

ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL SPEAKERS BUREAU



1100 Beech Street
Building 8, Suite 2
Normal, IL 61761
Phone: 309-454-1341
Fax: 309-454-3512

Email: irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org
Website: www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org

IRC Speakers Bureau

Literature and Art Paint Night

Patricia Braun and Marianne Stremsterfer
168 Maple Grove
Springfield, IL 62712
Home: 217-679-5756
Cell: 708-370-2904
Email: pbraun09@yahoo.com
Availability: Anytime

Illustrators play an important role in supporting comprehension with their amazing art. Experience the opportunity to analyze art that enhances comprehension and learn art methods that enhance the literature experience when you replicate the art process of illustrators. We will use literature and illustrators chosen by you including but not limited to: Ellen Stoll Walsh, David Macaulay, Lois Ehlert, Suse MacDonald, Robert McCloskey, Ludwig Bemelmans, Dr. Seuss, Leo and Diane Dillon, Marcus Pfister, Maurice Sendak, John Schoenherr, David McPhail, Tommy de Paola, Leo Lionni, Eric Carle, and Jerry Pinkney. This is a hands-on workshop where you will create art in the style of one or more illustrators while talking about the literature and writing extensions. Your students will understand and appreciate literature and art through engaging and hands on experiences..

Audience: All

Literature and Laughter Yoga: Breath In: Laugh Out

Patricia Braun
168 Maple Grove
Springfield, IL 62712
Home: 217-679-5756
Cell: 708-370-2904
Email: pbraun09@yahoo.com
Availability: Anytime

Learn how to combine yoga and literature by experiencing breathing techniques that directly relate to the content of the story. Deep breathing which can be calming and energizing + laughter that releases endorphins + good literature that expands the mind = an engaging and memorable reading experience.

Audience: 4 - 8

Interactive Read Aloud Across the Curriculum

Patricia Braun
168 Maple Grove
Springfield, IL 62712
Home: 217-679-5756
Cell: 708-370-2904
Email: pbraun09@yahoo.com
Availability: All months

Experience the possibilities and rationale for reading aloud to all ages in all subject areas. The presentation includes ideas for interactive reading aloud from nonfiction books, vocabulary activities to expand the potential for reading aloud, and a bibliography of good nonfiction read alouds.

Audience: All

Black Joy in Literature

Jen Brooks, Julie Hoffman, Melissa Wheeler
1101 Lafayette Ave
Mattoon, IL 61938
Home: 217-218-4559
Email: melissa.wheeler@gmail.com
Availability: Anytime

Join us as we gush over the books and authors we believe are must-haves in any classroom library to reflect our students, expand their worlds, and build empathy! We will pay special attention to newer titles featuring titles that boast representation of Black joy! You'll leave feeling seen, filled with hope, and toting a shopping list of titles!

Audience: All

Literacy as a Tool for Healing from Trauma

Julie Hoffman
2507 Lemont
Springfield, IL 62704
Home: 815-878-6186
Email: TheReadEologist@gmail.com
Availability: Anytime

Healing from trauma can be scary, messy, and complicated. Fortunately, the power of story can help. This session will cover some of the basic regarding trauma, including a review of the physiological responses (fight, flight, freeze). There will be discussion about how vicarious experiences (being in the shoes of a fictional character) helps a reader know they are not alone, introduces new coping mechanisms, and provides a safe place to approach traumatic experiences. Expect lively read-alouds and group discussions about how the books can be used to teach SEL goals in general or toward healing from trauma. You will receive a link to a comprehensive book list, but you might also want to start filling your Amazon cart during the presentation!

Audience: 4 - 8

Maslow Meet Bloom: Bridging SEL Needs and Literacy Standards

Cindi Koudelka
117 S. First
Tonica, IL 61370
Home: (815) 257-3605
Work: (309) 432-2529 x1014
Email: koudelka21@gmail.com
Availability: Anytime

Teachers can help students develop self-awareness and coping skills, build empathy, and deal with trauma while meeting literacy standards. Learn how to embed a variety of reading and writing activities in your classroom. The presenter will also share a book list of inclusive literature covering many SEL topics.

