



Amy VanDerwater

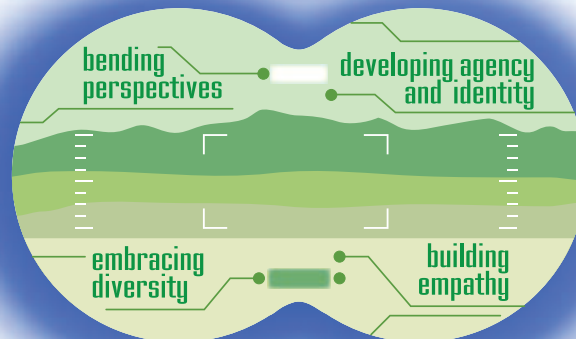


Jan Burkins



Aida Salazar

a view from here



CCIRA 2023

Registration for the 55th
CCIRA Conference on Literacy
opens for members October 1, 2022
at ccira.org



Sarah Zerwin



Charles R. Smith



Cornelius Minor



Lester Laminack



Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow



Colby Sharp



Penny Kittle



Patrick A. Allen

Welcome to the 2023 CCIRA Literacy Conference

When you look out, what's your view? Do you see the bustle of downtown Denver? The quiet streets of a front range suburb? The open vistas of the eastern plains? Mountain valleys? Western slope orchards? Northwestern plateaus? Farming and ranchland of the San Luis Valley?

When you look out, do you see the curious faces of young children experiencing their first moments of school? Middle grade learners figuring out how the books in their classrooms both mirror and extend their understandings of themselves and the world? Adolescent readers and writers expanding their literacy capacities and questions about how printed and spoken words might give them power?

When you look out, do you see colleagues ready to dig in and work hard? A school community coming together to support all the learners in their care?

Regardless of your view, we hope CCIRA 2023 *A View From Here* offers both a respite and a spark. We hope you see yourself. We hope you learn something new. We hope you feel that wonderful mix of confirmation and challenge that leads to professional growth. We hope you reconnect with colleagues and perhaps make a new friend or two.

As we constructed this three-day event, we wanted to bring together a diverse mix of educators and authors who would link to, extend, and then deepen four

A View From Here

underlying threads: bending perspectives, developing agency and identity, embracing diversity, and building empathy.

Ruth Ayres, author of *Enticing Hard to Reach Writers* and Editor in Chief of *Choice Literacy*, starts off the conference with her Thursday morning keynote, *Rooting for You: The Power of Encouragement*. Thursday's luncheon speaker is our dear friend and colleague **Lester Laminack**, author of professional texts like *Writers ARE Readers* and *Critical Comprehension: Lessons for Leading K-6 Students to Deeper Meaning* and picture books like *Saturdays and Teacakes* and *Three Hens, a Peacock, and the Enormous Egg*. His talk, *Story Matters*, will remind us all of the power of stories: those we read, those we tell, and those we hear. We'll end our first day with *Not a Luxury: An Evening of Poetry*, an interactive session with **Aeriale Johnson**, co-author of *Possibilities of Poetry*, and **Clare Landrigan**, co-author of *Possibilities of Poetry*, *Assessment in Perspective*, and *It's All About the Books*.

Cornelius Minor, author of *We Got This!*, launches day two with his keynote, *We Act on What We See: Literacy in the Age of Impossible*. The luncheon speaker is the incomparable **Penny Kittle**, author of many books including *Micro Mentor Texts*, *Book Love*, and *Write Beside Them*. Her presentation, *The Literacy Lessons I Learned from "Hamilton,"* will teach us all about passion, creativity, genre and the process of writing.



Lori L. Conrad

And at the end of our second day of learning **Dr. Don Vu**, author of *Life, Literacy, and the Pursuit of Happiness*, will send us off with plenty to ponder with his session, *The Audacity of Equality for All*.

Our final day begins with a continental breakfast, followed by a thoughtfully crafted morning with three authors and book lovers: **Donalyn Miller**, author/co-author of books like *The Book Whisperer* and *The Joy of Reading*, **Colby Sharp**, co-author of *Game Changers* and *The Commonsense Guide to Your Classroom Library*, and **John Schu**, author of *This is a School* and *The Gift of Story*. This trifecta of literacy leaders will focus on *Increasing Readers' Engagement: Three Views*.

Tucked around these anchoring sessions are presentations by educators including Dr. Jan Burkins, Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, Matthew Kay, Debbie Miller, Nawal Qaronni, Sarah Zerwin, and Kristin Ziemke. We'll also have the good fortune to learn alongside authors Matthew Cordell, Kristine O'Connell George, Shannon Hale, Lesléa Newman, Linda Sue Park, Aida Salazar, Charles R. Smith, Jr., Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, and Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Look for the book signing schedule included in this booklet AND posted in various places in the conference center.

Please visit all of the wonderful vendors lining the halls of the venue. There will be educational resources, book sellers, representatives from local nonprofits and universities, and boutiques filled with unique items.

CCIRA has always been an essential part of our professional lives. Through the organization's various print and online publications, as well as through this yearly conference, we've honed who we are as teachers. We've met educators and researchers who have changed the way we craft instruction, create classroom environments, and communicate with colleagues. If this organization has also helped you grow, please consider becoming a more active member. Whether at the local council level or at the state Executive Committee level, volunteering your time, talents, and treasure will help keep CCIRA the powerful and inspirational organization it's been for the past 55 years.

We hope you connect with us sometime across these three days to share your learnings from and thoughts about *A View From Here*. We know taking time away from your classroom, school, and family to attend all three days of professional learning can sometimes feel like a heavy lift. We hope it's been more than worth it.

Lori L. Conrad and Patrick A. Allen, 2023 Co-Chairs

NEW FOR 2023 LUNCHEON ATTENDEES: Exclusive invitations to followup sessions



Thursday
12:45 Luncheon

Lester Laminack

Title: Story Matters

We are story. Story is how we make sense of our past, navigate the present, and imagine the future. Lester will explore the power of story in our classrooms and in our lives.

Exclusive Session 175:

When Fiction is the Front Porch to Inquiry and Nonfiction

We will explore one topic through the doorway of fiction to spark interest and questions that will launch an exploration moving through a series of nonfiction texts, taking us deeper into the topic, building vocabulary and conceptual understanding.

Friday
12:45 Luncheon

Penny Kittle

Title: The Literacy Lessons I Learned from *Hamilton*

The Pulitzer Prize winning play by Lin-Manuel Miranda has lessons to teach us all about passion, creativity, genre, and the process of writing. Each year we can help students construct identities of power and opportunity, to challenge themselves as readers and writers, and to act with agency in our classrooms.

