# ILLINGIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

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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 the toll-free number, (888) 454-1341, or 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. Erik Parsons is Roxanne Owens' Graduate Assistant for the journal.

There are two VERY important people behind the scenes of the journal I want to acknowledge. Sandy Larimer has been our copy editor for the past 16 years. She is the one who makes sure (literally) that all our "t"s are crossed and "i"s are dotted, our sentences are complete, our grammar is correct, and our citations/references match properly. Her attention to detail is unparalleled.

Shanee Plate has served as our graphic designer for the past five years. She takes illustrations such as the cover art and the other visual elements of the journal and lays them out to make them beautifully appealing.

Without the work of these two skilled experts our journal would not look nearly as professional as it does.

On behalf of IRC, thank you Sandy and Shanee for your work!

Roxanne Owens Editor





### About the Cover Artist

Irena Czusz is an illustrator and graphic designer who lives in Kraków, Poland. In her art, she seeks to bring back to reality the magical world of her childhood. Grandma's stories, dreams, holidays in the countryside, and experiences from her adolescence are the breeding ground for her creativity.

After many years of working as a creative graphic designer in advertising, she returned to what she loves the most. Irena combines many different techniques in her work, both traditional and computer-based, creating unique images while still looking for new ways of expression. She draws, paints, and designs book covers, but most of all, she collaborates with authors all over the world.

If her works touched you and appealed to your imagination, you can write to her or find her on Facebook.

E-mail: irene@imfrom.eu

*Front cover art:* "The Flowing Dream" *Back cover art:* "The Best Moments of Summer" You can find more of Irena's artwork on pages 53, 61, and 84.



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#### Birth-4

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