. For the Featured Speakers who can't join us on March 11-12, 2021, we hope to include them in 2022. IRC will also be emailing the presenters very soon to move their presentations to the March conference. IRC is working very hard to have the updated Preliminary Program posted on the [IRC Website](#) by the end of August.

If you have already registered, please note that your current registration will be moved to the March conference. If you have made a hotel reservation in Peoria, please remember to contact the hotel directly to cancel by August 15th.

For the March 2021 IRC Conference, the early registration and hotel reservation deadline will be February 5, 2021. For more information, please contact the IRC Office at [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org).

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## NEW LOOK FOR THE *IRC COMMUNICATOR*

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is excited to share a new look for its newsletters.

Starting in July 2020, the quarterly **IRC Communicator** and the monthly **iCommunicate** e-newsletter will be combined into one newsletter. Throughout the next year, members will find a new look evolving for the IRC website, logo, *IRC Communicator*, and much more.

IRC is also asking for members to once again share teaching tips, helpful hints, and/or short literacy articles on the following topics.

- **Digital Literacy** in September and October 2020 with articles due [September 5th](#).
- **Equity for All Learners** in November and December 2020 with articles due [November 5th](#).
- **Strategies for Struggling Readers** in January and February 2021 with articles due [January 5th](#).
- **Build Literacy Through a Balanced Approach** in March and April 2021 with articles due [March 5th](#).
- **Access High Quality, Diverse Books and Content** in May and June 2021 with articles due [May 5th](#).

**By September 1st** members are asked to email their intentions to submit an article to the IRC Office. Articles can be up to 400 words and must be submitted by the above due dates. If your article is accepted for publication, it will be featured in the *IRC Communicator*. Other accepted articles may also be shared through the IRC social media sites.

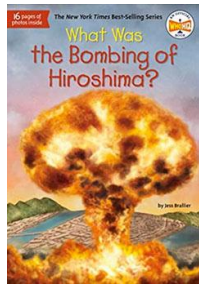
The **IRC Communicator** will also continue to be posted on the IRC website and through social media. For more information, please contact the IRC Office at [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org).

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# FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

Summer is slowly making its way towards autumn. Certainly the stores are reminding us that a new school year is about to begin – whether it is in person, hybrid or complete remote learning. This month we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave women the Right to Vote. It is also the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II with the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Family Fun Month and National Picnic Month are also among August's celebrations.

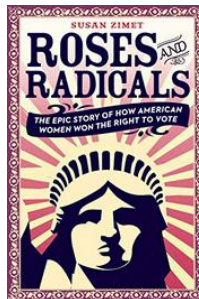


The war in Europe had ended. However, the war in the Pacific continued between the American and Japanese forces. ***What Was the Bombing of Hiroshima?*** by Jess Brallier tells the story of America's victories over Japan in the Pacific and also the development of the Atomic Bomb. With Japan's determination to fight and refusal to surrender, the President had to make the decision to use the atomic bomb to bring the war to an end. The book also explains what happened to the Japanese people as a result of the atomic bomb being dropped on the city of Hiroshima and a few days later on Nagasaki. *What Was the Bombing of Hiroshima?* includes a detailed timeline of events, bibliography, websites for further information, along with surreal black and white photos documenting this important event in history. This book makes a nice complement to Steve Sheinkin's book *Bomb: The Race to Build--and Steal--the*

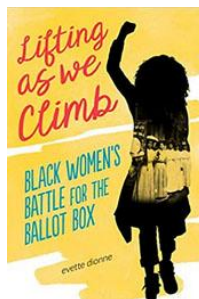
*World's Most Dangerous Weapon* and *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr.



***On the Horizon*** by Lois Lowry is a personal account and reflection of her own memories as a child growing up in Hawaii and Japan during World War II. Written in poetic verse the author takes the reader from the tragic day Pearl Harbor was bombed to the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the eventual rebuilding of Japan, and her return to Pearl Harbor Memorial with her own grandson. *On the Horizon* is not only a quick read but also a collection of poetic stories that express loss, grief, healing, and remembrance. The book covers the tragic events of World War II and lets your students/children see and feel the emotions of the real lives shared and expressed by Lois Lowry's beautiful and powerful memoir.