Exclusive Session 271:

Micro Mentor Texts: Using short passages from great books to teach writer's craft

We all want readers and writers to flourish in our classrooms. We want students who see a book as a treasure chest of craft moves—the moves that skilled writers use. They can and will begin to name those moves and use them through passage study and imitation. They will learn a wide range of writing skills from grammar in context, varied sentence patterns—both the art and feel of cohesion and style—as well as all the ways a writer is an artist of words.



Meet our Keynote Speakers



7:30-8:45 am
Thursday Morning

Ruth Ayres
Rooting for You: The Power of Encouragement



5:00-6:30 pm
Thursday Evening

Aeriale Johnson & Clare Landrigan
Not a Luxury: An Evening of Poetry



7:30-8:45 am
Friday Morning

Cornelius Minor
We Act on What We See: Literacy in the Age of Impossible



5:00-6:30 pm
Friday Evening

Don Vu
The Audacity of Equality for All



Photo in memory of Kathi McLaughlin, courtesy of her daughter Kasia
(Patrick A. Allen's former student)

FEATURED

THURSDAY

Ruth Ayres **SESSION 103**
 Matthew Kay **SESSION 101, 171**
 Nawal Qarooni **SESSION 102, 172**
 Shannon Hale **SESSION 111, 152**
 Linda Sue Park **SESSION 112, 153**
 Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow **SESSION 113, 123**
 Kristine O'Connell George **SESSION 121, 155**
 Aida Salazar **SESSION 122, 154**
 Sonja Cherry-Paul **SESSION 131, 176**
 Sarah Zerwin **SESSION 132, 177**
 Lester Laminack **SESSION 175 – EXCLUSIVE**

PRESENTERS

FRIDAY

Cornelius Minor **SESSION 202**
 Jan Burkins **SESSION 201, 279**
 Clare Landrigan **SESSION 203**
 Aeriale Johnson **SESSION 203**
 Amy VanDerwater **SESSION 204, 275**
 Lesléa Newman **SESSION 211, 254**
 Matthew Cordell **SESSION 212, 253**
 Charles R. Smith Jr. **SESSION 231, 274**
 Kristin Ziemke **SESSION 232, 272**
 Debbie Miller **SESSION 236**
 Penny Kittle **SESSION 271 – EXCLUSIVE**
 Don Vu **SESSION 273**

SATURDAY

Donalyn Miller **SESSION 300**
 John Schu **SESSION 300**
 Colby Sharp **SESSION 300**



Don Vu

CCIRA 2023

Questions and Answers

WHAT TO DO WHEN ARRIVING AT THE CONFERENCE?

The registration table is located in the lobby of the Westin Hotel. When you arrive, pick up your conference registration materials, including your name badge, there. The sessions and luncheons you have selected will be listed on your badge.

CAN I REGISTER AT THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE?

Yes. Be aware that onsite registration will include an additional \$50 processing fee. Conference goers who register onsite will be able to attend sessions that still have available seating.

ccira.org is the place to start to register for the conference and select luncheons and sessions.

SHOULD I PURCHASE LUNCHEON TICKETS IN ADVANCE?

Yes. You may purchase tickets for \$47.00 per luncheon during the registration process. Thursday's luncheon speaker, Lester Laminack, will invite participants to think deeply about how *Story Matters*. On Friday, Penny Kittle will inspire luncheon goers with *The Literacy Lessons I Learned from "Hamilton."* Luncheon tickets include an exclusive afternoon session with each speaker.

WHERE IS THE HOTEL?

The 2023 conference is at the Westin Westminster at 10600 Westminster Boulevard in Westminster, CO 80020. The hotel's telephone number is (303) 410-5000. The hotel is accessed from Highway 36 (the Boulder Turnpike) and Church Ranch Boulevard.

ARE HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE?

Yes. You may stay at the Westminster Westin Hotel. All costs are the responsibility of the participant. Look for a hotel registration link on ccira.org.

WHERE DO I PARK?

The hotel offers ample free onsite parking.

CAN I GET A REFUND?

Refunds for the CCIRA conference will not be given due to inclement weather or scheduling conflicts. In the event of a non-weather related emergency, written documentation must accompany your request. In case of illness, a registration can be transferred to another 2023 attendee.

Refunds will not be issued for payments of \$75.00 or less. Refunds for payments greater than \$75.00 will be given minus a non-refundable processing fee: \$75.00 up to the registration deadline (Thursday, February 9, 2023 - the first day of the conference), \$100.00 after that date.

If a refund request is granted before the registration deadline (2/9/23), all monies for conference payment will

be refunded minus the non-refundable registration fee. After that date, refund requests must be made no later than ten days after registration deadline (2/9/23). Refunds at this time, if granted, will be for registration fees only, not meals or membership dues. Each request will be considered on an individual basis. All refund decisions will be made by the CCIRA President.

IS CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE?

Yes. Adams State and UNC will be offering college credit for attending sessions. Keep an eye on ccira.org for the latest information. All participants will receive a certificate of participation applicable for recertification purposes.



Tami Thompson

CCIRA2023 begins here.



Use the link to book the Westin with the CCIRA Group Rate.

The time to book your room is now, and you can get the special CCIRA rate of \$174 per night. The last day to book is January 18, 2023, but don't wait until the last minute! Rooms are based on availability.

