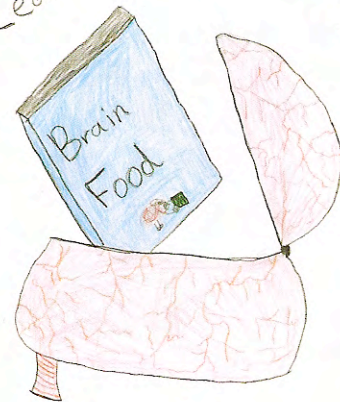


ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



Reading is good for you.





ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



ISSN #1082-555X

Editor

Kathy Barclay
Western Illinois University

Assistant Editor

H. Jon Jones
Western Illinois University

Associate Editors

Laurel Borgia
Pam Campbell
Angela Ferree
Pamela Terry Godt
Elizabeth Hommel
Melissa Stinnett
Western Illinois University

Carol Owles
Illinois State University

Ronda J. Mitchell-Brown
Millikin University

Laurie Elish-Piper
Northern Illinois University

Jennifer Berne
Sunday Cummins
Sophie Degener
Ruth Quiroa
National-Louis University

Summer 2009

Volume 37, Number 3

Editorial Advisory Board

Jennifer Aldred-Berry
West 40 ISC #2, La Grange Park, IL

Tamby Allman
St. Xavier University, Chicago, IL

Brenda Bertino
Troy School District 30C, Plainfield, IL

Ilyse Brainin-Goodman
National-Louis University ARDDP/CPS, Park Ridge, IL

Diana Brannon
Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL

Debra Sue Coet-Hanna
Sangamon County Regional Office of Education #51, Springfield, IL

Boomer Crotty
Joliet Junior College and District 86 Lynne Thigpen
Elementary School, Joliet, IL

Sunday Cummins
National-Louis University, Lisle, IL

Bonnie Diamond
Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102, Buffalo Grove, IL

Demetra Disotuar
Skokie School District 73.5, Skokie, IL

Lori Fanello
Regional Office of Education, Loves Park, IL

Peter J. Fisher
National-Louis University, Park Ridge, IL

Sandra Gandy
Governors State University, University Park, IL

Mary Gardner
Oregon CUSD 220, Oregon, IL

Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley
Champaign Unit 4 Schools, Champaign, IL

Paulette Goodman
Naperville CUSD 203, Naperville, IL

Sherelene A. Harris
Chicago State University, Chicago, IL

Jerry L. Johns
Author and Consultant, Sycamore, IL

Lynn Keck
Rock Island School District 41, Rock Island, IL

Terry Krehbiel
Macomb Senior High School, Macomb, IL

Barbara Kurth
West 40 Illinois Service Center #2, La Grange Park, IL

Susan L'Allier
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Barb Mazzolini
Wheaton CUSD 200, Wheaton, IL

Katherine S. McKnight
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

Samantha Morley
Indian Prairie School District 204, Naperville, IL

Mary Kay Moskal
St. Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA

Adrienne Murphy
Woodridge School District #68, Woodridge, IL

Linda Oshita
Rockford Public Schools, District 205, Rockford, IL

Janet L. Pariza
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL

Mildred M. Pearson
Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

Carole Peltari
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Margaret Policastro
Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL

Jennifer Preschern
Northshire Shore District 112, Highwood, IL

Debra Rigney-Hays
Central Illinois Adult Education Service Center, Macomb, IL

Jeffery L. Siddall
College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL

Jeannine N. Staunton
Northbrook/Glenview School District 30, Northbrook, IL

Frances Steward
Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL

Amy Stuckey
Indian Prairie School District #204, Naperville, IL

Donna E. Werderich
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

Janet L. Wicker
McKendree College, Lebanon, IL

Linda Wold
Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Chyrese S. Wolf
Chicago State University, Chicago, IL

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Volume 37, Number 3 Summer 2009

Table of Contents

- 1 **Editor's Page**
Kathy Barclay

Articles

- 3 **Dear Diary: A Fiction Writer's Secret Tool**
Mary Amato
- 8 **A Difficult Choice: Which Model of Reading Instruction for My Students?**
Roberta Linder
- 21 **Learn, Create, and Inspire to Write with Tech Tools**
Marilyn Westen
- 27 **Encouraging Students to Respond to Reading to Deepen Understanding**
Claudia Eliason

Reader's Contribution

- 43 **Poem: "Who Has a Job That Is Better Than Mine?"**
Karen Morrow Durica

Columns

- 35 **Logging on with Literature: Twin Texts Meet Technology: What's New and Unusual? Literature in a Post-Modern Age**
Angela Ferree, Pam Campbell, and Betsy Hommel
- 44 **Terrific Teaching Tips: Reinforcing Reading Strategies or Skills with a Buddy**
Laurel Borgia and Carol Owles
- 50 **Parent Involvement in Reading: What Can I Do to Help My Child with Reading at Home? Simple Effective Ideas to Share with Parents**
Laurie Elish-Piper
- 55 **Professional Development: Ideas for Your Book Study Groups**
Jennifer Berne, Sunday Cummins, Sophie Degener, and Ruth Quiroa
- 59 **Leadership in Reading: Strong Leaders Take Advantage of Professional Development Whenever It Is Offered and Thus Model Lifelong Learning for Their Students**
Pamela Terry Godt
- 63 **Research in Reading: Recreational Reading: We Know It's Good for Us, But How Can It Increase Reading Ability?**
Melissa Stinnett
- 68 **Insights from Illinois Authors: A Conversation with Amy Timberlake**
Ronda J. Mitchell-Brown
- 72 **Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal***

