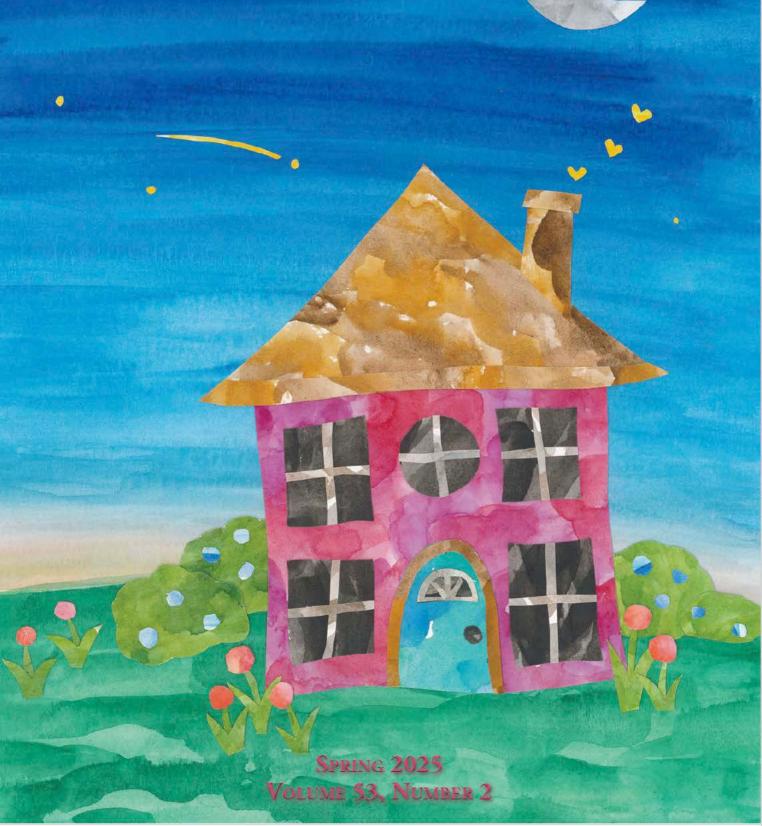
Illinois Reading Council Journal



ISSN #1082-555X

Editor

Roxanne Owens DePaul University

Associate Editors

Adelfio Garcia
Chicago Public Schools

Kathleen A. Paciga Columbia College Chicago

David Bates
Concordia University Chicago

Marie Ann Donovan DePaul University

Mary Yockey Indian Prairie School District 204

Sophie Degener Kristin Lems Ivy Sitkoski National Louis University

Amina Chaudhri Northeastern Illinois University

Laurie Elish-Piper Melanie D. Koss Northern Illinois University

Dora M. Guzmán
Palatine Community Consolidated
School District 15

Kristine M. Schutz Rebecca Woodard University of Illinois—Chicago

Steven L. Layne Wheaton College

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Editorial Advisory Board

Rebekah Buchanan Western Illinois University Macomb, IL

Amy Butler Chicago Public Schools Chicago, IL

Valerie Cawley Judson University Elgin, IL

Demetra Disotuar Evanston-Skokie School District 65

Evanston, IL

Darryn Diuguid

McKendree University Lebanon, IL

Marygrace Farina Archdiocese of Chicago Chicago, IL

Angela Fortune

University of Illinois–Chicago Chicago, IL

Mary Gardner

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, IL

Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club Champaign, IL

Debbie Harrison
Eastern Illinois University

Charleston, IL Jerry L. Johns

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, IL

Lynn Keck Rock Island School District 41

Rock Island, IL

Steven L. Layne Wheaton College Wheaton, IL

DeKalb, IL

Samantha Morley Indian Prairie School District 204 Naperville, IL & Northern Illinois University Kathleen A. Paciga Columbia College Chicago Chicago, IL

Kari Pawl Concordia University Chicago, IL

Margaret Mary Policastro Roosevelt University Chicago, IL

Kristine Schutz University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL

Frances Steward Western Illinois University Macomb, IL

A. Gillian Stewart-Wells Judson University Elgin, IL

Karen Tischhauser Barrington Middle School Barrington, IL

Annette M. VanAken Concordia University Chicago River Forest, IL

Donna E. Werderich Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL

Alisha White Western Illinois University Macomb, IL

Chyrese S. Wolf Chicago State University Chicago, IL

Rebecca Woodard University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL

Illinois Reading Council Journal

Volume 53, Number 2 Spring 2025

Table of Contents

Articles

- A Practitioner's Guide to the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan, and Implications for the Advanced, Accelerated, High Potential, and Gifted Literacy Learner, Part 2