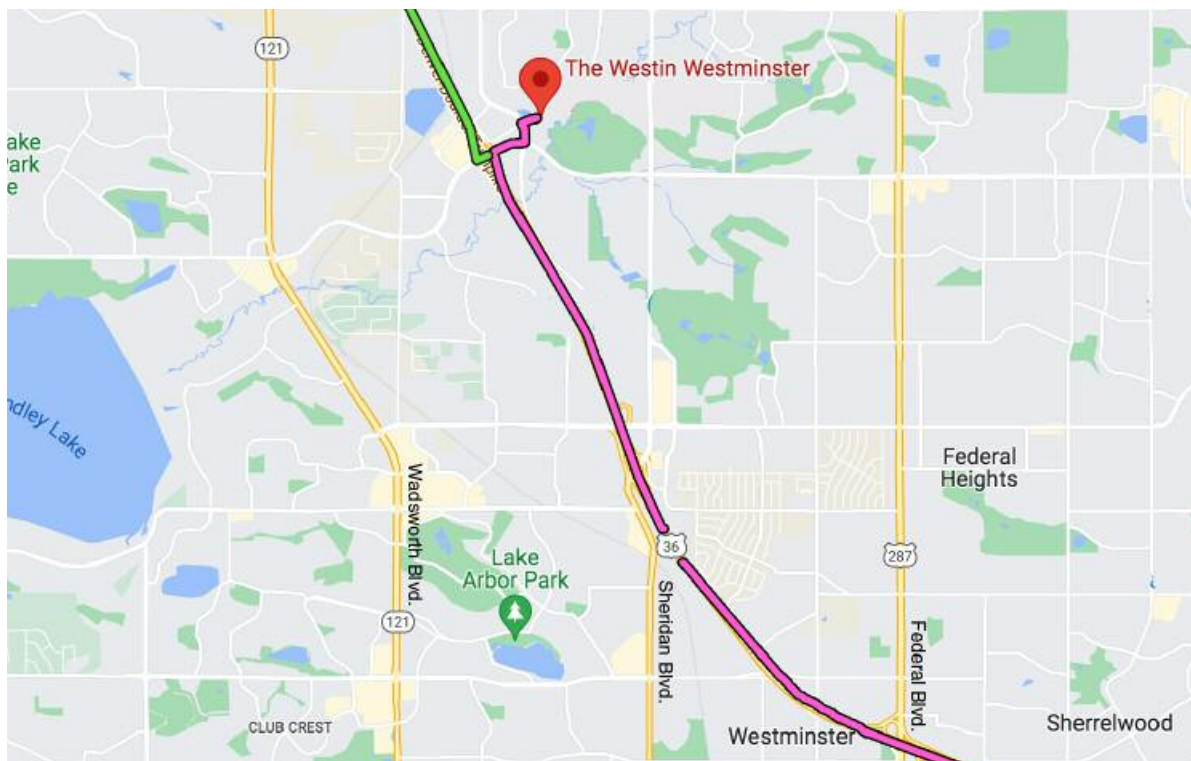


WESTIN®

10600 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CO 80020
(303) 410-5000

Click or copy the link below, or scan the QR code to access the CCIRA2023 Group Rate at the Westin.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1663715471183&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

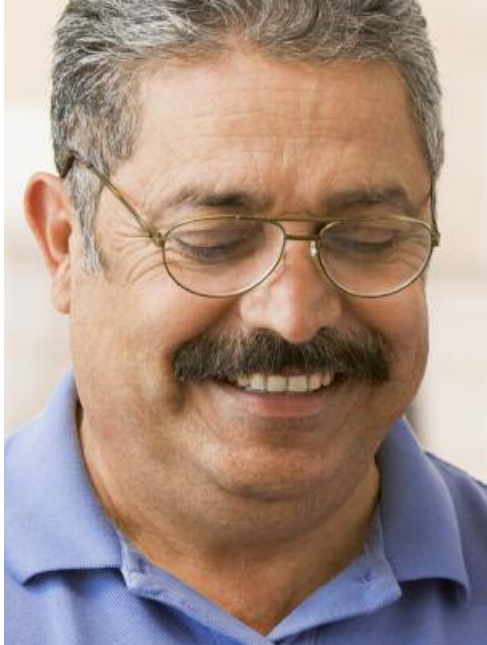




Students can qualify for special conference rates.

Current undergraduate students can receive special conference rates by contacting the State Membership Coordinator Jessie Meeks at jessie.meeks@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Include your first and last name, email address, home address, phone number, and a copy of your current undergraduate class schedule. She will then provide you with a code and directions to register for the conference.



Principals can do CCIRA free.

Principals—did you know that when six teachers from your school register for the full conference, YOUR registration is FREE?*

Email the names of those teachers to Jessica Rickert at jessrccira@gmail.com for verification. If you qualify, we will send you a complimentary code for a free full conference registration!

*You must be a CCIRA member to qualify. This offer is only valid for principals or assistant principals and not any other school personnel.



If you love CCIRA, join in as a volunteer.

Be a part of CCIRA at the local or conference level.

Become a member of your local council and/or help out at the conference.

Sign up when you register by checking 'YES' where it says "Would you like to volunteer as a Session Monitor or Session Chair?"

We'll schedule your time so it aligns with your conference schedule.

Book Signing Schedule

Here is the current schedule for you to meet the CCIRA 2023 presenters and authors and purchase their latest books.

THURSDAY

9:45-10:15

Kristine O'Connell George

Aida Salazar

Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul

10:55-11:25

Ruth Ayres

Nawal Qarooni

Matthew Kay

12:45-1:15

Sarah Zerwin

Linda Sue Park

Shannon Hale

Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

4:30-5:00

Lester Laminack

6:30-7:00

Aeriale Johnson

Clare Landrigan

FRIDAY

10:55-11:25

Cornelius Minor

Jan Burkins

Debbie Miller

Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

12:45 - 1:15

Kristin Ziemke

2:45-3:15

Matthew Cordell

Lesléa Newman

4:30-5:00

Penny Kittle

Charles R. Smith Jr.

6:30-7:00

Don Vu

SATURDAY

11:45-12:15

Donalyn Miller

John Schu

Colby Sharp



Maria Walther

CCIRA LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee

President
Michele Warner

Secretary
Rebecca Hoover

Treasurer
Cathy Lynskey

State Membership
Coordinator
Jessie Meeks

Marketing Chairperson
Amy Vermeulen

Partnership Chairperson
Stevi Quate

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2023
Lori L. Conrad and
Patrick A. Allen

Conference Chairperson
2024
Anne Folsom

Members-At-Large
Molly Rauh and
Tanisha Lee

State Committee Chairs

Budget
Cathy Lynskey

CCIRA Advisory
Amy Nicholl

CCIRA Futures Award
— in memory of CCIRA Past
Presidents
Barb Kruse

Colorado Children's Book
Award
Marcie Haloin

Council Development Grant
Jessica Endres

Early Career Network
Krista Griffin
Bryant Walkinshaw

Historical Perspective
Jessica Rickert

Legislative
James Erikson
Roland Schendel

Marketing
Amy Vermeulen

Model Literacy Award
Kendra Carpenter

Nancy Fox Family Literacy
Grant
Eddie Ellington

Nominating
Executive Committee

Professional Development
Hollyanna Bates

Rules and Bylaws
Becky Nelsen
Beth Whaley

Teacher as Literacy Learner
Grant
Michelle Tillotson

2023 Conference Committee

2023 Conference Co-Chairs
Lori L. Conrad
Patrick A. Allen

2024 Conference Chair
Anne Folsom

Administrative Assistant
Lisa Kahn

Art/Graphic Design
Scott Johnson

Author Ambassadors
Anne Ebner
Angel Wolf

Site:
Signs/Hospitality/
Onsite Registration
Jessica Rickert
Anne Folsom
Shareen Lalum-Cartwright

