

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

READ!



Take a snap at a
GOOD BOOK!!



Exercise your mind...



READ!!

STOP!

Go
READ!



Read
a
blooming book!



ISSN #1082-555X

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ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL



Winter 2014-2015

Volume 43, Number 1

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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 from throughout the State of Illinois for the Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education (ICARE) and the Illinois Reading Council's Static Stick Decal Contest.

Front Cover: *Top Left:* Olivia Huerta, 4th Grade, Scott Elementary School, Scott Air Force Base; *Top Right:* Annika Aurora, 6th Grade, Hannah Beardsley

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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



Roxanne Owens, Editor

Hello and welcome to the winter 2015 issue of the *Illinois Reading Council Journal*!

I am honored to serve the Illinois Reading Council as the new journal editor. Some of my past positions with IRC include service on the Executive Board as the Vice President, President-Elect/Conference Chair, and President. I have also participated in the general board as the President of the Illinois Council for Affective Reading (ICARE) and as the chair of the Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children. I am currently the chair of the Teacher Education Department at DePaul University where I have taught for the last 23 years. Prior to that, I taught junior high in Chicago. Several of my most rewarding professional and personal experiences have resulted from involvement in the IRC, so it is indeed a pleasure to function in this new role for the organization.

Kathy Barclay recently retired after having served as the *IRCJ* editor for the last ten years. Prior to Kathy, Bill Teale served as the editor for several years. Under their leadership, *IRCJ* became one of the premiere state reading journals. As I assume the role of editor, I am conscious of the shoes I have to fill, and I am committed to maintaining the high standards of those who have come before me. I speak for all of the IRC members in thanking Kathy Barclay and assistant editor Jon Jones, as well as all of the column editors, the staff at the Western Illinois University Document and Publication Services, and the editorial advisory board for their work in publishing consistently outstanding issues.

Many of the column editors will continue their service, including Deborah Augsburg,

Jennifer Berne, Sophie Degener, Laurie Elish-Piper, Michael Manderino, Susan Massey, Ronda Mitchell, and Janet Pariza. Carol Owles and Donna Herman are working to re-envision the “Teaching Tips” column, and Melissa Stinnett is moving on to other scholarly pursuits. We welcome Ivy Sitkoski to the “Professional Development” column, and we are also pleased to debut a new column designed to enhance collaboration between library media specialists and teachers written by Marie Donovan and Mary Yockey entitled “Check This Out.” Another new column will debut in the Spring issue—stay tuned!

As literacy professionals, we all know the importance of meeting our students where they are and facilitating their movement to new places of success. We read research, we gather ideas from multiple sources, we systematically reflect on our own practices, and we search high and low for resources—we are always in search of “what works.” What we understand early in our careers is that what works for one student may not work for another student. We also understand that there is no silver bullet, no singular right answer, and no method or strategy that will solve all of our teaching dilemmas. In this issue, you’ll be introduced to many ideas that hold potential for helping you to move students further along in their learning journey. I am confident you will find intriguing practices and worthwhile concepts to ponder within these pages.

Please let me know how the journal can further support your professional development by e-mailing me at ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org. I would love to hear from you!

Happy New Year and Happy Reading!

Roxanne Farwick Owens