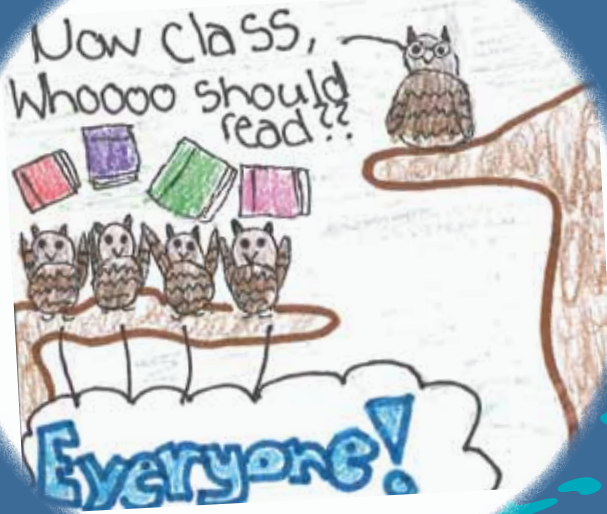


ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



ISSN #1082-555X

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Winter 2013-2014

Volume 42, Number 1

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ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Volume 42, Number 1 Winter 2013-2014

Table of Contents

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

Articles

- 3 **Biographies in Focus: A Framework for Supporting Biographical Writing in the Classroom**
Donna E. Werderich, Alice B. McGinty, and Barb Rosenstock
- 13 **Nonfiction in the Classroom: Exciting Adventure or Perilous Journey**
Kirby Andler
- 23 **iPad Apps for Creating Stories with Primary Children**
Debbie Lee
- 28 **Linking Vocabulary Acquisition with Word Knowledge to Improve Reading Comprehension for ELLs**
Julianne C. Braker

Columns

- 38 **Navigating the Flood: Exploring Literature for Children and Young Adults: Specials—Music, Art, and Drama**
Janet L. Pariza and Deborah Augsburger
- 46 **Terrific Teaching Tips: Bridging the Math Literacy Connection**
Carol Owles and Donna Herman
- 55 **Parent Involvement in Reading: Great Apps for At-Home Literacy Learning**
Laurie Elish-Piper, with Lorena Lule and Marishonta M. M. Wilkerson, Guest Contributors
- 59 **Professional Development: New Perspectives**
Jennifer Berne, Sophie Degener, Mary Hoch, and Michael Manderino
- 63 **Leadership in Reading: Collaboration and Conversations**
Susan L. Massey
- 69 **Research in Reading: Should We Warm Up Cold Close Reading?**
Melissa Stinnett
- 73 **Insights from Illinois Authors: A Conversation with Patricia J. Murphy**
Ronda J. Mitchell
- 81 **Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal***

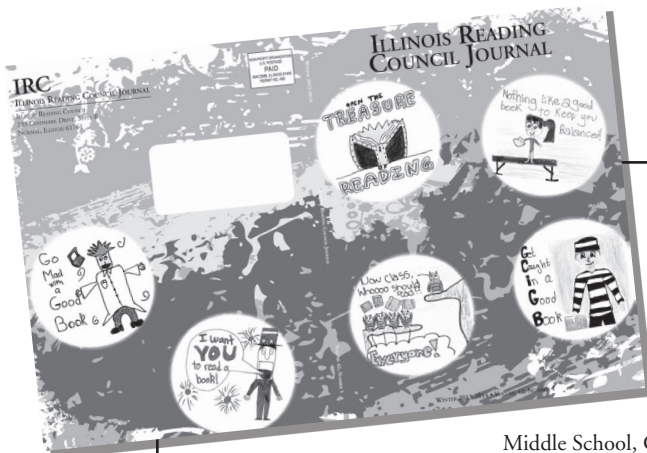
The *Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ)* is published quarterly and is distributed as a service to all members of the Illinois Reading Council. Membership in the Illinois Reading Council can be obtained through local and special interest reading councils in Illinois. For information, contact the Illinois Reading Council at 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, IL 61761. 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.

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



About the Cover

The artwork on the cover are submissions sent in from students throughout the State of Illinois for the Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education and the Illinois Reading Council's Static Stick Decal Contest.

Front Cover: *Top Left:* Mia Boyer-Edwards, 6th grade, Columbia Middle School, Columbia; *Top Right:* Sylvia Hensley, 6th grade, Hannah Beardsley Middle School, Crystal Lake; *Bottom Left:* Madelyn Kim, 6th grade, Hannah Beardsley Middle School, Crystal Lake; *Bottom Right:* Lauren Baur, 6th grade, Columbia Middle School, Columbia

Back Cover: *Left:* Josh Marion, 6th grade, Columbia Middle School, Columbia; *Right:* Adam Zentner, 6th grade, Richard Bernotas Middle School, Crystal Lake

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

I don't know about you, but many days I feel as though I have a lot more questions than I have answers. That, however, is not the case today. As I reviewed the formatted pages for this issue of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, I was struck by the sheer number of answers our authors and columnists provide to help us tackle the seemingly countless questions we have about teaching reading. Here's just a few of the many questions for which answers may be found within this issue:

- How can we guide students in the writing of biographies?
 - How can we use nonfiction trade books to take students on wonderful adventures?
 - Are there any really good iPad apps to help students in primary grades create their own stories?
 - What good, free, and/or inexpensive iPad apps can we suggest for parents to acquire to provide children in the preprimary and primary grades with at-home literacy learning experiences?
 - What are essential components of vocabulary instruction for ELLs?
 - How can we provide all students with opportunities to develop their vocabulary and expand their reading comprehension through meaningful experiences with new words?
 - Are there any new books for children and young adults that we should know about?
 - How can we bridge the math literacy connection in such a way that it addresses both the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Reading and those for Math?
- Can we address the CCSS for Reading and Math in the *same* lesson for students in the primary grades? Middle grades? High school?
 - Where can we get even more ideas for helping all students develop comprehension strategies and vocabulary?
 - Is there a resource to help teachers guide adolescents in becoming critical consumers and producers of knowledge mediated by the media?
 - How can literacy leaders support teachers in their quest to help students achieve CCSS Anchor Standard 1, which focuses on preparation for and participation in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners?
 - How can we help students acquire and use the close reading strategies called for by the CCSS?
 - How much of an introduction to or support for reading should we provide when helping students learn to read closely?
 - What insights can Illinois authors of books for children and youth provide to help us build motivation and interest in both the reading and writing of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry?

Obviously, there's much more that *could* be said in answer to each of these questions. Suffice it to say . . . these are all important questions for which you are certain to find very helpful information within the pages of this issue.

Happy reading!