Exhibits
Sue Queen
Michelle Stacey

ADA
Lisa Kahn

Bookstores and
Author Ambassador
Anne Cook
Susan McIver
Dana Berg

Evaluations
Meghan Evans

Treasurer
Cathy Lynskey

Marketing
Amy Vermeulen

CCIRA Past Presidents

Robert Cheuvront 1966-67	Don L. Anderson 1989-91	Mary Jo Ziegman 2013-2014
Edna Licht 1967-68	Bonnie Brown 1991-92	Susan Hutchens 2014-2015
Donald Carline 1968-69	Joan Ripple 1992-93	Jan Killick 2015-2016
Mildred Sanville 1969-70	Peggy Isakson 1993-94	Amy Nicholl 2016-2017
Amos Claybaugh 1970-71	Barbara Kruse 1994-95	Anne Cook 2017-2018
William Liddle 1971-72	Kim Sutherland 1995-96	Amy Ellerman 2018-2019
Ladessa Yuthas 1972-73	Paul Coleman 1996-97	Jessica Rickert 2019-2022
Beulah Hutcheson 1973-74	Judy Marcantel 1997-98	
Leon Flancher 1974-75	Mary Fanyo 1998-99	
Robert Williams 1975-76	Karen Brauer 1999-00	
Norma Livo 1976-77	Sandy Redman 2000-01	
Judith Girard 1977-78	Susan Dalton 2001-02	
Phylliss Adams 1978-79	Lloyd Hardesty 2002-03	
Joan Swing 1979-80	Eddie Ellington 2003-04	
Elaine Childs 1980-81	Judith Casey 2004-05	
Douglas Cawley 1981-82	Stevi Quate 2005-2006	
Merrilyn Kloefkorn 1982-83	Carol Wilcox 2006-2007	
Betty Fannin 1983-84	Pat Hagerty 2007-2008	
Linda Jones 1984-85	Vicki Collet 2008-2009	
Colleen Rickert 1985-86	Ruth Larson 2009-2010	
Jim Page 1986-87	Kristen Melsen 2010-2011	
Diane Lewis-Farrell 1987-88	Cindi Bryant 2011-2012	
Nancy Fox 1988-89	Hollyanna Bates 2012-2013	

CCIRA Conference Chairs

Sharon Miller
2020

Pam Minard
2022



7:30-8:45
Thursday Morning Keynote

**Rooting for You:
The Power of Encouragement**

Ruth Ayres

ruthayreswrites.com

choiceliteracy.com

All

In the midst of chaos it is sometimes difficult to know how to press on and make a difference in our classrooms or schools. In this inspiring and practical keynote address, Ruth Ayres reminds us of the power of encouragement.

9:15-10:45 90-Minute Workshops

101 Developing Your "Talking Game"

Matthew Kay

notlight.com

Middle School, High School

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Develop the communication skills needed to lead meaningful classroom race conversations. Expect to walk through classroom race discussion scenarios that demand each participant's best facilitation, communication and—yes—conflict management skills.



102 Family and Caregiver Literacy: Our Most Powerful Partners

Nawal Qarooni

nqcliteracy.com

ECE, K-6, Middle School

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Families and caregivers have been raising their children into powerful, multiliterate beings forever. Exalt their already-existing, dynamic practices by centering the pillars of joy, choice and process in everyday communication and instructional design.



103 Enticing Hard-to-Reach Writers

Ruth Ayres

ruthayreswrites.com

choiceliteracy.com

K-5

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Ruth Ayres weaves together her experience as a mother, teacher, and writer. She explores the power of stories to heal children and offers strategies for helping students discover their voices and write.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **RUTH AYRES**

"In a completely rational society, the best of us would be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have."

—— Lee Iacocca ——

104 Poetry's Power to Understand and Change Our World

Megan Sloan and Nancy Johnson

Snohomish School District

3-6, Middle School

In this session participants will experience varying perspectives through a "Poetry Walk" and will see and hear how students, through their own reading and writing of poetry, examine identity, bend perspectives, and build empathy.

105 Collaborative Lesson Study for Authentic PLCs

Vicki Collet

University of Arkansas

All

Does your PLC need a new life? Lesson Study creates REAL professional learning communities. Learn about this collaborative work where teams jointly plan, teach and observe one another, and refine instruction together.



Nawal Qarooni

106 Engaging Students Through Rigor

Danny Burleigh
Douglas County School District
3-6, Middle School, High School

Student engagement is essential for learning. While extrinsic incentives may produce compliance, engagement is cultivated through intrinsic motivation. See how basic classroom structures and pedagogical philosophies can cultivate student engagement.

9:15-10:15 1-Hour Sessions**111 Shaking off the Shackles of Gendered Reading**

Shannon Hale
shannonhale.com
K-6, Middle School

INVITED SPEAKER

Shannon Hale has spent eighteen years labeled and promoted as an author of “girls’ books.” She will discuss the harm caused by prescribing books by gender, the subtle ways even the most well-meaning perpetuate it, and how we can free ourselves.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **LINDA SUE PARK**

*“Reading great books
is a safe way ‘to practice life.’”*

112 More Stories, Greater Truth

Linda Sue Park
lindasuepark.com
3-6, Middle School

INVITED SPEAKER

Linda Sue Park will use her most recent titles, *Prairie Lotus* and *The One Thing You’d Save*, to talk about how stories from different perspectives help us toward greater truth, as individuals, as communities, and as a society.

**113 Loving Literacies: Picture Books as Tools of Social Justice**

Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
jamilahthewriter.com
ECE, K-6

INVITED SPEAKER

In this meditation on picture books and some fundamental principles of love-centered and anti-bias education, we’ll explore how children’s literature can love on our kids in radical ways and be harnessed to develop their understandings of social justice.

**114 Learning Vocabulary in the Wild**

Georgia Scurletis
College Board
Middle School, High School

In this interactive session, participants will encounter a variety of fun and research-backed word-learning strategies that prioritize natural usage, morphemic awareness, and wordplay, as opposed to flat and cryptic dictionary definitions.

115 So Many Needs, So Little Time: Prioritizing Interventions

Kathy Oakes and Shayna Coffey
St Vrain School District
All

This session will give elementary through high school teachers the ability to determine students’ most urgent literacy needs, and provide strategies to target their needs efficiently within the general education classroom.

116 Raising Voices: Power in Sharing Underrepresented Stories

Cassie Moore and Ryanne Kleingarn
3-6, Middle School, High School

Examine how using primary sources representative of historically underrepresented voices, combined with high-impact instructional strategies, can empower students to see themselves and their ancestors as contributors to our nation’s history.



Linda Sue Park

10:30-11:30 1-Hour Sessions**121 A Wooden Silo and a Harvest of Colorado Stories**

Kristine O’Connell George
kristinegeorge.com
K-6

INVITED SPEAKER

Treasured Colorado memories run throughout my poetry. As I share these poems and the stories, I hope you will be inspired to explore your own unique memories and reflect on how our stories inform ‘A View from Here’ and connect us all. Repeats as Session 155.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM AIDA SALAZAR

"Every child is born a poet."

— Piri Thomas —

122 Born a Poet: Cultivating Student Poetry with Humor and Heart

Aida Salazar

aidasalazar.com

3-6, Middle School

INVITED
SPEAKER

This presentation will offer ways to cultivate the innate poet in every child through writing prompts, fun writing games, and unconventional creativity exercises to express feelings from the heart and set their imaginations free.

