

Secondary Reading League

Summer 2026

Summer Has Arrived!

The last paper has been graded. The last marker has been stowed away. The chairs are up. The lights are out! Summer Break is here!



Even as I am summer break, I find myself working on professional development, but this time it's of my choosing! And don't worry! There's plenty of fun squeezed in there so that I can recharge my batteries after a long and successful school year! SRL hopes that you, too, are finding the things that fill your bucket and refresh you.

In this issue of the **Secondary Reading League** newsletter, we will recap a few spring items as well as highlight some up and coming events including a few webinar opportunities and, of course, the 47th Day of Reading in October featuring Dr. Jenny French.

We hope you enjoy this installment of the Secondary Reading League's newsletter which is chock-full of recaps, updates, and save-the-dates!



Breakfast and lunch
included

Secondary Reading League's

47th Day of Reading



Jenny French

Friday, October 23, 2026

Tinley Park Convention Center
Tinley Park, Illinois

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

Nonmembers – \$220

Register at:

DayofReading2026.eventbrite.com

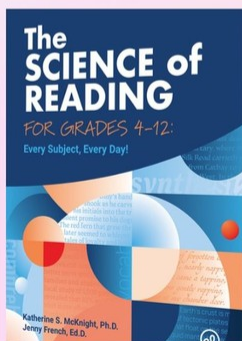
SPEND THE DAY WITH JENNY AND SRL

- 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

As an SRL member, you are eligible for a discounted rate.

Membership will be verified upon registration.

Please do not share this code with anyone else.

Check your newsletter in this space for the code or email us at srlexecboard@gmail.com for the code.

Click Here to Register for the 47th Day of Reading

Secondary Reading League is happy to announce the two grant recipients for the 2026-2027 School year! Each grant winner will receive \$500 to fund their project.



Alan Holtz: The Media Center's Manga Madness

The Valley View School District is excited to add 50 age-appropriate manga titles to its collection to engage middle school readers, particularly those who may be reluctant to read traditional texts. Manga's popularity, connections to youth culture, and rich cultural content make it an effective gateway to reading. Research shows that graphic novels increase library use and reading engagement while helping students build confidence, fluency, and stamina that often lead them to explore a wider variety of books. By expanding our collection, we are creating a more inclusive library where every student can find books that interest them and develop lifelong reading habits.



Jennifer Lancaster: Growing Readers

West Aurora High School is committed to building a cohesive experience for its students. This project aims to connect 3rd graders with sophomores to promote literacy and connections among students.

Students enrolled in the Sophomore Literacy Academic Resource Course (SLARC) will be paired with 3rd grade students from an elementary school in the district. Over the course of the year, each pair will correspond with each other in writing.

At the end of first semester, the sophomores will have learned about the 3rd grader through their correspondence and will select a book to read to the 3rd grader at an end of the year event. Throughout the second semester, sophomores will continue corresponding with their pal while practicing reading this book out loud to build fluency skills.

Near the end of the second semester, sophomore students will go to the elementary school for a final end of year celebration. At this celebration, each sophomore will partner with their pen pal and read a book to them. This book will be gifted to the 3rd grade

🌸🌸 *Spring Book Talks at Anderson's in Downer's Grove* 🌸🌸

Last April, SRL sponsored Spring Book Talks at Anderson's Bookstore in Downer's Grove. Downers Grove manager and book curator Kathleen March shared insights on several new young adult and adult titles that intrigued all who attended. Four lucky people won free books in the raffle at the end of the evening. The event was a success, and SRL is planning to hold another Spring Book Talk event at Anderson's next year! Keep an eye out for a save the date in early 2027!



Looking ahead to Professional Development - FREE WEBINARS!

**November 16, 2026****Reading Instruction & Intervention for Low Readers in Secondary**

What actually works when it comes to reading instruction? This session cuts through the noise to highlight the key elements of effective literacy instruction and what they look like in real classrooms. Educators will leave with a clear plan for supporting all students, including those with specific learning disabilities in reading, and free, ready-to-use resources to put it into action.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING
SOON!**

**January 13, 2027****Write to Learn: Strengthening Knowledge Through Content Writing**

Strong writing skills don't develop in isolation or in a single content area. They are built through consistent, meaningful opportunities to write across the school day. This session focuses on how to integrate writing into everyday instruction, so it functions as a tool for thinking and learning, not just a task to complete. Participants will examine practical, classroom-ready strategies for embedding purposeful writing, along with approaches that support student confidence and lead to stronger writing outcomes across subjects.

What is the SRL Executive Board Reading?

This month, our President Thano Prokos shares what he is reading. Check it out!



SRL IS READING...
AND YOU SHOULD, TOO!

Happy Head by Josh Silver

Josh Silver's *Happy Head* is a thrilling, edgy, dystopian interrogation of the self-care and wellness industry, particularly interested in the question of how wellness and superficial



happiness
models of



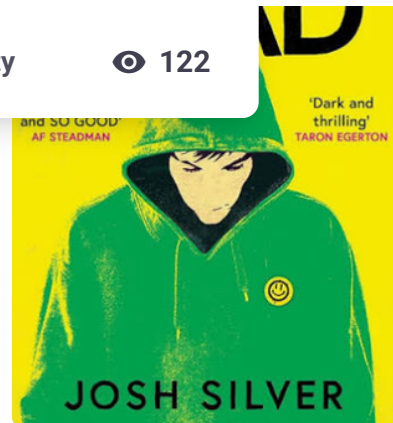
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Accessibility

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trouble-labeled teenager who is sent to Camp Happy Head against his will in order to re-form him into the cheerier, more idealized son his parents wish they had. Along the way, Seb meets allies and enemies, finds romance he wants, and romance he doesn't want, and discovers that the Happy Head agenda expands past a week of psychological conversion.



A fast read with relatable, emotional imagery, *Happy Head* really hits its stride in the second half. Josh Silver's story is a great steppingstone from books like *The Hunger Games*, and a solid option before reading books like *Brave New World*. If you enjoy this book, check out its follow up in the *Happy Head* duology, *Dead Happy*.

SECONDARY READING LEAGUE

JOIN OUR TEAM

47th Day of
Reading

We are looking for
people to help plan
and support SRL's
Day of Reading.

Please email us to
express your
interest!

We can't wait for
your help!



EMAIL US AT:
SRLEXECBOARD@GMAIL.COM