 Laura Beltchenko
- 22 Blended Genres: Pairing Picturebooks and Poems Across the Curriculum William P. Bintz
- 32 Checking on Low Readers' Achievement in a Phonics-Emphasis Era Darrell Morris

Columns

46 Empowering Readers with Books: Uncovering the Boldness and Resilience of Females, Fact and Fiction

Kathleen A. Paciga and Melanie D. Koss

52 Family Engagement in Literacy: Family Engagement in Reaching and Engaging Reluctant Readers at School and at Home

Laurie Elish-Piper

- 57 Professional Development: Revitalizing Literacy Instruction with Student Talk Sophie Degener, Adelfio Garcia, Dora M. Guzmán, and Ivy Sitkoski
- 62 Cultivating Sustainable Futures Through Children's Environmental Literature: Meet Diana Sudyka, Local Children's Author/ Illustrator

Kristine M. Schutz and Rebecca Woodard

68 The "Bates" Shop: Fishing for Primary Source Documents: Revolutionizing Historical Perspective-Taking

David Bates

76 Authors, Books, and Beyond: A Conversation with Jasmine Warga About Where Her Ideas Come from, How She Became a Writer, and Her Hope that Readers Will Use Her Stories as Inspiration for Their Own

Amina Chaudhri

85 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 1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761. IRC staff may also be reached by telephone at (309) 454-1341. Libraries and educational institutions can subscribe to IRCJ at an annual rate of \$50.00; 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.

Photocopies: Individuals may photocopy articles from the journal without written permission for nonprofit educational use, or may make five copies of a single article for library reserve use in an educational institution. Consent to photocopy does not extend to photos or items reprinted by permission from other publishers. Members of the Illinois Reading Council who wish to use copies of an article in a handout or coursepack and for repeated use may do so without a fee. Nonmembers must obtain photocopying permission from the Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech Street, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761.

©2025, Illinois Reading Council

Publication services for the *IRCJ* are provided by Sandra K. Larimer, Copy Editor, and Shanee J. Plate, Layout/Design. Honor Allen is Editor Roxanne Owens' graduate assistant.

About the Cover

Laura Smetana

Laura Smetana is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. She loves creating bright, joyful cut-paper watercolor collages inspired by nature. Her latest author-illustrated book, *My Love for You Is Like a Garden*, was named a Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2023 and has received numerous other awards. She is also the author of *Ice Cream with Grandpa: A Loving Story for*



Kids About Alzheimer's & Dementia (illustrated by Elisabete B. P. de Moraes), which won a Northern Lights Book Award, and Little Squiggle's Lake Adventure, which she co-authored with her son. Her upcoming author-illustrated books include My Love for You Is Like the Night Sky and My Lucky Leaf, both scheduled to be released in 2025. When she isn't writing or painting, Laura can be found inspiring kids to create their own books at school author visits, teaching collage art to children and adults, and spending time with her family in the Chicago suburbs. Laura regularly exhibits her art and is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Downers Grove Artists' Guild, and The Morton Arboretum's Nature Artists' Guild.

www.laurasmetana.com

Cover Art: "Night Sky Stargazing"

Other artwork by Laura Smetana can be found on pages 21, 41, 56, and 67.

ILLINOIS READS

READING STATE OF MIND



Saturday, April 26, 2025

Midwest Athletic Center 409 Hardin Avenue Jacksonville, Illinois 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join IRC at the 2025 Illinois Reads Book Festival! Plan now to bring your families, students, and all book lovers to this fun and free event. Authors will be present. Bring your books and have them signed at this event! Books will also be available for purchase from Anderson's Bookshops.

Visit our website for more information at www.illinoisreads.org

Birth-4

Can You Dance Like a Peacock? by Rekha S. Rajan Hide-and-Seek by Molly Cranch Moms Can Do It All!

by Ted Maass

Sleepy: Surprising Ways Animals Snooze by Jennifer Ward

Love and Community by Mary E. Haque Play Outside with Me by Kat Chen

Bats Beneath the Bridge by Janet Nolan Love Grows by Ruth Spiro

Somebody Needs to Do Something About Kareem Between That Monster!

by Doug Cenko

The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything by Nadia Ahmed

The Heartbeat Drum: The Story of Carol Powder, Cree Drummer and Activist

by Deidre Havrelock and illustrated by Aphelandra

Umami

by Jacob Grant

3-5

Cloud Puppy by Kelly Leigh Miller

Detective Sweet Pea: The Case of the Golden Bone

by Sara Varon

It Belongs to the World: Frederick Banting Last On His Feet: Jack Johnson and the Battle and the Discovery of Insulin

by Lisa Katzenberger

Painting the Sky with Love: A Celebration of Legendarios: Wrath of the Rain God by Karla Arenas Valenti