**123 Reflect and Revise: Erasure in the Writer's Workshop**

Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

jamilahthewriter.com

K-6, Middle School, High School

INVITED
SPEAKER

Using a read aloud of her picture book, *Abdul's Story*, the author will share her reflections as a writer, secondary English teacher, and community writing program leader on ways writer's workshop could better serve historically marginalized writers.

**124 Best New Children's Literature of the Year - Gr. K-4**

Jennifer McIntyre

Once Upon a Mind

PK-6

Come discover the best of this year's books! Discover books that support learning in all areas of the curriculum and stories that you will be eager to share with your students. Attendees will receive an annotated bibliography.

125 Power Up with Primary Sources, Literacy, and Padlet

Michelle Pearson and Laura Israelsen

Adams 12 Five Star Schools

3-6, Middle School, High School

Power up your classroom with Padlet's 8 types of boards and infuse your classroom with diversity and equity content while increasing student engagement. Utilize primary sources and literacy strategies, and walk away with a digital strategy toolkit!

126 Interactive Word Walls for Biliterate Readers and Writers

Andra Brill and Michelle Lopez

PEBC

PK-6

Word study provides important tools for emerging bilinguals to deepen their understanding of phonics and vocabulary. Bring more joy to your word study while supporting strong bilingual readers and writers.

11:00-12:30 90-Minute Workshops**131 Cultivating Liberatory Practices in Book Clubs**

Sonja Cherry-Paul

sonjacherrypaul.com

3-6, Middle School

INVITED
SPEAKER

Representation in children's literature is insufficient by itself. What we do as educators and invite students to do as readers helps us move beyond representation to liberation.

**132 Invite Readers to Drive Their Own Meaning Making**

Sarah Zerwin

sarahmzerwin.com

Middle School, High School

INVITED
SPEAKER

With three straightforward strategies, teach students to make sense of all kinds of texts on their own. These strategies hinge on students' own ideas and insights, giving them the tools they need to do high-level reading work for life.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM JAMILAH THOMPKINS-BIGELOW

*"Love is an action,
never simply a feeling."*

— bell hooks —

133 Differentiated Instructional Coaching

Vicki Collet

University of Arkansas

All

Coaches know that teachers are not all the same! This interactive workshop reveals how modeling, recommending, asking questions, affirming, and praising help you adjust support to match teachers' changing needs.

134 Reconciling Reading Curriculums With Teaching Readers

Danny Burleigh

Douglas County School District

PK-6

We teach readers, not reading. With recent mandates for approved reading curriculums, teachers are questioning how a love of reading will live in their classrooms. Join Dr. Danny Burleigh in an exploration on how to plan for choice and responsiveness.

135 Powering Up Tier 1 Instruction

Melanie Meehan and Julie Wright

Simsbury Public Schools

3-6, Middle School

Small group work has the power to build autonomy and agency with all students! Learn some ways to involve students in the planning and implementation of small group work for high impact instruction.

136 STEM and Literacy: A Perfect Mix

Emily Gentile

Douglas County School District

PK-6

One lesson that connects literacy with science, technology, engineering, and math? There's no way! Join us to learn how to connect many popular read aloud books to STEM activities. This session will be hands-on!



12:45-2:15 p.m.
Thursday Luncheon

Story Matters**Lester Laminack**

lesterlaminack.com

All

We are story. Story is how we make sense of our past, navigate the present, and imagine the future. Lester will explore the power of story in our classrooms and in our lives.

Luncheon attendees will receive an exclusive invitation to Session 175, *When Fiction is the Front Porch to Inquiry and Nonfiction*.

1:30-2:30 1-Hour Sessions**151 Rethinking School Celebrations: Beyond What We Did Last Year!**

Rachel Sachs and Mary Ann Dawson

Aspen Academy

PK-2

Don't stop at pilgrims and leprechauns! Give students an opportunity to share, identify and express their cultural framework. Get book lists and projects that nurture acceptance and foster creativity. Dive deep into the journey of embracing diversity.

152 Collaborating My Heart Out

Shannon Hale

shannonhale.com

K-6, Middle

INVITED SPEAKER

Of Shannon Hale's 40+ published books, over half are collaborations, including co-writing 20 books with her husband Dean and co-creating another 15 with her best friend LeUyen Pham. Shannon will dish on the highs and lows of artistic teamwork, how to make it work, and how to make it fun.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **SHANNON HALE**

"Be messy and complicated and afraid and show up anyways."

— Glennon Doyle Melton —

153 Hands-on Workshop: Real-time Revision

Linda Sue Park

lindasuepark.com

3-6, Middle School, High School

INVITED SPEAKER

Linda Sue Park will demonstrate practical tips and techniques for revision and rewriting that she uses in her own work and can easily be applied in the classroom. Bring your laptop and be ready to write, so you can take these tips back to your students!

**154 Singing a Story: Increasing Literacy Through Verse Novels**

Aida Salazar

aidasalazar.com

3-6, Middle School

INVITED SPEAKER

This presentation will show how the form can be used to enchant readers (reluctant or not) by learning to listen for the musicality inherent within words, lines, poems, and stories. Using mentor texts and specific examples of celebrated verse novels, participants will walk away with key strategies of how their students can fall in love with verse and how they can sing a story.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **KRISTINE O'CONNELL GEORGE**

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead —

155 A Wooden Silo and a Harvest of Colorado Stories

Kristine O'Connell George

kristinegeorge.com

K-6

INVITED SPEAKER

Treasured Colorado memories run throughout my poetry. As I share these poems and the stories, I hope you will be inspired to explore your own unique memories and reflect on how our stories inform "A View from Here" and connect us all. Repeats as Session 121

**156 Science of Reading and Emergent Bilinguals**

Gloria Arquieta Carlson

Poudre School District

PK-6

This presentation will provide educators with an overview of a structured literacy approach, and the integration of scaffolds needed to instruct Emergent Bilinguals.

157 Best New Children's Literature of the Year - Gr. 4-8

Jennifer McIntyre

Once Upon a Mind

3-6, Middle School

Come discover the best of this year's books! Discover books that support learning in all areas of the curriculum and stories that you will be eager to share with your students. Attendees will receive an annotated bibliography.

158 Building Empathy and Equity with Read Alouds

Andra Brill

PEBC

PK-6

We'll go deep understanding how to select read aloud texts, and plan for building community and supporting social-emotional wellbeing in the classroom. Discover new favorites to bring to your students.

159 Likes and Loves:**Books to Empower Colorado Children 2023**

Marcie Haloin

Broomfield Public Library, Adams 12 Schools

PK-6

Enjoy the view by spending an hour with new books for use in elementary classrooms and libraries. Resources include links to trailers, reviews, and ideas for sharing with students. Empower students to nominate and vote for their favorite new books.

