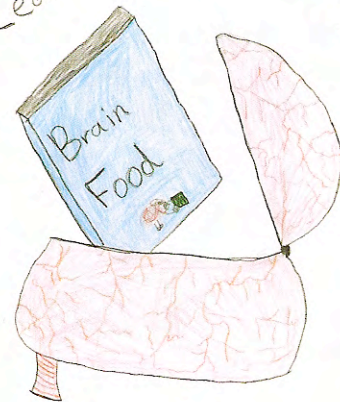


# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



Reading is good for you.



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# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



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Summer 2009

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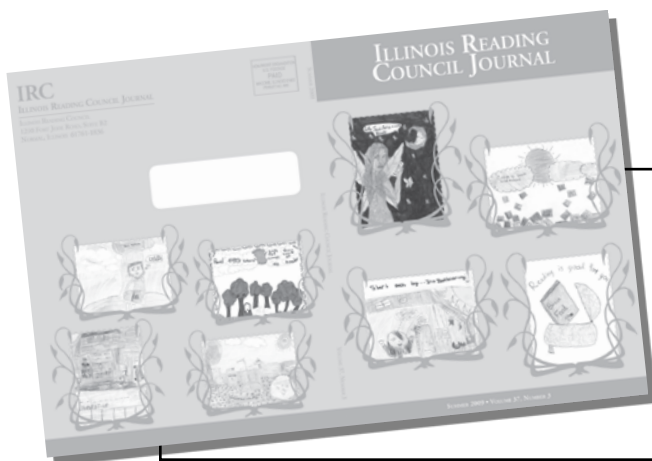
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## ***About the Cover***

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.*

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# Editor's Page

Kathy Barclay, Editor

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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*