



Empowering Lives Through Literacy

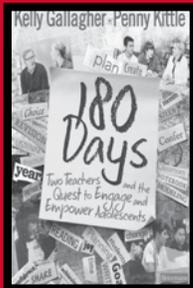
CONFERENCE PREVIEW

October 1 - 2, 2020
Peoria, Illinois



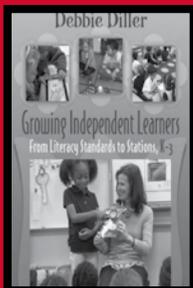
PENNY KITTLE

Penny Kittle teaches freshman composition at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. She was a teacher and literacy coach in public schools for 34 years, 21 of those spent at Kennett High School in North Conway, New Hampshire. She is the co-author of *180 Days* with Kelly Gallagher, and is the author of *Book Love* and *Write Beside Them*, which won the James Britton award. She also co-authored two books with her mentor, Don Graves, and co-edited (with Tom Newkirk) a collection of Graves' work, *Children Want to Write*. She is the president of the Book Love Foundation and was given the Exemplary Leader Award from NCTE's Conference on English Leadership. In the summer Penny teaches graduate students at the University of New Hampshire Literacy Institutes. Throughout the year, she travels across the U.S. and Canada (and once in awhile quite a bit farther) speaking to teachers about empowering students through independence in literacy. She believes in curiosity, engagement, and deep thinking in schools for both students and their teachers. Penny stands on the shoulders of her mentors, the Dons (Murray & Graves), and the Toms (Newkirk & Romano), in her belief that intentional teaching in a reading and writing workshop brings the greatest student investment and learning in a classroom.

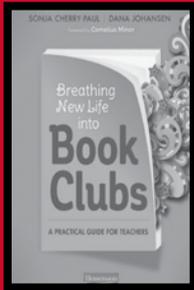


DEBBIE DILLER

Debbie Diller, a national consultant and author, has been an early childhood/elementary educator for over 40 years. Debbie uses her experience as a classroom teacher, Title I reading specialist, and literacy coach to teach others about sensible, realistic ways to meet the differentiated literacy needs of all students in the classroom. She is known for her groundbreaking work on independent learning, small group instruction, and classroom design and has authored many books, videos, and an online course which are widely used in classrooms and universities throughout North America. Debbie's latest book series, *Simply Stations*, was inspired by her work in classrooms (and a dream!) to answer the question, "How do I provide meaningful practice for the rest of the class when I'm meeting with a small group?"

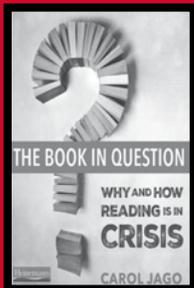


For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org



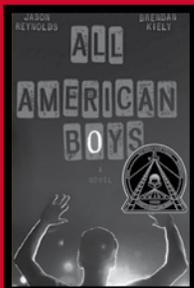
SONJA CHERRY-PAUL

Sonja Cherry-Paul's research and work stem from an unyielding commitment to anti-bias and anti-racist pedagogy and practices. As a middle school English teacher for 20 years, Sonja developed curriculum that centered the work of racial literacy in K-12 schools. She co-founded the Race Matters Committee in the school district in order to spotlight and center issues related to race and racism and provide faculty and staff with the language and tools to facilitate conversations with students about race. Sonja is the co-founder and co-facilitator of the Institute for Racial Equity in Literacy. She is an author, consultant, and senior research associate at Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Sonja is the co-facilitator of the Heinemann Fellows and the co-author of three books published by Heinemann: *Teaching Interpretation: Using Text-Based Evidence to Construct Meaning*, *Flip Your Writing Workshop: A Blended-Learning Approach*, and *Breathing New Life Into Book Clubs: A Practical Guide for Teachers*.



CAROL JAGO

Carol Jago has taught English in middle and high school for 32 years and is associate director of the California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA. She served as president of the National Council of Teachers of English and chair of the College Board's English Academic Advisory committee. She has published many books with Heinemann including *The Book in Question: Why and How Reading Is in Crisis*. She is also author of *With Rigor for All: Meeting Standards for Reading Literature* and *Cohesive Writing: Why Concept Is Not Enough* and published books on contemporary multicultural authors for NCTE. Carol edits *California English*, the journal of the California Association of Teachers of English, and worked on the planning committee for the 2009 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Framework and the 2011 NAEP Writing Framework. She is a consulting author on the new Into Reading and Into Literature programs from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



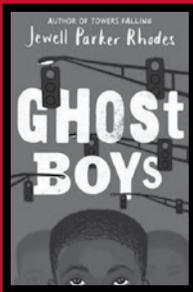
BRENDAN KIELY

Brendan Kiely is co-author with Jason Reynolds of the young adult novel, *All American Boys*, which won the Coretta Scott King Honor Award and the inaugural Walter Dean Myers Award for outstanding children's literature in the young adult category. Brendan is also the author of the novel *The Gospel of Winter*, which has been published in ten languages and was selected as one of the American Library Association's Top Ten Best Fiction Books for Young Adults 2015 and named a Kirkus Reviews selection for Best of 2014. Brendan's latest young adult novels are the highly acclaimed *The Last True Love Story* and *Tradition*. Brendan attended The City College of New York where he earned an MFA in creative writing. Brendan found his enthusiasm for young people working at a high school in New York City for ten years before becoming a full time writer. These days, Brendan lives with his wife in Greenwich Village.