160 The Science of Reading and the Emergent Reader

Cynthia Chovich

Colorado Mesa University

PK-2

Presentation focuses on the Science of Reading, brain-based literacy development, and the conceptual understanding educators must recognize to promote children's early literacy skills. Immediate usable strategies that can be implemented will be included.

2:45-4:15 90-Minute Workshops**171 Structuring Your Dialogic Curriculum**

Matthew Kay

notlight.com

Middle School, High School

INVITED
SPEAKER

Be ready to develop effective dialogic strategies that will help participants engage students in race issues. Walk through various discussion structures and techniques while developing structures that are the foundation of conversational success.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **MATTHEW KAY**

*"It is not light that is needed,
but fire."*

—— Frederick Douglass ——

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **NAWAL QAROONI**

*"We are each other's harvest;
we are each other's business;
we are each other's magnitude and bond."*

—— Gwendolyn Brooks ——

172 Kitchen Stories: Carving Spaces for Student Choice and Voice

Nawal Qarooni

nqcliteracy.com

ECE, K-6, Middle School

INVITED
SPEAKER

Learning happens in the kitchen. Explore the classroom connection between food and story, expressed organically via multimodal mentors: poetry, picture book, art and song. By weaving home literacy practices into our schools, we further nourish our kids.

**173 Dyslexia 101 - Empowering Students in the Classroom**

Sally Pistilli

Dyslexia Resource Group

All

Explore the warning signs, facts, and characteristics of dyslexia. Investigate appropriate assessments, effective remediation, and accommodations to best empower your students! Included are group activities to experience what it feels like to be dyslexic.

174 Cartooning for Writers

Stan Yan

All

Literacy and learning through drawing games. Learn games that can help your students learn the basics of storytelling, character development, following directions, and communication.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **LESTER LAMINACK**

*"Which is worse:
to take a stand and fail
or to fail to take a stand."*

175 When Fiction is the Front Porch to Inquiry and Nonfiction

Lester Laminack

lesterlaminack.com

K-6

This session is only available to luncheon attendees.

INVITED
SPEAKER

We will explore one topic through the doorway of fiction to spark interest and questions that will launch an exploration moving through a series of nonfiction texts, taking us deeper into the topic, building vocabulary and conceptual understanding.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM SONJA CHERRY-PAUL

*“Revolution
is not a one-time event.”*

——— Audre Lorde ———

176 Stamped (For Kids): Keeping Hope at the Core

Sonja Cherry-Paul
sonjacherrypaul.com
3-6, Middle School

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Participants will learn specific strategies for using *Stamped (For Kids)* in the classroom in ways that help students challenge racist ideas with antiracist ideas in their daily lives.



177 Put Learners Out Front with Student-led Assessment

Sarah Zerwin
sarahmzerwin.com
Middle School, High School

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Our students are the most important users of classroom assessment data. What might it look like to center students on data about their progress as readers and writers, so they might examine it to determine their own growth?



178 Making Meaning Visible through Visual Verbal Journals

Krista Griffin and Kathy Whitmore
Metropolitan State University Denver
3-6, Middle School, High School

We will discuss how to engage learners in quality children's literature and visual arts through the use of Visual Verbal Journals in classrooms. We'll talk about how we choose SEL and social justice texts for the journals, and try them out together.

179 The Compassionate Pen: Verse Novels as Writing Prompts

Megan E. Freeman
3-6, Middle School, High School

Explore how verse novels can become prompts to help kids write honestly and fearlessly about themselves, each other, and the world. Leave with a dozen writing prompts and lesson ideas you can use tomorrow, and an annotated bibliography of mentor texts.

180 Building Agency of Readers and Writers

Melanie Meehan
Simsbury Public Schools
3-6

When teachers write, they gain insights into the challenges of students. They can also tailor pieces to the interests of their students. Let's write some pieces that take into account, respond to, and inspire unique groups of learners!

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM SARAH ZERWIN

*“But we do language.
That may be the measure
of our lives.”*

——— Toni Morrison ———



Donalyn Miller

**181 Trusting Feedback:
Promoting Growth, Agency and Identity**
Hannah Schneewind and Jennifer Scoggin
Trusting Readers LLC
PK-6

Feedback is an essential practice that answers the question, "How do I reach all students?" We provide tools for teachers to craft skillful feedback that boosts student agency, fosters reading identity, and leads to growth.

182 Helping Students Develop Identities in the Library
Kelsey Walker, Judy Cummings and Ashley Krook
Goshen County School District #1
3-6, Middle School, High School

Learn how a teacher, district librarian, and library clerk collaborated to get students reading and comfortable in the school library. We share pitfalls, successes, and strategies to help students get matched with books and develop confidence in the library.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM CLARE LANDRIGAN

*"When I dare to be powerful,
to use my strength in the service of my
vision, it becomes less and less important
whether I am afraid."*

—— Audre Lorde ——



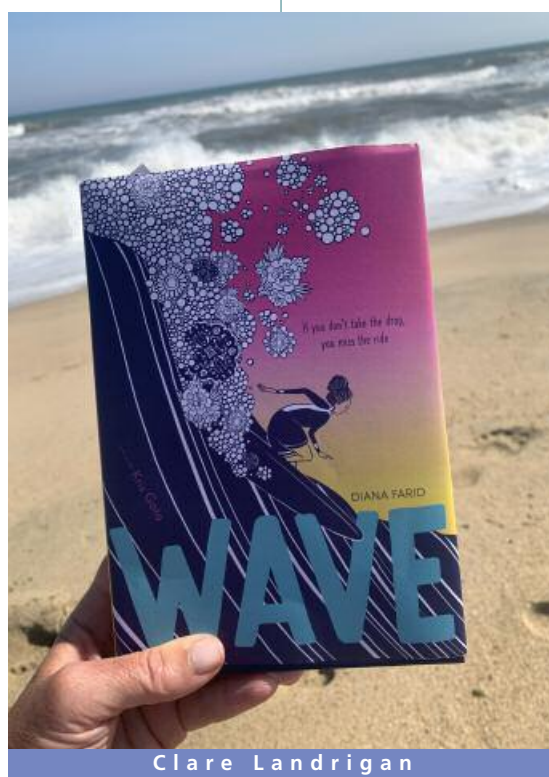
5:00-6:30 pm
Thursday Evening Keynote

**Not a Luxury:
An Evening of Poetry**

Aeriale Johnson
kinderbender.com

Clare Landrigan
clarelandrigan.com
All

Poetry is not a luxury, wrote Audre Lorde, "It is a vital necessity of our existence." A little bit showcase. A little bit open mic. A lot of inspired writing. All poetry. All necessary. Join Clare Landrigan and Aeriale Johnson for an engaging evening filled with verse. Together, we will experience the power that poetry holds for educators to heal and laugh, to advocate and rest, and to think and love.



