



News from

The Chicago Area Reading Association

Supporting literacy learning since 1957

February 2019

Message from the President



Dear CABA Colleagues,

The polar vortex gave us all a chance to stay home and read! But, did your students? Did you know according to Pew Research Center (Rainie & Perrin 2015) that 28% reported never reading after high school? I came across this information in Pernille Ripp's latest book *Passionate Readers*. She also tells us "Unless we make it our personal mission to inspire students to reengage with reading, to fall in love with text and discovery...create passionate reading environments, then it does not matter what program we use; it will never be enough."

Join us as we explore ways to engage all readers as thinkers. You can still register for our workshop with renowned speaker, Dr. Alfred Tatum, Dean of Education and Director of the Reading Clinic at the University of Illinois at Chicago as he discusses student engagement with an emphasis on textual access, equity, and lineage. Hear about the critical role you and literacy can play in helping students find their voice and define their identity

Then on March 7 we welcome Illinois Reading Council's **Patricia Tylka**. She will provide us with the current thinking on vocabulary instruction and the **importance of playing with words**. Try out new purposeful ways to build vocabulary knowledge and student engagement. Patti is also the founder and coordinator of Illinois Reading Council's online book club. You can participate with teachers from all over the state in a seven-week book club for 15 PD clock hours.

Saturday, March 16 is the *Illinois Reads Book Festival* at Waukegan High School. Many of the Illinois Reads authors will be present for book signings. The day is filled with fun literacy events. Visit the [Illinois Reads](#) website for details and 2019 book selections.

Start planning now for our all-day institute with **Stephanie Harvey on May 16!** Her books: ***Strategies that Work 3, Comprehension and Collaboration, From Striving to Thriving, and her Comprehension Toolkits*** are invaluable resources and changed my teaching life. Check out her [website](#). In addition to viewing small vignettes of her thinking and teaching, there are lots of resources including an article on content literacy and the hand out from her Researcher's Workshop: Inquiry Across the Curriculum presented in Hawaii, November 2018.

Although *World Read Aloud Day* was February 1, you can go on the website ([litworld.org](#)) for a great list of suggested read alouds organized by genre. On the *Read, Write, Think website* you can take part in the **National African American Read-In** sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Teachers of English. In addition, the National Education Association has a valuable list of lessons and resources as we celebrate Black History Month.

Finally, I can't urge you enough to register for Dr. Tatum. His expertise and emphasis on adolescent black males are too important to miss!

Barbara Kent

Upcoming Events

February 6

Wired Wednesday
Webinar with Patricia Starks Howard: **I Like Me! Building Self Esteem in Black Students Through Children's Literature**

February 23

Dr. Alfred Tatum at
Northeastern Illinois
University's Center for
College Access and
Success

March 6

Wired Wednesday
Webinar with Kate
Roberts: **A Novel
Approach: Striking a
Balance Between Whole
Class Texts and Student-
Centered Teaching**

March 7

Playing with Words:
**Building Vocabulary is All
Fun and Games,**
Professional Learning Event
with Patricia Tylka

May 16

From Striving to Thriving, a
full-day professional learning
Institute with Stephanie
Harvey



Engagement → Equity → Excellence

A Workshop with Dr. Alfred Tatum
author of *Fearless Voices*

Saturday, February 23, 2019 – Note Date Change due to Weather!
9:00am – 12:00 pm

NEIU's Center for College Access and Success

770 N Halsted Street, Chicago – the corner of Chicago and Halsted – enter on Chicago

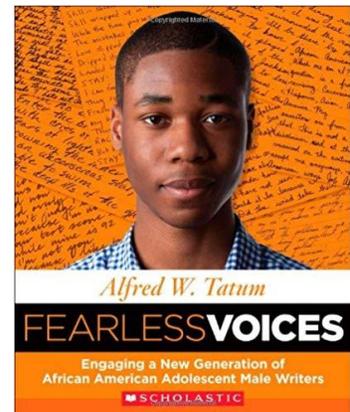
Earn 2 clock hours

Light Breakfast Included with Registration!

[Register now](#)

Alfred W. Tatum, Ph.D., is the Dean of the College of Education and Director of the UIC Reading Clinic, University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the author and academic advisor of Scholastic's high school reading and writing program ID voice: vision: identity. Dr. Tatum has authored over 60 publications, including *Fearless Voices: Engaging a New Generation of African American Adolescent Male Writers*.

Jim Burnette of Grace Educational Resources will have copies of Dr. Tatum's book for purchase, and Dr. Tatum will sign books after his presentation.



CARA Elections will take place in February and March! In-person nominations will be accepted at our February 23rd professional learning event. Please consider running for a position on CARA's Board of Directors! Click [HERE](#) to submit a nomination!

CARA Awards

Check out awards for teachers, literacy leaders, and administrators on CARA's website! Click [HERE](#) for more information and applications.



Upcoming Events



Engagement → Equity → Excellence

Playing with Words:

**Building Vocabulary is All Fun and Games
with Patricia Tylka**

Thursday, March 7

5:00 – 8:00 pm

**Vanderpoel Humanities Academy
9510 South Prospect Ave, Chicago**

Join us for an evening of fun and professional learning!