One Cool Duck #1: King of Cool

by Mike Petrik

The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure by Barb Rosenstock

Forget-Me-Not Blue

by Sharelle Byars Moranville

I Felt Myself Slipping

by Ray Nadine

by Shifa Saltagi Safadi

Rare Birds

by Jeff Miller

Stage Fright

by Wendy Parris

The Labors of Hercules Beal

by Gary D. Schmidt

American Wings: Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky

by Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein

Dear Wendy

by Ann Zhao

of the Century

by Youssef Daoudi and Adrian Matejka

This Book Won't Burn

by Samira Ahmed

This Night Is Ours

by Ronni Davis

We Shall Be Monsters: A Novel

by Alyssa Wees

Adult

By Water Beneath the Walls: The Rise of the

Navy SEALs

by Benjamin H. Milligan

Star Wars Dad Jokes: The Best Worst Jokes

and Puns from a Galaxy Far, Far Away

by Kelly Knox and

illustrated by Johnny Sampson

The Best Lies

by David Ellis

The Great Divide: A Novel

by Cristina Henriquez

The Wheel of the Year: An Illustrated Guide to

Nature's Rhythms

by Fiona Cook

Woe: A Housecat's Story of Despair: (A Graphic

Novel)

by Lucy Knisley

Lake-Cook Distributors

Paperbacks Fast!

Class sets our specialty Grades 6 through 12

In Stock Orders Shipped Same Day

30% Discount

\$10.00 SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS

Illinois Reading Lists Available

Monarch, Bluestem, Caudill and Abe Lincoln

Visit us on the web at

www.lake-cook.com

Lake-Cook Distributors, Inc. 951 N. Old Rand Road, #114 Wauconda, IL 60084

> Phone 847-526-5877 Fax 847-526-5810

E-mail: sales@lake-cook.com



Request for Membership on IRC Standing and Special Committees

Please consider becoming more involved in the Illinois Reading Council. Members of the local reading councils may submit their own names for consideration. Below are brief descriptions of committee goals.

IRC STANDING COMMITTEES:

Budget, Finance, and Strategic Planning Committee - Prepare a yearly budget, report on the audit, and review dues structure. Work to establish a well-defined vision for the future of IRC.

Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee - Review and update the IRC bylaws and policies.

Conference Committee - Make plans for the annual conference of the council.

Membership Committee - Stimulate membership of ILA, state, local, and special interest councils.

Nominating Committee - Prepare a slate of candidates for IRC Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Organization/Council Bylaws Committee - Act as liaison between ILA and local and special interest councils.

IRC SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Advocacy Committee - Gather and disseminate information concerning legislation related to reading.

Book Club Committee - Host four virtual book clubs in the spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Educational Media Committee - Assist state, local, and special interest councils with newspapers in education and with the integration of technology and literacy.

Family Literacy Committee - Collect and disseminate information concerning adult, parent, and family literacy.

ILA Exemplary Reading Program Award Committee - Assist ILA in recognizing outstanding reading and language arts programs in Illinois schools.

Illinois Reads Committee - A yearly statewide project to encourage reading for all Illinois citizens.

International Projects Committee - Address issues, provide resources, and encourage others to become involved in literacy projects in third world countries.

IRC Literacy Support Grants Committee - Recommend financial grants for literacy projects.

 $\textbf{Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award Committee} - Recognize \ an \ outstanding \ teacher \ contributing \ to \ literacy.$

Obama Literacy Fund Committee - Promote the importance of multicultural literature and focus on providing multicultural literature for teachers' use.

Prairie State Award Committee - Review nominations to select an outstanding Illinois children's/YA author.

Professional Learning - Share best practices in educational initiatives and effective professional development to support all grade levels and content areas.

Publicity and Publications Committee - Provide templates and support to IRC and local councils to promote membership and events. Provide guidance in creating and publishing IRC materials.

Sticker Design Contest Committee - Promote the Static Sticker Decal Contest that encourages children to read.

Please complete the information below and mail the form to: Illinois Reading Council, 1100 Beech St, Building 8, Suite 2, Normal, IL 61761

wish to be considered for membership on the following committee(s)						
Name						
Reading Council						
Address						
City				Zip		
Telephone: Home	School		Email			

Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the Illinois Reading Council Journal

The Illinois Reading Council Journal seeks manuscripts dealing with topics, issues, and events of interest to educators involved in literacy programs at all levels of education.