Clare Landrigan

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM CORNELIUS MINOR

"There is really nothing more to say—except why. But since why is difficult to handle, one must take refuge in how."

—— Toni Morrison ——



7:30-8:45
Friday Morning Keynote

**We Act on What We See:
Literacy in the Age of
Impossible**

Cornelius Minor
teachercornelius.com
All

What do we do when "the view from here" reveals truths that feel impossible? What happens when there is no recipe for what must come next. In this session Cornelius will explore ways that teachers can and must act on what we see.

9:15-10:45 90-Minute Workshops**201 Making Learning to Read Easier (Not Harder) for Children**

Jan Burkins
drjanburkins.com
K-2

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Based on her book with Kari Yates, *Shifting the Balance*, Jan will share research and brain-friendly strategies that can build a bridge between the "science of reading" and classroom practice, making learning to read easier for children.

**202 What is Engagement Now? — Methodologies and Approaches That Lead to High Student Engagement**

Cornelius Minor
teachercornelius.com
All

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

In this session, Cornelius will explore the challenges that we are all experiencing while exploring concrete methodological approaches that will allow us to meet these challenges in the content areas where we experience them.

**203 Exploration of Identity and Self Excavation Using Poetry**

Clare Landrigan and
Aeriale Johnson
clarelandrigan.com
kinderbender.com
K-5

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Poetry's a powerful vehicle to explore one's identity. It resists the confines and structures of concrete definition, and creates a more humanizing space for kids to know and celebrate their identities. Let's explore using poetry in identity development.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM AMY VANDERWATER

"Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore..."

—— Naomi Shihab Nye ——

204 First, We Fall in Love With Lines

Amy VanDerwater
amyludwigvanderwater.com
K-5, Middle School

**INVITED
SPEAKER**

Before we write in a genre, it helps to love it, and there is much to love in poetry. Come hear poems read aloud, learn about contemporary children's poets, and discover inspiring books, objects, and websites for bringing the land of poetry to students.

**205 Listening with Purpose to Understand Diversity**

Kile Clabaugh and Roland Schendel
Metropolitan State University of Denver
3-6, Middle School

Listening can be taught explicitly and used to support student understanding of diversity. Listening strategically, critically, appreciatively, discriminatively, and precisely can teach students to make sense of varied perspectives.

206 Seeing is Believing

Stevi Quate, Annie Patterson, Jennifer Barstow and
Kurtis Quig
PEBC
All

A diverse high school refined peer learning labs during and after COVID. Learn how this professional learning impacted teachers and students, and nurtured agency. Walk away with concrete ideas for implementing labs and ways to meet the needs of all.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM BOTH **LESLÉA NEWMAN**
AND **KRISTIN ZIEMKE**

*"Be yourself.
Everyone else is already taken."*

— Oscar Wilde —

9:15-10:15 1-Hour Sessions

211 Matthew Shepard: He Continues to Make a Difference

Lesléa Newman
lesleanewman.com
High School

INVITED
SPEAKER

In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a student at University of Wyoming, was killed because he was gay. Newman explores this hate crime through poetic monologues told by the fence he was tied to, the truck he was kidnapped in, the moon above him, and more.



212 The Power of Wordless Picture Books

Matthew Cordell
matthewcordell.com
K-5

INVITED
SPEAKER

Join picture book author and illustrator, Matthew Cordell, for a discussion about the often misunderstood wordless picture book format—A unique form of storytelling that benefits beginning and struggling readers at home and in the classroom.



213 Blurring the Boundaries of Empathy through Storytelling

Jan Buley
Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador
PK-6

Remember how you felt when you were invited to tell YOUR story during circle time when you were little? Come and discover how sharing a story with story objects—in the presence of listening peers—helps develop empathy and celebrate uniqueness.

214 Envision This! An Integrated Reading-Writing Workshop

Maria Walther and Karen Biggs-Tucker
PK-6

In this idea-packed hour, see how a slight perspective shift can lead to student-focused learning opportunities in an integrated literacy workshop. Leave with a list of mentor texts that spotlight the habits and behaviors of literate citizens.



Lesléa Newman

215 Creating Independent Readers

Jackie O'Briant and Val Hudson
Natrona County High School
Middle School, High School

In this session, we'll share our best strategies to enhance independent reading time and help connect readers of all abilities to books they'll love.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **MATTHEW CORDELL**

*"There are three ways to
ultimate success: The first way
is to be kind. The second way is to
be kind. The third way is to be kind."*

— Mister Rogers —

216 Examining Student Responses to Reading

Maegan Holycross
Birdville Independent School District
3-6

In this session we will explore the different ways students respond to reading by looking at examples of student work and analyzing the scaffolding needed to help students respond to text in meaningful ways.

10:30-11:30 1-Hour Sessions

221 How to be a Not Yet Teacher

Peg Grafwallner
Milwaukee Public Schools
Middle School, High School

Learn ways to cultivate a not-yet classroom where productive struggle is encouraged, obstacles are valued, and students see themselves as capable learners and risk-takers; learn how to normalize productive struggle while building positive relationships.

**222 The View From There:
Reading & Writing Through Ethnography**

Jeraldine Kraver
University of Northern Colorado
Middle School, High School

Ethnography asks us to see the world from another's point of view. As a lens for reading and a tool for writing, it meets the overarching aims of nearly all the ELA standards (and CCIRA threads!). This session shares ethnographic tools for the classroom.

223 Let's Talk! Interactive Read Alouds for Emergent Bilinguals

Kimberly Schmidt and Anna Handy
University of Denver
PK-6

Evidence-based literacy practices emphasize decoding and language comprehension; but, emergent bilinguals require additional language development. We present how an interactive read aloud is essential to support emergent bilinguals' language needs.

**224 Okay, I get it. Science of Reading...
but MY TEACHING HEART!!**

Keith Garvert
Cherry Creek School District
PK-2

How do we teach our youngest, most thoughtful, eager, and curious learners to learn and LOVE to read—especially in the ongoing and often times contentious debate about how reading should be taught?

225 Expanding Their Horizons with Daily Picture Books

Kim Haines
Bixby School
PK-6

Learn how to explore diverse cultures, meet eminent historical changemakers, enjoy and evaluate new literature through mock awards, examine nonfiction and other genres, and meaningfully address social-emotional needs ... all through picture books!

226 This or That? A Peek into Learner-Centered Decision Making

Katie Walther and Maria Walther
PK-6, Middle School

Literacy learners need time to read, think, and talk about texts, but sometimes curricular demands stand in the way. In this session, we'll ponder practical strategies to foster readers' unique identities by creating learner-centered literacy experiences.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **CHARLES R. SMITH JR.**

*"If you think a thing is impossible,
you only make it impossible."*

— Bruce Lee —

11:00-12:30 90-Minute Workshops

231 The Power of Language

Charles R. Smith Jr
charlesrsmithjr.com
All

INVITED
SPEAKER

Performing poems from subjects including Black history, sports, Greek mythology, boxing, music and more, author and poet Charles R. Smith Jr. will explore the role that language plays in expressing our identity, and how it reflects and shapes society.