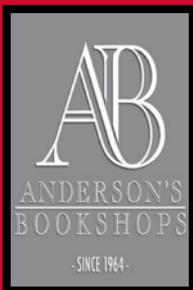
RAÚL THE THIRD

Raúl The Third (a.k.a. Raúl Gonzalez) is the Pura Belpré Medal award-winning illustrator of the dynamic graphic novel, *Lowriders to the Center of the Earth*, as well as the other graphic novels in the series, *Lowriders in Space* and *Lowriders Blast from the Past*. His most recent book, *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market*, is a Mexican-American makeover of Richard Scarry's *Busytown*, which teaches readers simple words in Spanish. Growing up in El Paso, Texas, Raúl loved reading comics. On Sundays, when his father sent him to buy the *El Paso Times* at the 7-Eleven, Raúl would head right for the spinner racks and thumb through the *Ralph Snart Adventures* and *Bucky O'Hare*. Raúl loved to draw, too, but he didn't always have access to art supplies. At fifteen, Raúl got a job at Bill's Coins, Cards, Stamps & Comics, but it wasn't until high school that his love for drawing truly blossomed. Raúl was a huge fan of *Lowrider* magazine, especially the fan art usually created with BIC pens, which became (and still are) his tools of choice. These days, Raúl lives with his wife, Elaine, and son, Raúl the Fourth, in Medford, Massachusetts.



JEWELL PARKER RHODES

Jewell Parker Rhodes has always loved reading and writing stories. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she was a voracious reader as a child. She began college as a dance major, but when she discovered there were novels by African Americans, for African Americans, she knew she wanted to be an author. She wrote six novels for adults, two writing guides, and a memoir, but writing for children remained her dream. Now Jewell has published five children's books: *The Louisiana Girls Trilogy of Ninth Ward*, *Sugar*, and *Bayou Magic*, *Towers Falling*, and most recently the *New York Times* bestseller and #1 Kids' Indie Next Pick *Ghost Boys*. When she's not writing, she's visiting schools to talk about her books with the kids who read them, or teaching writing at Arizona State University. Jewell has received numerous honors including: the American Book Award, the National Endowment of the Arts Award in Fiction, the Black Caucus of the American Library Award for Literary Excellence, the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Outstanding Writing, and two Arizona Book Awards.



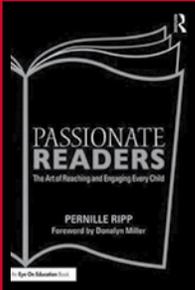
BECKY ANDERSON WILKINS

Becky Anderson Wilkins is the co-owner of Anderson's Bookshops and Anderson's Bookfair Company in Naperville, Downers Grove, and La Grange, Illinois. She has been a children's literature consultant and book buyer for over 25 years. Her family business was awarded the Pannell Award in 2015 for the Best Children's Bookseller in the nation and the Publisher's Weekly Bookstore of the year in 2011. She is the past-president of the national American Booksellers Association and past president of the Association of Booksellers for Children (ABC) and the Great Lakes Booksellers Association. Her love of reading and placing the right book in the right child's hand is apparent in her co-founding of Naperville Reads, a community-wide reading program and Andrea's Angels, a program that has distributed over 900,000 new and used books to disadvantaged children.



JOHN SCHU

John Schu (a.k.a. Mr. Schu) has built a career out of advocating for the people and things he cares about most: kids, books, and the libraries — and librarians! — that connect them. He was named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker for his dynamic interactions with students and his passionate adoption of new technologies as a means of connecting authors, illustrators, books, and readers. He has served on numerous American Library Association committees, including the Newbery Award selection committee; inspired a new generation of librarians as a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University; and shared his love of reading with countless educators and students as the Ambassador of School Libraries for Scholastic Book Fairs.



PERNILLE RIPP

Since Pernille Ripp was a child growing up in Denmark, she knew she wanted to work with kids. She began her journey in education as a math resource teacher, then transitioned into the classroom as a 4th and 5th-grade teacher, and has now found her home as a 7th-grade English teacher in Oregon, Wisconsin. Pernille is also a speaker, author, blogger, mom, and passionate advocate for education. She's an award-winning speaker in literacy and technology integration, and dedicates her life efforts to uplifting engaged and empowered students. She is also the founder of The Global Read Aloud that has connected millions of students in more than 85 countries. Pernille's books and blogs are sources of tremendous inspiration and insight for teachers, parents, and educators around the world with her newest book, *Passionate Readers - The Art of Reaching and Engaging Every Child*. Pernille is also the author of *Passionate Learners - How to Engage and Empower Your Students*, *Empowered Schools*, *Empowered Students*, and *Reimagining Literacy Through Global Collaboration*. She believes in having the courage to change and even break the rules for the good of kids and education. Besides being with her own family, there is no place she would rather be every day than in the classroom, teaching her awesome students.



ILLINOIS READS

Don't miss the popular Illinois Reads Speed Dating Event that is planned again for the 2020 IRC conference. Participants will be able to join authors from the 2020 Illinois Reads Books for a happy hour speed dating experience! The Illinois Reads Book List for 2020 should be announced in early 2020. This 90-minute event will bring you face to face with four of the Illinois Reads Authors. You will choose your four-author rotation at the door (rotations will be on a first-come, first-served basis). Participants will spend the hour moving table to table, meeting authors and discussing their books. Participants will receive a book from one of the authors. Appetizers and nonalcoholic drinks are provided with your registration fee and a cash bar will be available. There will be an autograph session with the authors from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m., followed by an hour of meeting the Illinois Reads Authors (ten minutes with four of the authors). Illinois Reads books will also be available for purchase at this event.