Audience: 6 - 12

IRC Speakers Bureau

Isn't it Ironic? Nurturing Humanity through Digital Literacy and AI

Cindi Koudelka
117 S. First
Tonica, IL 61370
Home: (815) 257-3605
Work: (309) 432-2529 x1014
Email: koudelka21@gmail.com

Availability: Anytime

In a world of sound bytes, memes, and instant information, how do we help students ethically navigate it all to connect, rather than divide, our society? Dive into how the transformative power of digital literacy and AI, often perceived as nothing more than a cold, mechanical form of cheating, can actually foster our students' most human traits—empathy, critical thinking, and community building. Gain an understanding of the ISTE standards for both educators and students and how they can support both academic and social-emotional growth. Explore using various digital platforms, apps, and assistive technology to revolutionize and energize your teaching and engage students innovatively. Learn how to embed inclusive literature, digital resources, and student-centered strategies within a digital literacy framework that facilitates authentic learning opportunities for students across all grade levels and content areas to produce, communicate, interpret, and socialize fluidly and critically between the digital and print worlds. Whether you're a tech-savvy teacher or new to the world of embedding digital instruction, this session offers valuable insights and resources for creating an immersive and transformative learning experience for your students.

Audience: K – 12

Cultivating a Comprehensive Literacy Approach: Nurturing Reading Proficiency AND Passion with Love and Joy

Cindi Koudelka
117 S. First
Tonica, IL 61370
Home: (815) 257-3605
Work: (309) 432-2529 x1014
Email: koudelka21@gmail.com

Availability: Anytime

Explore a holistic approach to literacy instruction that harmonizes the complexity of reading practices while fostering a deep love and joy for reading. Participants will gain insights into effectively integrating systematic, evidence-based strategies for building equitable reading proficiency with engaging, student-centered experiences that inspire passion and enthusiasm for reading. Dive into practical methods for creating a classroom environment where every student feels valued and motivated when engaged in evidence-based instruction and access to high-quality, inclusive resources. Transform your reading instruction to blend choice, passion, and inclusivity with explicit and systematic instruction that builds a strong skills foundation, develops critical thinking, extends knowledge, and fosters a passion for reading.

Audience: K – 12

I See What You're Saying: Using Visual Images, Multiple Genre, and Varied Text Structures to Expand Literacy Engagement

Roxanne Owens
5038 West Berteau
Chicago, IL 60641
Home: 773-255-0610
Work: 773-325-4329
Fax: 773-325-7748

Email: rowens@depaul.edu

Availability: Anytime

This presentation explores use of visual images and other texts to enhance literacy engagement. We discuss how to “read” images and how to utilize Artifactual Literacy.

Audience: All

Finding and Using Untold Stories From History: How Women Bowlers Rolled to Save Thousand of Soldiers' Lives During World War II

Roxanne Owens
5038 West Berteau
Chicago, IL 60641
Home: 773-255-0610
Work: 773-325-4329
Fax: 773-325-7748

Email: rowens@depaul.edu

Availability: Anytime

This presentation is for those with interest in primary/secondary document archival research and using supplementary literacy sources to engage students in history/social studies. The example topic is for those with curiosity in women's/sports/military history. Most people know the important role that women played on the home front during World War II of holding scrap metal drives, planting victory gardens, and working in factories as the iconic Rosie the Riveter. But the important story of the Wings of Mercy fundraising campaign, in which members of the Women's Bowling Congress raised \$350,000 (5.2 million in today's economy) to purchase one Havoc A-20 bomber, one mobile field ambulance, and three Douglas C-47 air evacuation flight ambulances is largely unknown. In this presentation, Dr. Owens demonstrates how she discovered, through open access primary and secondary document research, this fascinating story and how you can also find and use similar documents in your upper grade classroom.

Audience: 6 - 12

IRC Speakers Bureau

One-to-One with iPads and Chromebooks – Now What?

Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost
2753 Whitlock Drive
Darien, IL 60561
Cell: (708) 717-9865 or (630) 546-1917
Email: sheilaruh@yahoo.com
ssejnost@me.com
Availability: Anytime

This presentation provides many technology tools for a one-to-one classroom with both iPads and Chromebooks. Topics discussed will include classroom management, formative assessment, Google Classroom, See Saw, standards-based grading and much more for a successful one-to-one classroom.

Audience: 4 - 12

Using Technology to Create a Global Classroom

Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost
2753 Whitlock Drive
Darien, IL 60561
Cell: (708) 717-9865 or (630) 546-1917
Email: sheilaruh@yahoo.com
ssejnost@me.com
Availability: Anytime

This presentation introduces technology tools that allow students to go beyond their classroom walls to collaborate with others globally. Participants will learn about Google Hangouts, Skype in Education, virtual field trips, ePals, and many other global collaborative projects that will provide unique learning experiences resulting in increased student achievement and motivation.

Audience: 4 - 12

Using Technology to Create Innovative Learning Experiences

Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost
2753 Whitlock Drive
Darien, IL 60561
Cell: (708) 717-9865 or (630) 546-1917
Email: sheilaruh@yahoo.com
ssejnost@me.com
Availability: Anytime

This presentation includes innovative learning experiences using technology to increase student engagement in all of the content areas. Participants will acquire many differentiated lesson ideas, which can be adapted for all grade levels.

Audience: 4 - 12

Increasing Student Engagement and Learning with Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards

Melissa Wheeler and Jaclyn Turner
1101 Lafayette Ave
Mattoon, IL. 61938
Cell: (217) 218-4559
Email: melissa.wheeler@gmail.com
jaclynturner407@gmail.com
Availability: Anytime

Learn about ISBE-issued Culturally Responsive Teaching & Leading Standards through collaborative exercises. Create and share instructional practices and supplemented curriculum materials in a digital community.

Audience: All

Pushing Back with Love and Joy: Why Queer Representation Matters

Cindi Koudelka, Melissa Wheeler, Julie Hoffman
117 S. First
Tonica, IL 61370
Home: (815) 257-3605
Work: (309) 432-2529 x1014
Email: koudelka21@gmail.com
melissa.wheeler@gmail.com
TheReadEologist@gmail.com
Availability: Anytime

Join us as we share our favorite books that center and celebrate Queer Joy in Literature! We will highlight joyful, identity-affirming literature that spans all ages in a fast-paced jubilee. Links to purchase books from black or queer-owned independent bookstores will be provided! Books will be onsite to explore! Door prizes will be given! Come and make a new TBR list for your classroom with us!

Audience: All

Joyful Latinx Representation

Melissa Wheeler and Julie Hoffman
1101 Lafayette Ave
Mattoon, IL. 61938
Cell: (217) 218-4559
Email: melissa.wheeler@gmail.com
TheReadEologist@gmail.com
Availability: Anytime

Representation in literature is powerful, but it is not always easy to find what you seek for your reading learning spaces. We compile and constantly update a selection of fantastic literature that features joyful, authentic Latinx representation. We would love to share some amazing books and authors for all ages!

Audience: All

IRC Speakers Bureau

Curing the Secondary Literacy Epidemic by Cultivating Engaged Readers

Niki Woodruff and Katie Hoving

409 N. 7th Street

DeKalb, IL 60115

Home: 847-804-8308

Cell: 815-243-0987

Email: nwoodruff333@gmail.com or

kathryn.hoving@d300.org

Availability: Anytime

Frustrated by your students' lack of reading? Want to engage your hard-to-motivate, struggling, and/or striving readers? Young adult literature (YAL) is just the antidote to this common secondary school epidemic. In an interactive environment, participants will learn the history of YAL, statistics surrounding adolescent reading habits, and how to best incorporate diverse and inclusive texts into the classroom while still meeting curricular standards. Be prepared for discussion, to receive resources, and to be rejuvenated.

Audience: 4 - 12