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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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Publication services for the IRCJ are provided by Sandra K. Larimer, Copy Editor, and Shanee J. Plate, Layout/Design. Maxine Freedman, Ryan Ziencina, and Anna Baumgartner are graduate assistants to Editor Roxanne Owens and Assistant Editor Erik Parsons.

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About the Cover Artist

Laura Diehl

Laura is a fantasy illustrator who loves painting scenes of glowing magic and cozy whimsy—with an aim to enchant and uplift. Coming from a midwestern childhood steeped in fantasy literature, she remembers papering her parents’ dining room wall with numerous crayon drawings of mermaids and unicorns. Her interest in art, specifically illustration, was a passion that continued throughout her schooling and eventually earned her a BFA in Fine Art (Painting) from James Madison University in 2006. She has since illustrated numerous book covers and other projects for clients such as Pearson Education, Lerner Publishing Group, and Mattel.

Currently, Laura’s greatest focus is on her own author-illustrator work. On her favorite art making days, she can be found in her sunny Virginia studio flanked by her fluffy Sheltie studio mates, writing lyrical poetry and illustrating wondrous visions from her own original fantasy worlds. Her visual medium of choice is “digital,” using Photoshop CC and a Wacom Intuos XL, which lends itself to the vibrant color and glowing light for which her work is known. Please enjoy more of Laura’s art at her website:

www.LDiehl.com

Front Cover: “Snowberry and Hare”
Back Cover: “Cup O’ Kindness”

You can find the poems that complement the cover art on pages 32 and 50, and another illustration of Laura’s can be found on page 80.
Join the Illinois Reading Council in celebrating the 2023 statewide literacy initiative! Six books have been selected in each age band from birth to adult! This is a great time to start planning a Family Reading Night, book club, author event, online visit, and more! Don’t forget to order bookmarks and posters today!

Visit our website for more information www.illinoisreads.org

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# Illinois Reading Council Membership

**Locations of IRC Local & Special Interest Council Regions by Counties**

The annual membership of $45 includes membership in the Illinois Reading Council and a local or special interest council. The annual preservice teacher membership is $75 for one who has not been certified in the teaching profession and is working toward an initial teaching certificate. Please select the council(s) you wish to join from the list below. Residence in any of the designated council counties you join is not required. If you join more than one local or special interest council at this time, each additional council is $15. Preservice teachers pay $5 for each additional council. IRC Membership comes with online access to the webinars, book clubs, **IRC Journal**, and more. The **IRC Journal** and other membership benefits will also be sent by email to you. If you wish to purchase a print journal, it is an additional $20 per year. Follow the steps on the front of this form.

## REGION 1
- **Northern Illinois Reading Council** - (Boone, DeKalb, Winnebago, Eastern Lee & Ogle)
- **Northwestern Illinois Reading Council** - (Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll)
- **Sauk Valley Reading Council** - (Eastern Whiteside, Henry, Western Lee, Ogle, Bureau)
- **Starved Rock Reading Council** - (LaSalle, Grundy, Kendall, Livingston, Eastern Bureau)

## REGION 2
- **Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)** - (Chicago Area - Cook County within the Chicago city limits)
- **Lake Area Reading Council** - (Western Lake, McHenry, Northwestern Cook)
- **Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA)** - (Eastern Lake, Northern Cook)

## REGION 3
- **Fox Valley Reading Council** - (Kane)
- **Prairie Area Reading Council** - (Western DuPage County)
- **West Suburban Reading Council** - (DuPage County east of Route 83 and those parts of Cook County west of Austin Boulevard excluding all areas within the Chicago city limits)

## REGION 4
- **Black Hawk Reading Council** - (Rock Island, Mercer, Western Henry & Whiteside)
- **Illinois Valley Reading Council** - (Stark, Putnam, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Eastern Fulton, Mason)
- **Mississippi Valley Reading Council** - (Adams, Brown, Pike, Scott, Greene, Calhoun)
- **Western Illinois Reading Council** - (Henderson, Warren, Knox, McDonough, Hancock, Schuyler, Western Fulton)

## REGION 5
- **South Suburban Reading Council** - (Those parts of Cook Co. bounded on west by Will-Cook Rd., north by 115th St., and/or Chicago city limits)
- **Two Rivers Reading Council** - (Kankakee, Iroquois, Northern Ford)
- **Will County Reading Council** - (Will)

## REGION 6
- **Central Illinois Reading Council** - (Logan, Menard, Cass, Morgan, Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery)
- **Macon County Reading Council** - (Macon)
- **MID-State Reading Council** - (McLean, DeWitt)

## REGION 7
- **East Central-EIU Reading Council** - (Moultrie, Shelby, Cumberland, Coles, Clark, Edgar, Douglas)
- **Illini Reading Council** - (Champaign, Piatt, Southern Ford)
- **Vermilion Valley Reading Council** - (Vermilion)

## REGION 8
- **Lewis and Clark Reading Council** - (Macon, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, Monroe, Washington, Clinton)
- **National Road Reading Council** - (Bond, Effingham, Fayette, Marion)

## REGION 9
- **South Eastern Reading Council** - (Lawrence, Richland, Crawford, Jasper, Edwards, Clay, Wabash, Wayne, White)
- **Southern Illinois Reading Council** - (Jefferson, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Alexander, Hardin, Pulaski, Massac, Jackson, Hamilton)

## REGION 10
- **CIRP** - (College Instructors of Reading Professionals)
- **ICARE** - (Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education)
- **ILLC** - (Illinois Language and Literacy Council)
- **ITA** - (Illinois Title I Association)
- **SRL** - (Secondary Reading League)