About The Review Process

The complete review process takes approximately 10 to 16 weeks. Upon receipt of a manuscript, an initial review will be conducted and feedback sent to the author. Manuscripts accepted for peer review will be evaluated by at least two reviewers who are uninformed as to the identity of the author. The editor will compile notes from the reviewers and send feedback to the author, including whether the article has been accepted for publication and any requests for revision. Manuscripts are evaluated in terms of interest, quality of writing, appropriate documentation of ideas, uniqueness, and needs of the journal. Research articles should include a clear description of the methodology and should be written in a style that will be readable by classroom teachers. The final decision for acceptance of manuscripts resides with the editor. Please review articles in the journal before submitting manuscripts for consideration. Any questions about the submission process should be directed to Roxanne Owens, IRCJ Editor, by e-mail at ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

Short Submissions

For each issue, short items such as original poems, cartoons, artwork, or personal anecdotes may appear throughout the journal. Such submissions should be one-half page to one page in length, double-spaced, and word-processed. Front and back cover art is also accepted. The editor selects these items.

If you have questions about the submission process, please e-mail Roxanne Owens, *IRCJ* Editor, at IRCJournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org.

IRCJ Submission Guidelines

Article submissions should be eight to 25 double-spaced pages, including references. Please prepare and submit your manuscript consistent with the following guidelines.

Manuscript Submission Guidelines

NEW! You can now submit your article online at http://illinoisreadingcouncil.org/ircjournalsubmission.html:

- Anonymize the Manuscript Text: Remove any names or references to the author(s) and affiliated institutions (clearly marked placeholders may be employed, e.g., [Author Name]; [Name of Institution]).
- Text Formatting: In general, apply APA style guidelines (7th ed.) to your text (e.g., Times New Roman 12 point or a similar serif font, double spaced, 1-inch margins, etc.).
- File Type: Save the manuscript as a MS Word document .doc or docx. (MS Word is used to provide in-text comments and revisions, so please do not submit pdf., .pages or .rtf.)
- File Name: This should conform to the following format: article v1_{title of article}_mm-dd-yy
 Example: article v1_Reading is essential_5-10-20
- Download the cover letter template from the submission webpage and fill it out.
- Rename the cover letter file name as follows: cover_{title of article}_mm-dd-yy
- Example: cover_Reading is essential_5-10-20

Additional questions can be sent to

IRCJournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org



1100 Beech Street Building 8, Suite 2 Normal, IL 61761 Phone: (309) 454-1341

Fax: (309) 454-3512

E-mail: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Website: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Twitter: @ILReadCouncil #ircreads
Instagram: instagram.com/ilreadcouncil
Pinterest: pinterest.com/illinoisreading
and join us on Facebook!

2024-2025 Officers and Staff

President

Melissa Stinnett president@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

President-Elect

Cindi Koudelka presidentelect@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Vice President

Deborah Augsburger vicepresident@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Secretary

Melissa Wheeler recordingsecretary@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Past President

Julie Hoffman pastpresident@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Treasurer

Diana Wilkie treasurer@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

ILA State Coordinator

Amy Davis ilastatecoordinator@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Director of Membership

Donna Herman membershipdirector@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Executive Director

Carrie Sheridan carrie@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

Editor of Illinois Reading Council Journal

Roxanne Owens ircjournal@illinoisreadingcouncil.org

ALC:			
tending Councy, See Lives Lives Through	MEMBE	RSHIP FOR	M
1100 Beech Street, Buildin Normal, IL, 61761	g 8, Smte 2 Pf	ione: 309-454-1341 ix: 309-454-3512	Email: tre@illinorsreadingcouncil.org Web: www.illinorsreadingcouncil.org
Please print or complete	the form online.		
Last Name	F	irst Name	Middle Initial
Address		E-mail	
City	State	e Zip	County
Home Phone ()		Bus. Phone ()	
School Name	Dis	trict	City
or Business/Institution			City
Are you a Preservice Teacher?	yes no Coll	ege/University	- 11
membership in a local or spec at least one of the councils lis 1. 2. 3. 4. Option to Purel IRC Membership of Current issues will		Total Before Optional Print Journal. If you	ip for IRC and one council. If you join iditional council is \$15. nembership and \$5 for each additional council is a surnal
S Return this form with pa Illinois Reading C ATTN: Membershi 1100 Beech St, Buildin Normal, IL 61' Paying by credit card? A \$2 service Join Online or Fax: 309-	ouncil (Sorry, no P.O.'s acc ip Dept. g 8, Suite 2 761 Cardholder's Nan charge is added. 454-3512 Cardholder's Add	pepted.) Check to IRC Yisa	Expiration Date CVV Code
	ternational Literacy Association	on (ILA)?	Professional Areas of Interest (Check 3) a administration
ayesmembersh bno Age a18-24 b25-39 c40-54 d55 and over Present Position	Years in Education Profession a 0.4 b 5-14 c 15-29 d 30 and over	Highest Degree Earned a Bachelors b Masters c Doctorate	b. adult literacy c. affective reading d. assessment e. children's literature f. comprehension g. content area reading h. family literacy i. holistic reading j. multilingual/multicultural k. newspapers in education
Classroom Teacher:	Administrator:	Other:	parents and reading reading for gifted students
a preschool b K-3 c 4-6 d middle school/jr. high e high school f post Secondary	a curriculum/reading supervisor b building principal c superintendent d other	a. librarian b. parent c. special ed. teacher d. gifted/talented teacher e. Title I /remedial f. reading specialist g. retired	n. research o. study skills p. teacher education q technology in reading r. Title I/remedial reading s. young adult literature t. young authors/writing

