

Featured Speakers

Literacy Connections
19th West IRA Regional Conference
Seattle, Washington
October 9-11, 2008

Join us for three days of sessions, workshops, and institutes. Here are a few of the exciting speakers you will hear.



General Session Speakers

Esmé Raji Codell is a children's literature specialist, and best selling author. She is the recipient of the American Library Association's Alex Award for her book *Educating Esme: Diary of a Teacher's First Year*, which has been given to new teachers in school districts throughout the country. Her popular titles for children include the International Reading Association's Children's Book Award winner, *Sahara Special*; *Hanukkah, Shmanukkah*; *Sing a Song of Tuna Fish*; and *Vive La Paris*.

Ralph Fletcher is a friend of writing teachers everywhere. His many books for teachers and young readers include *Boy Writers: Reclaiming Their Voices*; *How to Write Your Life Story*; and *The Qualities of Writing*.

Regie Routman's intimate knowledge of teaching and learning, down-to-earth style, and dedication to children's success have made her one of the most vibrant and respected names in literacy education. Her books, *Teaching Essentials*; *Writing Essentials*; *Reading Essentials*; *Conversations*; *Literacy at the Crossroads*; *Invitations*; *The Blue Pages*; and *Transitions* have encouraged hundreds of thousands of teachers to take charge of their professional learning and create efficient, joyful practices.

Featured Speakers

Nancy Boyles was a classroom teacher for 25 years and is currently professor of reading and graduate reading program coordinator at Southern Connecticut State University. She teaches courses in developmental reading, the craft of writing, and literacy coaching. Boyles is the author of four books: *Teaching Written Response to Text: Constructing Quality Answers to Open-ended Comprehension Questions*, *Constructing Meaning through Kid-Friendly Comprehension Strategy Instruction*, *Hands-on Literacy Coaching* (Maupin House, 2007), and *That's a Great Answer: Teaching Literature Response to K-3, ELL, and Struggling Readers*.

Beverly Ann Chin is professor of English and director of the English Teaching Program at the University of Montana, Missoula. She served as president of the National Council of Teachers of English from 1995 to 1996. Chin has directed the Montana Writing Project, served on the board of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and worked with Annenberg Media as lead content director/web editor for *Teaching Multicultural Literature: A Workshop for Middle Grades* and as teacher educator and literary scholar on *The Expanding Cannon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School*. Currently, she is senior project consultant for the 2011 Writing Framework for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Ardith Cole has 30 years of public school experience in a range of capacities, from classroom teacher to literacy specialist. She has also worked with teachers as a literacy consultant, a university adjunct, and an officer in professional literacy organizations. A recipient of numerous professional awards, including the University of Buffalo's Outstanding Alumni Award in 2000, she is the author of *Better Answers: Written Performance That Looks Good and Sounds Smart* and *Literacy Activities for Building Classroom Communities*.

Roger C. Farr is currently chancellors' professor emeritus of education at Indiana University, Bloomington, and a former president of the International Reading Association. His many honors include three from IRA: the William S. Gray Citation for Outstanding Lifetime Contributions to the Teaching of Reading, the Reading Hall of Fame, and the Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award. Farr's handouts and other materials can be downloaded from his web page at www.rosgerfarr.com.

Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss have been telling stories together as "Beauty and the Beast Storytellers" since 1980. As a result of their extensive experience in teaching students of all ages to tell stories, they have produced numerous award-winning books and recordings including *Children Tell Stories: Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom*, which is considered a storytelling classic. Their collections of world folktales for students include *How and Why Stories*; *Scared Witless: Thirteen Eerie Tales to Tell*; *Noodlehead Stories*; *Stories in My Pocket: Tales Kids Can Tell*; and *Through the Grapevine*.

Linda Hoyt has many years of experience teaching in elementary classrooms. She has also worked as a reading specialist, a staff developer, a curriculum specialist, and is currently a full-time consultant. Her special love is creating environments where children engage as active participants in the learning process.

Carol Jago teaches English at Santa Monica High School in California, and is the author of nine books. Her wide and varied experience in standards assessment and secondary education has made her a sought-after speaker. She has served as director of the National Council of Teachers of English Commission on Literature and currently is a member of NCTE's Secondary Section.

