



SECONDARY READING LEAGUE

Back to School Edition 2026

Whether you are an early educator or a sun setter nearing the end or somewhere in between, the beginning of the school year is always an exciting time. New faces, fresh ideas, and a renewed energy for the classroom abounds! Hope springs eternal!

We at SRL are also busy getting ready for a new year of exciting opportunities - both professional and community based! thank you for being a part of this amazing group of educators!

Good luck this school year!

Your SRL Exec Board

Secondary Reading League is proud to announce the 2026-2027 Executive Board

President: **Thano Prokos**

Vice President: **Mara Southorn**

President Elect: **Kim Hollis**

Treasurer: **Renee Yunker**

Membership: **Kristen Walsh**

Secretary: **Brenda Engelhardt**

Social Media: **Kara Kennedy**

Newsletter: **Jennifer Lancaster**



**Join us for the SRL 47th Day of Reading featuring
Dr. Jenny French**

Breakfast and lunch
included

Secondary Reading League's

**47th Day of
Reading**





smore

Share

Accessibility

0

SRL members - \$170 (w/promo code in SRL newsletter)

Nonmembers - \$220

Register at:

DayofReading2026.eventbrite.com

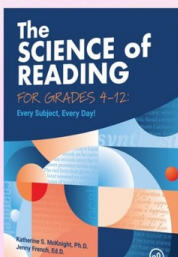
SPEND THE DAY WITH JENNY AND SRL

- How does the science of reading apply to adolescents?
- How can we support our learners with reading complex text in content area classrooms?
- How does writing fit into our content areas?

Jenny will spend the day with us exploring these topics and giving us classroom ready strategies.

DETAILS

- 5 ½ CPDUS
- Breakfast & Lunch included
- SRL SWAG!
- Workshop runs 8:30am -3:00pm
- Accommodations: EVEN Hotel Tinley Park; code - SRL



Secondary Reading League



WWW.Secondaryreadingleague.com



Be sure to register early for the best rates!

Registration fee increases on October 1, 2026.

SRL members are eligible for a special rate.

Look for your SRL Newsletter for the code.

Not a member yet? The non-member rate include a one-year membership to both IRC and SRL.

[Click Here To Register for the 47th Day of Reading](#)



**NEIGHBORS.
EMPOWERED.**

SRL Exec Board Volunteers in the Community

Help SRL give back to our community by volunteering with our Executive Board at the Northern Illinois Foodbank in Geneva, IL. (273 Dearborn Ct. Geneva, IL).

This year, we will also be sharing professional books that we are currently reading or found helpful. Join us for lunch at Pub 56 in Aurora, IL after our volunteering session for some camaraderie and professional sharing!

Volunteer Time and Date:

Saturday 9/12/26

Meet: @ 8:45 AM

Volunteering Session: 9:00 - 12:00

Lunch Time and Location:

12:30 PM

Pub 56 | 1555 Butterfield Rd, Aurora, IL 60502

Space is limited, so please register today!

Illinois Reading Council now has automatic membership renewal!

Take advantage of the new feature for IRC membership! By registering online, you can opt for auto-renewal saving time and effort! Keep your eyes open for this new feature!

Please submit your proposal to present for SRL at the 58th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference



Do you have a new or tried-and-true idea or concept to present? Did you try something new that turned out better than expected? Are you ready to step out of your comfort zone and share your experience with colleagues? Please consider submitting a proposal to present for the Secondary Reading League strand at the **58th Annual Illinois Reading Council Conference** which will be held at the Bank of Springfield Center and the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel on March 11 and 12, 2027.

Secondary Reading League will once again be sponsoring rooms that feature topics of particular interest to educators at the middle and high school levels. *When filling out the proposal, please be sure to check the box for the SRL strand so that you can present in our sponsored rooms.* Nearby the SRL strand rooms, you will find the SRL sponsor table with loads of information as well as a seating area for resting, recharging (both you and your laptops), and networking. Secondary Reading League is eager to learn from you!

[Click here to submit a proposal to present for SRL at IRC 2027](#)



Join educators from all over the state in the online **Fall 2026 IRC Book Club!** Choose one, two, or all three books!

Read, reflect on, and respond to ***War Games*** by Alan Gratz and/or ***Trauma-Responsive Pedagogy*** by Arlene Elizabeth Casimir, Courtney N. Baker, Nell K. Duke, and M. Colleen Cruz and/or ***Growing Language & Literacy*** by Andrea Honigsfeld.

Beginning October 18, educators will participate in online discussions for the next seven-weeks. With the ***War Games*** book club, participants will learn how to hold book clubs with their own middle grade classrooms based on this historical fiction novel about Olympic gold, Nazi gold, and a daring heist during the 1936 Berlin Olympics. With the ***Trauma-Responsive Pedagogy*** book club, participants will be provided an actionable guide that offers research and inclusive frameworks to help create a trauma-responsive classroom with the tools needed to support their students through challenges. With the ***Growing Language & Literacy*** book club, participants will choose between ***Growing Language & Literacy: Strategies for English Learners*** that provides K to 8th Grade Teachers with strategies to support EL students' academic language and literacy development based on the TESOL framework of language acquisition **OR** ***Growing Language & Literacy: Strategies for Secondary Multilingual Learners*** that provides secondary 6th to 12th grade teachers practical strategies to support adolescent multilingual learners across all grade levels and content areas.

[Click here to explore the Fall 2026 IRC Book Clubs](#)

IRC Webinars

September 2, 2026

Tim Rasinski

Vocabulary Instruction that Works: It's More than Word Lists

It's not enough for readers to be able to decode words accurately (phonics), they also need to know what those words mean(vocabulary). Too often, though, vocabulary instruction is relegated to word lists and worksheets. In this presentation Tim Rasinski will present actionable, artful, and engaging approaches to develop students' vocabularies and also their love of words and word study.



October 7th, 2026

Pamela A. Mason

Honoring our Learners: Formal and Informal Classroom Assessments

Teachers use formal assessments to gather screening, progress, diagnostic, and summative data about their Learners to inform their instruction. However, these assessments cannot capture all the ways in which the Learners make sense of written text. In this session we will discuss multiple ways to collect formal and informal data on students' literacy progress and how these strategies can add new ones to the numbers provided by standardized assessments, honoring the funds of knowledge that our learners bring to the classroom every day.

November 4, 2026

Barb Rosenstock

Real Life Revision Strategies

You and your students have sorted through ideas and produced rough drafts. What comes next? Revision! The "messy middle" during revision is the point at which many student (and adult) writers throw in the towel. but revision isn't just changing a few words or writing it again. Join children's author Barb Rosenstock as she presents practical techniques for turning drafts of any length into

great writing
consider the



Share

Accessibility

0

/ays, and

[Click here to register for an IRC Webinar](#)



SRL Executive Board

Dedicated to the needs of secondary teachers and students



Created with  **smore**

Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

Smore empowers educators to connect with their community, streamline school communications, and increase engagement.

[Create a newsletter](#)