Membership Form **87**

Illinois Reading Council Membership Locations of IRC Local & Special Interest Council Regions by Counties

The annual membership of \$50 includes membership in the Illinois Reading Council and a local or special interest council. The annual preservice teacher membership is \$30 for one who has not been certified in the teaching profession and is working toward an initial teaching certificate. Please select the council(s) you wish to join from the list below. Residence in any of the designated council counties you join is not required. If you join more than one local or special interest council at this time, each additional council is \$15. Preservice teachers pay \$5 for each additional council. IRC Membership comes with online access to the webinars, book clubs, IRC Journal, and more. The IRC Journal and other membership benefits will also be sent by email to you. If you wish to purchase a print journal, it is an additional \$20 per year. Follow the steps on the front of this form.

REGION 1	REGION 4	REGION 7	
Northern Illinois Reading Council - (Boone, DeKalb, Winnebago, Eastern Lee & Ogle) Northwestern Illinois Reading Council - (Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll)	Black Hawk Reading Council - (Rock Island, Mercer, Western Henry & Whiteside) Illinois Valley Reading Council - (Stark, Putnam, Marshall, Peoria, Woodford, Tazewell, Eastern Fulton, Mason)	East Central-EIU Reading Council (Moultrie, Shelby, Cumberland, Coles Clark, Edgar, Douglas)Illini Reading Council - (Champaign Piatt, Southern Ford)Vermilion Valley Reading Council - (Vermilion)	
Sauk Valley Reading Council - (Eastern Whiteside & Henry, Western Lee, Ogle, & Bureau)	Mississippi Valley Reading Council - (Adams, Brown, Pike, Scott, Greene, Calhoun)	REGION 8	
Starved Rock Reading Council - (LaSalle, Grundy, Kendall, Livingston, Eastern Bureau)	Western Illinois Reading Council - (Henderson, Warren, Knox, McDonough, Hancock, Schuyler, Western Fulton)	Lewis and Clark Reading Council (Macoupin, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair Monroe, Washington, Clinton) National Road Reading Council— (Bond, Effingham, Fayette, Marion)	
REGION 2	REGION 5		
Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)-(Chicago Area - Cook County	South Suburban Reading Council -	REGION 9	
within the Chicago city limits) Lake Area Reading Council - (Western Lake, McHenry; Northwestern Cook) Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA) - (Eastern Lake, Northern Cook)	(Those parts of Cook Co. bounded on west by Will-Cook Rd., north by 115th St., and/or Chicago City limits) Two Rivers Reading Council - (Kankakee, Iroquois, Northern Ford) Will County Reading Council - (Will)	 South Eastern Reading Council - (Lawrence, Richland, Crawford, Jaspe Edwards, Clay, Wabash, Wayne, Whit Southern Illinois Reading Council (Jefferson, Randolph, Perry, Franklin, Williamson, Saline, Gallatin, Union, Johnson, Pope, Alexander, Hardin, Pulaski, Massac, Jackson, Hamilton) 	
REGION 3	REGION 6	REGION 10	
Fox Valley Reading Council - (Kane) Prairie Area Reading Council - (Western DuPage County) West Suburban Reading Council - (DuPage County east of Route 83 and those parts of Cook County west of Austin Boulevard excluding all areas within the Chicago city limits)	Central Illinois Reading Council - (Logan, Menard, Cass, Morgan, Sangamon, Christian, Montgomery) Macon County Reading Council - (Macon) MID-State Reading Council - (McLean, DeWitt)	CIRP - (College Instructors of Reading Professionals) ICARE - (Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education) SRL - (Secondary Reading League)	

