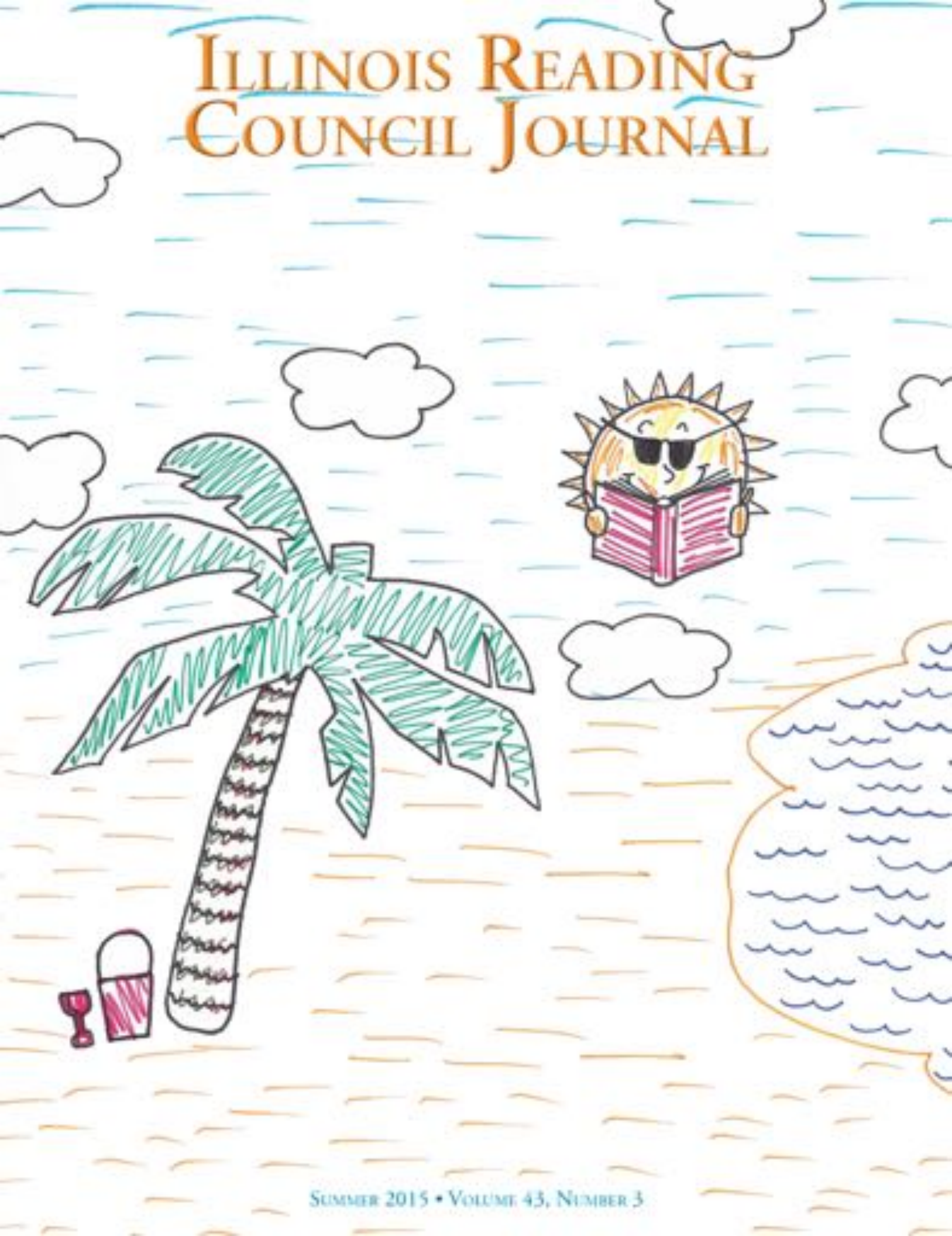


# ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



SUMMER 2015 • VOLUME 43, NUMBER 3

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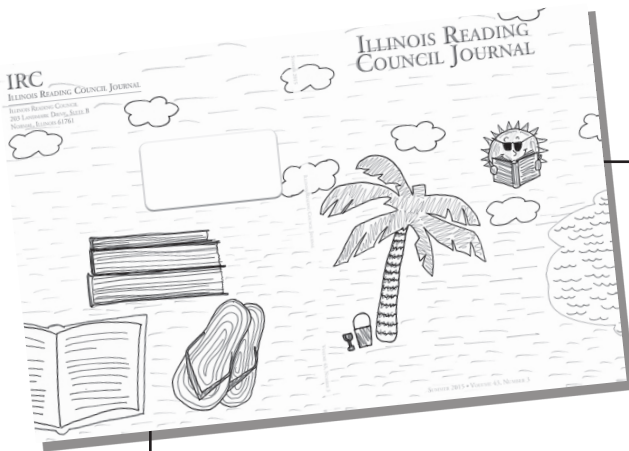
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### **About the Cover**

The artwork on the cover is by Lauren Pinderski, a high school junior at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois. She enjoys dancing, running track, doing service projects, and working with children. She loves math and science and hopes to be an engineer when she gets older.

### **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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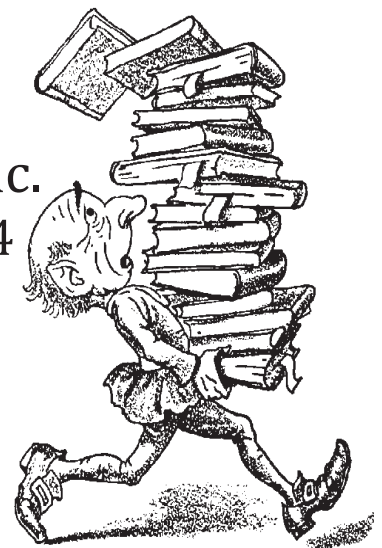
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## Editor's Page



Roxanne Owens, Editor

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Summer! Finally!

Let's shed our layers of corduroy and wool, don our sunglasses, stretch out on a beach, and catch up on our leisure reading. Of course, we will also participate in professional development, reflect on the past school year, prepare for the new school year, enroll in courses, and generally be every bit as busy as we are during the school year—but something about the warm weather makes it all so much more civilized, tolerable, and enjoyable.

Speaking of leisure reading, you'll need to turn to that stack of novels you've been saving to quench your thirst for some light and mindless text because the rest of this column doesn't even remotely resemble leisure reading. On the contrary, the remainder of this space is dedicated to a summary of three *Literacy Policy and*

*Practice* briefs written by some of our Illinois colleagues. While some *IRCJ* readers may welcome a thoughtful piece about policy, there are likely others who are wondering, "Why, oh why, would you do that? What's wrong with a light and happy column about fun in the sun for our summer issue? Policy? That sounds so heavy!"

I won't attempt to argue with you that reading policy statements is more fun than reading the latest bestseller because I would undoubtedly lose that argument. I do, however, want to urge you to take the time to read the synthesis included here and to consider reading the full reports (available online). The authors of the briefs provide recommendations for local and state policy actions that have the potential to impact us and each of our students. Grab the cold beverage of your choice, settle into a comfortable lawn chair, and delve into some good policy reading. And then enjoy the rest of the articles in the issue.

Happy summer!

*Roxanne Farwick Owens*