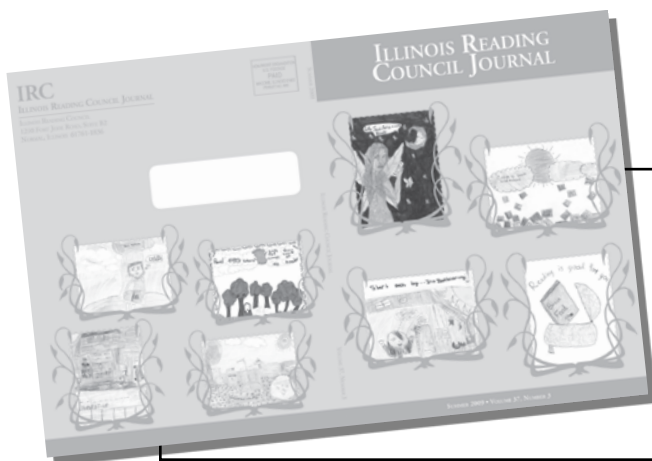
The *Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ)* is published quarterly and is distributed as a service to all members of the Illinois Reading Council. Membership in the Illinois Reading Council can be obtained through local and special interest reading councils in Illinois. For information, contact the Illinois Reading Council at 1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2, Normal, IL 61761-1836. IRC staff may also be reached by telephone at the toll-free number, (888) 454-1341, or at (309) 454-1341. Libraries and educational institutions can subscribe to *IRCJ* at an annual rate of \$40.00; address inquiries to the Executive Director at the IRC office.

Since the *IRCJ* serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

Photocopies: Individuals may photocopy articles from the journal without written permission for nonprofit educational use, or may make five copies of a single article for library reserve use in an educational institution. Consent to photocopy does not extend to photos or items reprinted by permission from other publishers. Members of the Illinois Reading Council who wish to use copies of an article in a handout or coursepack and for repeated use may do so without a fee. Nonmembers must obtain photocopying permission from the Illinois Reading Council, 1210 Fort Jesse Road, Suite B2, Normal, IL 61761-1836.

©2009, Illinois Reading Council

Publication and administrative services for the *IRCJ* are provided by Document and Publication Services at Western Illinois University in Macomb.



About the Cover

The cover displays the artwork of Sara Conoboy, Mariah Muyuz, Zoe Woodward, Abrial Scales, Keely Warnick, Shaina Wright, Julee Shelton, and Catlin Bowen, 5th graders in Mrs. Mitchell-Brown's class at Oak Grove Elementary School in Decatur, Illinois.

MISSION

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.

VISION

The Illinois Reading Council advocates quality literacy opportunities for all learners and serves as a primary organization that provides educators at all levels access to research, materials, and methodologies to promote and teach lifelong literacy and learning. Support of an active, well-organized system of local and special interest councils and state committees provides a viable network for communication, exchange of information, and grassroots involvement of a diverse membership. The Illinois Reading Council's publications, special projects, conferences, and workshops stimulate the personal and professional growth of educators.

Editor's Page

Kathy Barclay, Editor

Summertime is a wonderful time to sit back and enjoy this issue of *IRCJ*. I hope this issue finds its way into your beach bag or beside your lawn chair, where you can relax and ponder the excellent ideas and information shared by our authors and column editors! The first article is by Mary Amato, award-winning author of *The Naked Mole-Rat Letters* (Holiday House, 2005). Listed on the 2010 Master List for the Rebecca Caudill Award, *The Naked Mole-Rat Letters* is an excellent example of the use of the diary as a tool for writing. Mary shares with us her reasons for using this tool, examples from other books containing diary entries, and ways to encourage our students' use of this tool in their writing. The next article, written by Roberta Linder, includes an informative look at various models for organizing the literacy block. Roberta compares and contrasts the models and then provides a list of questions to guide teachers' choices. If you are looking for ways to integrate technology into your literacy curriculum, you'll want to pay careful attention to the article by Marilyn Westen who was named the 2008 Teacher of the Year by the Michigan

Association for Computer Users in Learning. Marilyn discusses many resources for using technology to enhance student writing. In our final feature article, Claudia Eliason describes a number of activities she has found successful for encouraging students to respond to reading in ways that serve to deepen their understanding of the text.

In our columns, you will read about an array of topics, from literature in a post-modern age to book suggestions for a professional book study group. Our terrific teaching tips include ways to engage children in working with a buddy, while the parent involvement column features simple, effective ideas for parents to use with their children. In the leadership column, you'll read about the importance of professional development, and in the research column you'll read studies related to the effectiveness of recreational reading. Finally, we include an interview with Illinois author, Amy Timberlake.

Our contributing feature authors, column authors/editors, and editorial review board members have worked diligently to provide you with this issue. I hope you will find inspiration and information to assist you in planning for the upcoming academic year.

Happy reading!

Kathy