

# SECONDARY READING LEAGUE

September 2026

🍎 And away we go! 🍎

Whether this school year will be one of your firsts, one of your lasts, or somewhere in the middle, we all start our year with optimism and excitement. We look over our class rosters and dream of the possibilities. Soon enough, the days will become challenging, the workload will increase, and we might begin to lose the shiny luster of a new school year.

Before that happens, rely on your colleagues and friends here at SRL to keep you encouraged! Each issue will share a professional and personal book recommendation. Use those to spark your imagination!

And...consider joining your fellow colleagues at the **47th Day of Reading with Dr. Jenny French** for a full day of inspiring yet practical ways to support readers in the content areas.

Have a fabulous school year. If you ever have questions or would like to see something specific addressed in this newsletter, please [email me](#)! This newsletter is for you! Thanks!

Jen Lancaster

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

Breakfast and lunch  
included

Secondary Reading League's

### 47<sup>th</sup> Day of Reading

### Jenny French

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**SRL members** – \$170 (w/promo  
code in SRL newsletter)  
**Nonmembers** – \$220



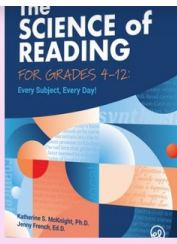
**Friday, October 23, 2026**

Tinley Park Convention Center  
Tinley Park, Illinois

**SPEND THE DAY WITH  
JENNY AND SRL**

## DETAILS

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



- 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.



Secondary Reading League

[WWW.Secondaryreadingleague.com](http://WWW.Secondaryreadingleague.com)

**REGISTER  
NOW**

**Be sure to register early for the best rates!**

Registration fee increases on October 1, 2026.

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](#)

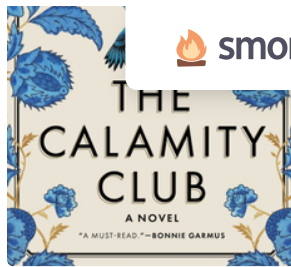


☁️ **IMAGINATION INTERLUDE** ☁️



**The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett**

Kathryn Stockett, author of *The Help*, returns with *The Calamity Club*, a sweeping historical novel set in Oxford, Mississippi, during the Great Depression. At its heart is eleven-year-old Meg Lefleur,



with Birdie Carroll, an outspoken young woman who travels to Oxford seeking help for her struggling family, and Charlie, a woman determined to survive despite the circumstances stacked against her.

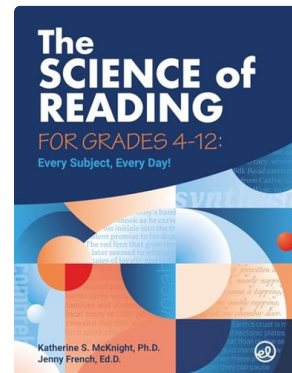
What makes the novel particularly compelling is the way these women, and Meg, form an unlikely community. Their relationships become a story of resilience, friendship, found family, and women finding ways to exercise agency in a society that offers them very few choices. The novel also provides a window into the economic hardship, social hierarchies, misogyny, and racism of 1930s Mississippi. The novel invites readers to consider how voice, circumstance, social class, gender, and power shape the choices available to individuals. Meg's perspective is especially interesting because she is a young character navigating circumstances far beyond her control while using humor, intelligence, and storytelling to maintain her sense of self.

At more than 600 pages, this is definitely a commitment. The story takes its time developing its characters and relationships; however, the richly developed characters and increasingly complicated plot make the length worthwhile for readers who enjoy immersive historical fiction.

## INSTRUCTIONAL INSIGHTS

### The Science of Reading for Grades 4-12: Every Subject, Every Day!

Dr. Katie McKnight and Dr. Jenny French offer a wealth of practical, research-based strategies that support all aspects of adolescent literacy. These reading dynamos bring creativity, energy, and positivity to everything they do—and this text is no exception. Katie and Jenny provide a clear, literacy-focused framework filled with routines and strategies that energize classrooms, inspire meaningful learning, and are easy to implement across content areas. Their approach helps both teachers and students stay engaged and committed to learning. They aren't called *Engaging Learners* for nothing!



Click [HERE](#) to purchase your own copy!

Then, bring the text with you to SRL's 47th Day of Reading with Dr. Jenny French!

### 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



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](#)



### Professional Learning Opportunity with IRC

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

**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

Barb Rosen



Share

Accessibility

94

### 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, learn how to write like a reader, use word counts and word banks in new ways, and consider the visual shape of a draft.

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



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