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

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About the Cover Artist

Laura Nyman Montenegro

Laura Nyman Montenegro is an award-winning author/illustrator of children's picture books. Her books include *A Bird About to Sing*, *A Poet's Bird Garden*, *Sweet Tooth*, and *One Stuck Drawer*. Laura teaches classes for adults in the art of making picture books at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and at Big Table Studio in Evanston, Illinois. She is a visiting author/illustrator at schools and universities and has served as a children's librarian and graphic artist at the Evanston Public Library. Laura believes that children are natural artists and storytellers who respond to the picture book world with gusto and insight and that the picture book art form is a rich and inviting world for story making and expression.

Please contact me at lauramontenegro@sbcglobal.net.

Front Cover: "We Dream the Sun"

Back Cover: *Top left:* "Flower Flower," *Top right:* "Wait for Me," *Bottom left:* "Sunflowers," and *Bottom right:* "Come Out, Come Out"

You can find more artwork from Laura on pages 22, 49, 61, 78, 85, and 86.



Mission

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.

Vision

The Illinois Reading Council advocates quality literacy opportunities for all learners and serves as a primary organization that provides educators at all levels access to research, materials, and methodologies to promote and teach lifelong literacy and learning. Support of an active, well-organized system of local and special interest councils and state committees provides a viable network for communication, exchange of information, and grassroots involvement of a diverse membership. The Illinois Reading Council's publications, special projects, conferences, and workshops stimulate the personal and professional growth of educators.

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