On August 18th, we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which gave women the Right to Vote. ***Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote*** by Susan Zimet and Todd Hasak-Lowy tells the story of the long struggle of American women to secure the right to vote. The authors explain how the suffrage movement led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony had its beginnings in abolitionism and the path the movement took. Sprinkled throughout the book are sidebars and vignettes of other important women who played a major role in the suffragette movement along with other major events that occurred during the same time period. *Roses and Radicals* is a good read and makes a nice introduction to the study of the suffragette period in American history.



Did you know that there was an equally strong African American women suffrage movement as well? ***Lifting As We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*** by Evette Dionne tells their story. The author gives a detailed description of the overlooked part African American women played in ending slavery and gaining the right to vote, but also to expand the rights of the African American lady. Many of these women suffered cruelties, even lynching, in pursuit of women's suffrage. While Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, and Mary McLeod Bethune are familiar names, there are many other women who took part in the movement that the author writes about. Additional information and little-known events are also highlighted in sidebars and vignettes. *Lifting As We Climb* is a necessary read and addition to any library.



For younger children ***What Is the Women's Rights Movement*** by Deborah Hopkinson is a nice read. A new series ***History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote*** by Kate Messner adds a bit of humor and graphic novel illustrations to tell the story. A nice read for your slower or special needs students/children.



# 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. Past links are also available on the [IRC Website](#).

## Interactive Resources

### [Educandy](#)

This free online tool allows you to create interactive games that can be used for formative assessments. There are multiple choice questions, matching, crossword puzzles, memory games and much more. There are even games that have already been created that can be accessed as well.

## Comprehensive Resources

### [Facing History and Ourselves](#)

This collection of educator resources includes a wide range of flexible, multimedia materials, from primary sources and streaming videos to teaching strategies, lesson plans, and full units. Find resources that will support remote learning, hybrid learning or in-class learning, whether it is about a complex moment in history or addressing today's breaking news.

## Web 2.0 Resources

### [Topmarks](#)

This interactive online resource has many activities and games for all ages and subject areas. This is a great resource for remote learning and in-class learning for students. There are many other resources to explore on this website.

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## UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

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

- **September 2, 2020: IRC Webinar** on Word Study that Works: Effective, Engaging, and Joyful Approaches to Phonics and Vocabulary Instruction planned with Tim Rasinski.
- **September 26, 2020: Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)** will host Fluency, Vocabulary, and Language featuring Tim Rasinski from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Chicago Literacy Alliance, 641 West Lake Street, Suite 200, Chicago, Illinois.
- **October 7, 2020: IRC Webinar** on History's Beating Heart: Tools for Making Historical Figures Come to Life with Kate Hannigan.
- **October 15, 2020: IRC** is accepting registrations for the Fall 2020 IRC Book Clubs for **Teaching Writing** by Lucy Calkins and/or **180 Days** by Kelly Gallagher and Penny Kittle.
- **November 11, 2020: IRC Webinar** on Using Poetry to Expand Content Knowledge and Structure Informational Text with Clare Landrigan.
- **December 2, 2020: IRC Webinar** planned with Jon Scieszka.
- **January 6, 2021: IRC Webinar** on Dark, Absurd Humor...for Dark, Absurd Times with Crystal Chan.
- **February 3, 2021: IRC Webinar** on Discovering the 2021 Illinois Reads Books with Becky Anderson.
- **March 3, 2021: IRC Webinar** on The Power of Wordless Picture Books with Matthew Cordell.
- **March 11-12, 2021: IRC Conference**, Rockin' Through the Pages, in Springfield, Illinois.
- **April 7, 2021: IRC Webinar** on The Literacy Lessons I Learned from Hamilton with Penny Kittle.
- **May 5, 2021: IRC Webinar** planned with Donalyn Miller.
- **June 2, 2021: IRC Webinar** on Literacy as the Foundation of Democracy & Social Justice with

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

Learn more about the Illinois Reads Program

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

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