Jerry L. Johns, past president of the International Reading Association, had a distinguished career at Northern Illinois University. He began his career as a classroom teacher and reading specialist and now serves as a consultant. He has authored the Basic Reading Inventory and coauthored seven books dealing with fluency, primary reading, vocabulary, comprehension, visualization, writing, and content-area learning.

Nancy J. Johnson is a professor of English/Language Arts at Western Washington University where she specializes in children's and young adult literature and literacy methods courses. A former elementary and high school teacher, she consults with teachers locally, nationally, and internationally. She is also the coordinator of WWU's annual Children's Literature Conference and the co-author of *The Wonder of It All: When Literature and Literacy Intersect* as well as three books about literature circles.

Spencer Kagan is an internationally acclaimed researcher, trainer, and author of over 80 books, chapters, and scientific journal articles. He is the principal author of the single most comprehensive book for educators in each of four fields: cooperative learning, multiple intelligences, classroom discipline, and classroom energizers. He provides workshops and keynotes in 20 countries and his books are translated into many languages. Kagan has developed over 100 cooperative learning structures that are used in classrooms worldwide.

Donna Knoell is an educational consultant and author who works with schools, school districts, and groups of professionals to help improve their instructional programs. She is an expert in content literacy, vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and visual literacy.

D. Ray Reutzel is serving on the International Reading Association Board of Directors and is the Emma Eccles Jones endowed chair professor of early childhood education at Utah State University in Logan. Reutzel works closely with public school teachers and children as a technical assistant for several federal reading reform projects including Goals 2000 and Reading First.

Alfred W. Tatum is the author of *Teaching Reading to Black Adolescent Males: Closing the Achievement Gap* and the director of the Reading Clinic at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He is a frequent presenter on adolescent literacy issues and does research in the areas of adolescent literacy and teacher development. Tatum has provided professional development support in schools across the nation and has published in several journals including *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, and *Principal Leadership*. He began his career as an eighth-grade teacher on the south side of Chicago.

Featured Authors

Margaret Chodos-Irvine is an award-winning illustrator and author. Her children's books includes the 2004 Caldecott Honor Book, *Ella Sarah Gets Dressed*; *Best Best Friends*; and *Hello, Arctic!* written by Theodore Taylor.

Laura McGee Kvasnosky began her writing career at the age of eight by sharpening pencils for her editor father. When her family moved and she became the new kid in school, she honed her craft. As "an outsider looking in" she developed tremendous observation skills and she concocted tremendous stories in hopes of attracting friends. McGee Kvasnosky has published twelve books for young readers, including the popular series of books about two young fox sisters, *Zelda and Ivy*. A recent book in the series, *Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways*, was winner of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Beginning Reader Award.

Kirby Larson is the acclaimed author of the 2007 Newbery Honor Book, *Hattie Big Sky*, a young adult novel she wrote inspired by her great-grandmother, Hattie Inez Brooks Wright, who homesteaded by herself in eastern Montana as a young woman. In addition, Kirby has written three other books for children, including the award-winning picture book, *The Magic Kerchief*.

Kadir Nelson's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums around the world. Nelson is also the illustrator of many books for children. Among the best known are *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* by Carole Boston Weatherford, an NAACP Image Award winner, a Caldecott Honor Book, and a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner; *Ellington Was Not a Street* by Ntozake Shange, a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner; *Please, Baby, Please* and *Please, Puppy, Please*, by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee; and Will Smith's *Just the Two of Us*, also an NAACP Image Award winner. *We Are the Ship* is the first book Nelson has written and illustrated.

Graham Salisbury, award-winning author, businessman, father, rock-and-roll musician, surfer, university teacher, is a busy guy, but he would be the first to tell you how important it is to find time to daydream. Salisbury's drive to write about the emotional journey that kids must take to become adults in a challenging and complicated world is evident throughout his work. His books include *Night of the Howling Dogs*, *Under the Blood Red Sun*, and *Eyes of the Emperor*. www.grahamsalisbury.com