

THE CONNECTION

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

Spring 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16: Short Stories Due

April 27: Spring Celebration
with Aaron Reynolds

May 18: Teacher Yard Sale
Reserve your table today! Call
(618) 967-2334 or email
krussell@mhs.org

July 28: Mini-Conference
We are looking for presenters!
Contact Katie Russell if you,
or someone you know, would
like to present!

October 1-3: IRC Conference
in Peoria, IL

SPRING CELEBRATION!!

**Short Story Contest Winners
and**

Caldecott Honor winning author, Aaron Reynolds

April 27th, 2015 6 p.m. – 8p.m.

Carbondale Civic Center

200 South Illinois Avenue Carbondale, IL

Join us to celebrate our short story winners and meet Aaron Reynolds. He is the author of many highly acclaimed books for kids, including Carnivores, Chicks and Salsa, Joey Fly, Private Eye, and the Caldecott Honor winner, Creepy Carrots!!!

This is a FREE event! Refreshments will follow the presentations. CPDU's will be available. Please invite your fellow colleagues to attend. An RSVP is appreciated. Please send plans of attendance to Kathy Stegle at kwstegle@gmail.com.

Please plan on attending this exciting event!

TEACHER GARAGE SALE!!

May 18th, 2015 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

General John A. Logan Elementary School

320 Watson Road Murphysboro, IL

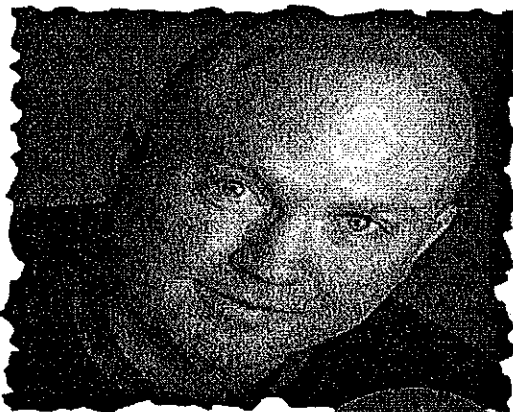
Have teacher supplies you don't use anymore? Need an opportunity to buy or sell teacher items? Here is your chance! Rent a table for \$10 and sell your extra items at our teacher garage sale! Leave the advertising to us! Contact Katie Russell to reserve your table! (618) 967-2334 or krussell@mhs.org

MINI-CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars!

SIRC's annual Summer Mini-Conference will be held July 28th!

Contact us if you would like to present!



60th Anniversary

IRCS

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



International Reading Conference
St. Louis, Mo
July 17-20
REGISTER NOW!!
www.reading.org

Contact Us

Southern Illinois Reading Council

Katie Russell, President
608 Belle Avenue
Pinckneyville, IL 62274
(618) 967-2334
krussell@mhs.org

IRC HONOR COUNCIL

On October 4th, at the IRC Conference, SIRC was recognized as an IRC Honor Council. Thank you to our members and the Board for making this possible. Special thanks to SIRC Board Member, Gail Webb for all her hard work on the application!!!

FALL DESSERT MEETING

On October 21st, SIRC held our fall dessert meeting. Members met with Susan Phoenix who gave an excellent presentation about her experiences with autism and behavioral interventions in the classroom. She provided tips and resources for teachers and aides to use in the classroom with their students.

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/southernillinoisreadingcouncil

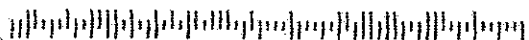
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL

Katie Russell, President
608 Belle Avenue
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

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2015 Short Story Contest

How to enter: Up to three stories per classroom may be submitted, postmarked by **March 16, 2015**. There will be three Southern Illinois winners per grade level. *(See back.) To be eligible, **all entries must have an entry blank attached.** (Master on back.) Identifying information is to be only on the entry blank; only the title may be on the story. Entries will not be returned, so please keep a copy. **First place winners are asked to read their stories at the awards celebration.**

Judging Criteria: Stories will be judged on the *creativity* and *organization* of the short story. *Appropriateness of language, theme, and message* will also be considered. *Conventions* will be considered, but to a lesser extent. Emphasis should be on quality rather than quantity. There is a word limit of 1500 words. Illustrations are optional and will not influence the outcome.

Awards for 2015: A first, second, and third place winner will be chosen in each grade, second through eighth. The 21 winning stories will be compiled into an *SIRC 2015 Short Story Contest Yearbook*. **Each first, second, and third place winner will receive a copy of the yearbook, a certificate, and a book of the winners choice.**

Winners will be notified by April 9, 2015. All winners will be invited to attend Southern Illinois Reading Council's **Spring Celebrations Program and Reception on Monday, April 27, 2015**, at the Carbondale Civic Center, where they will receive their awards. First place winners will read their winning stories.

Attention busy teachers: Writing short stories supports PARCC preparation! Students develop writing fluency and learn in a most meaningful way as they write and edit their stories: story terminology (plot, moral, theme), spelling, punctuation (even dialogue), capitalization, paragraphing, and more.

Send entries to:

Second Grade: Concetta Lamendola, 1308 N. 14th St., P.O. Box 221, Murphysboro, IL 62966

Third Grade: Kathy Merz, 506 Cambridge Dr., DeSoto, IL 62924

Fourth Grade: Barbara James and Gail Webb, 410 S. Green St., Anna, IL 62906

Fifth Grade: Nyla Montgomery, 3508 Creek Nation Blacktop, Mulkeytown, IL 62865

Sixth Grade: Pat Searcy, 405 Oakwood Dr., Carterville, IL 62918

Seventh Grade: Johanna Tolbert, 5268 Park St., Mulkeytown, IL 62865

Eighth Grade: Cindy Pender and Hope McFarland, 33964 Wilderness Retreat Rd., Jonesboro, IL, 62952

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 16, 2015
Questions? Contact Kathy Stegle, 614-4227, kwstegle@gmail.com

SIRC Short Story Contest Entry Blank
(Entry blank **required**; attach to front of story)

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's full name: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

School phone number: _____

Teacher's email address: (optional) _____

Story title: _____

Total word count _____

Verification:

We verify that:

_____ this story is original work of this student

_____ this story meets the word count limit of **1500 words**

_____ the author of this story lives or attends school in Illinois Reading Council Region 9. Please check which county:

_____ Alexander _____ Franklin _____ Gallatin _____ Hardin _____ Jackson

_____ Jefferson _____ Johnson _____ Massac _____ Perry _____ Pope

_____ Pulaski _____ Randolph _____ Saline _____ Williamson _____ Union

Student signature: _____

Teacher signature: _____

Entries failing to meet the above criteria will be disqualified.

Notes:

Three stories may be entered per classroom. If a teacher has more than one section of a class, three may be sent from each section.

Someone other than the student may type the entry. However, no changes in content, spelling, etc. may be made. Double spacing, size 12 font is preferable. Please include page numbers. Story on front and back of page to save on recopying.