Dinner Included!

Earn 2.0 Clock Hours

[Register Now](#)



Engagement → Equity → Excellence

From Striving to Thriving

with Stephanie Harvey

A Full Day of Professional Learning with Stephanie Harvey!

Thursday, May 16

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Earn 6 Clock Hours

**Roosevelt University Schaumburg Campus – Alumni Hall
1400 N Roosevelt Blvd, Schaumburg, IL 60173**

Light Breakfast and Lunch Included with Registration

[Register Now](#)



Teacher Talk

from Kiwana Brown



Teacher Talk is a monthly column in the CARA Newsletter for sharing ideas or strategies with other teachers. This month’s featured columnist is Kiwana Brown, School-Wide Reading Specialist and Literacy Coordinator at Evanston Township High School and an adjunct professor in Literacy, Leadership and Development at Northeastern Illinois University.

Strategy – Content Free Questions

Good readers ask questions all the time while reading. Not only is it a way to actively engage with the text, but it is also useful in comprehending what is read. Readers should question the text before, during and after reading. One way to question text is through Content Free Questions (Caldwell & Leslie, 2013). Content Free Questions are general questions that can be applied to narrative or expository texts (for inference and application). The purpose of Content Free Questions is to help the reader comprehend the text more completely through questioning the text and providing an objective for the reading, serve as a guide for teachers to scaffold supportive discussions with students and give students a way to think about the text.

| Content Free Narrative Questions Examples | Content Free Expository Questions Examples |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is the main character? Why do I think so? 2. What do I predict will happen next? Why do I think so? 3. What is the theme of the story? 4. How is this story connected to me? 5. What surprised me about this story? 6. Evaluate this text in relation to other texts you have read. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the topic of this selection? 2. What did I learn? 3. What do I already know about this? 4. What surprised me? 5. What are some new words that I have learned? 6. Defend how you would deal with a similar situation as the main character. |

Give it a try!

From Kiwana Brown, CARA Board Member

Caldwell, J. S. & Leslie, L. (2013). *Intervention strategies to follow informal reading inventory assessment: So what do I do now?* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

If you would like to share an idea or strategy, please send it to Joyce Jennings, joyce.jennings@comcast.net. All contributions are due the first Friday of each month.



Spotlight on Technology

Spotlight on Technology is a new feature of the CARA Newsletter! We welcome our monthly columnists, Drs. Becky McTague and Linda Pincham, both faculty members of Roosevelt University. We look forward to their sharing ideas for teacher to incorporate technology into their instruction.

Padlets



My life has become easier with the use of Padlets in my classroom. So, what is a Padlet? A Padlet is a free online or digital “bulletin” board used by teachers and students to share assignments, links, You Tube videos, files, images, and many other resources. Teachers and students can also collaborate and reflect using Padlets. Users create a customized wall with a URL, so it becomes their very own.

With the use of Padlets, my classroom has become virtually paperless when it comes to student submission of major assignments. All students have their own Padlet where they post individual assignments. I can provide immediate feedback or assessment on each assignment. I can even upload scored rubrics when needed. I also use Padlets for each unit of study to post resources, such as You Tube videos, images, activities, and links. Doing this has prevented the over use of issuing paper copies to each student. Padlets can also be used for reflection, Do Now, and closure activities where students can individually or collaboratively respond to a topic.

Students have created personal Padlets to display various projects, like book reports, biographies, and other topics of research. They find Padlets easy and convenient to use, and they love how they can customize their Padlet with the various selections and choices of background or wallpaper.

To learn more about Padlets, check out our Padlet link at <https://padlet.com/lpincham/w9v1a2lewox3>

Not a Member?

Don't miss out on CARA News and Events! Join CARA and Illinois Reading Council today to ensure that you have access to all the wonderful professional learning opportunities!

- Discounted registration fees to all CARA and IRC events, including conferences!
- FREE members-only access to IRC's Wired Wednesday Webinars – great PD, and you can participate in your PJs at home! AND you can earn free clock hours!
- FREE members-only access to IRC's Book Clubs – great online book discussions with other teachers about some of the seminal professional books in literacy, and another PJ PD opportunity! AND free clock hours!
- Information about upcoming events from professional organizations throughout the state

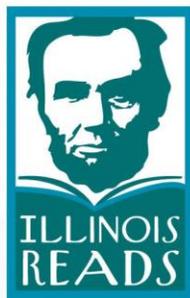


Join Now



Save the Date

Northeastern Illinois Reads Book Festival



March 16, 2019

Waukegan High School-Brookside Campus

Mark your calendars for this FREE event!
Meet your favorite Illinois Reads authors
Join us in a celebration of reading and writing!
Enjoy arts, crafts, and fun for the whole family

Free

Visit www.illinoisreads.org for more information



If you have photos of CABA events to share, please send them to Joyce Jennings, joyce.jennings@comcast.net, so that we can include them in future newsletters.