

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Celebrating Books
by David Shannon



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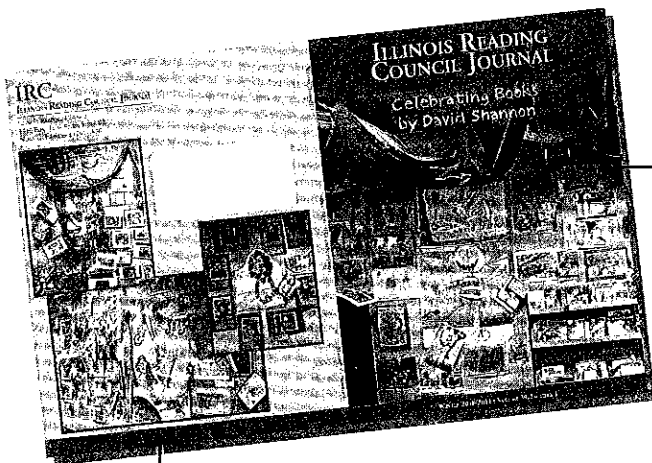
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Because the *IRCJ* serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

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About the Cover

The photos on the front and back covers were shared with us by Carrie Sheetz, the Pre-K through 8th grade Art teacher at Dallas City Elementary. These photos all show displays of student artwork created by her Pre-K, Kindergarten, and afterschool program Pre-K and Kindergarten students after they read the following books by David Shannon:

Pre-K – *A Bad Case of Stripes*

Kindergarten – *David Gets in Trouble* and *David Goes to School*

Afterschool Program – *Duck on a Bike*

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

Greetings fellow IRC members! Although the holidays are upon us, I hope amid the hustle and bustle of the season, you'll find a few minutes to savor a steaming hot cup of your beverage of choice as you settle into a comfy chair to read and reflect upon the content provided in this issue.

In this first issue of Volume 39, six educators share their ideas and experiences with us through four feature articles. You'll find strategies for inspiring readers in middle school, for transitioning bilingual students into mainstreamed classrooms, and for selecting books for reading aloud to your students. You'll also find an interesting discussion of censorship and controversial materials used with middle and secondary students. Beginning with this issue, Janet L. Pariza, Associate Professor

and Graduate Advisor in the Department of Reading at Northeastern Illinois University, and Deborah Augsburger, Chair of the Department of Reading and Literacy at Lewis University, will serve as new columnists. In their column, "Navigating the Flood: Exploring Literature for Children and Young Adults," Janet and Deborah will help us choose engaging literature for students.

I hope you enjoy the displays of children's art that are featured on the cover for this issue. We do need student literacy-related art for each of our covers; please consider sending samples of your students' art. The guidelines and parental permission forms are located on page 19 of this issue. Finally, as always, I invite *you* to become an active participant in *IRCJ* by sharing your ideas, insights, and experiences. Manuscripts may be submitted at any time, and we also appreciate receiving original poetry and anecdotes about teaching and literacy.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!
Happy reading!

Kathy