Repeats as Session 274

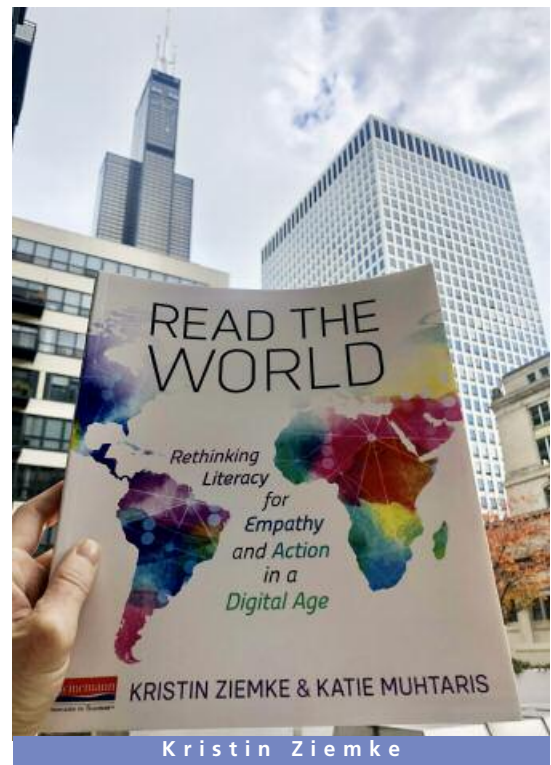


**232 Power to the Little People:
Literacy, Independence, Thinking**

Kristin Ziemke
kristinziemke.com
K-3

INVITED
SPEAKER

Technology transforms learning for all students but has the greatest impact on developing readers and writers. Join in as we learn to capture student thinking, differentiate instruction and offer multimodal response for grades K-3.



233 Workshop Works

Michelle Morris Jones, Jamie Salturelli
and Jailyn Jenkins

PEBC

All

Michelle Morris Jones, PEBC Staff Developer, will guide participants through a workshop as learners and then unpack the ways in which the structure of the workshop model leads to increased student agency. PEBC Lab Host and 4th Grade Literacy Teacher Jamie Salturelli and PEBC Manager of Resident Development and Secondary STEM Educator Jailyn Jenkins will share the ways in which they incorporate lifeworthy texts, topics, and tasks into their units and daily workshops to promote culturally sustaining pedagogy that allows their learners to consider multiple perspectives.

234 Leading Today: An Intimate Conversation with Current School Leaders

Cris Tovani, Nivan Khosravi, Missy Matthews,
Luis Murillo, Mia Robinson

K-12

INVITED
SPEAKER

Please join us for this panel session exploring a variety of topics relevant to today's schools. Cris Tovani will facilitate a conversation among four school leaders: Nivan Khosravi, principal at Maxwell Elementary (DPS), Missy Matthews, principal at Summit Elementary (Cherry Creek), Mia Robinson, principal at Village East Elementary (Cherry Creek), and Luis Murillo, assistant superintendent (Alamosa).

235 Developing Agency and Identity through Questioning

Roland Schendel and Kile Clabaugh

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Middle School, High School

This questioning process will invigorate your teaching by promoting student engagement with and access to written, visual, and auditory primary source texts. The process will enhance and reveal students' critical thinking.



Debbie Miller

236 Invitations That Support Learner Identity and Agency

Debbie Miller

ECE, K-5

INVITED
SPEAKER

What concrete actions can we take to awaken, nurture, and develop learner identity and agency? Let's learn together about invitations that encourage children to find out more about who they are, how they learn, and what they need to thrive.



12:45-2:15
Friday Luncheon

The Literacy Lessons
I Learned from *Hamilton*

Penny Kittle

pennykittle.net

All

The Pulitzer Prize winning play by Lin-Manuel Miranda has lessons to teach us all about passion, creativity, genre, and the process of writing. Each year we can help students construct identities of power and opportunity, to challenge themselves as readers and writers, and to act with agency in our classrooms. We will unpack the classroom conditions and practices that are grounded in key principles for motivation: relevance, engagement, and community.

Luncheon attendees will receive an exclusive invitation to Session 271, *Micro Mentor Texts: Using short passages from great books to teach writer's craft.*

1:30-2:30 1-Hour Sessions**251 Morning Meetings That Work**

Felicia Durden

American College of Education

PK-6

In this interactive session we will share practice strategies for implementing the Morning Meeting routine into your classroom. You will leave with tools and strategies you can easily implement.

**252 Drag Queen Story Time:
Advocating for
Your LGBTQ+ Students**

Stuart Sanks
The Studio School
PK-6

Colorado Drag Queen Shirley Delta Blow will present story time with some of her favorite picture books and share how Drag Queen Story Time advocates for LGBTQ+ students in schools and communities.

**253 Hello, Neighbor!
The Enduring Empathy of Mister
Rogers**

Matthew Cordell
matthewcordell.com
K-5

INVITED
SPEAKER

Join Matthew Cordell for a discussion about the making of his

book, *Hello, Neighbor!* and its timelessly inspiring subject, Mister Rogers—an enduring voice of kindness, empathy, and acceptance for children and adults, past and present.



254 Write From The Heart

Lesléa Newman
lesleanewman.com
Middle School, High School

INVITED
SPEAKER

Everyone has important stories to tell. Using specific writing

exercises, we will dive into our memories, experiences, and dreams to capture in words the emotional truths of our lives. No previous writing experience necessary.



255 Affirming Students' Identity through Literature Genres

Jan Anttila
All

Our schools are becoming more diverse each year and it's time for traditional leveled books to make way for literature that affirms students' identities. I will share several ideas in many genres to help students explore and understand their identity.

**256 Supporting Emergent Bilinguals with
Translanguaging Texts**

Anna Handy
University of Denver
PK-6

Leverage and sustain emergent bilinguals' cultural and linguistic wealth by bringing translanguaging texts into the classroom. Increase engagement and comprehension, elevate authentic voices, and encourage learners to challenge language hierarchies.

**257 The Humor, the Heavy, and the Hope:
Literature for Tough Topics**

Rebecca Harper
Augusta University
Middle School, High School

Students are faced with social challenges, including racism, substance abuse, identity questioning, death, poverty, and violence. In this session, the integration of YA literature connecting multiple aspects of life with difficult topics will be discussed.

258 Disrupting the Norm

Megan Diede and Kara Rigsby
Campbell County School District
PK-6

Come experience the view of multi-content integration. Learn how to create classroom experiences that students will remember through multi-subject and multi-level integration. Walk away with ideas to start teaching more and planning less.

259 A View From Down Under

Janice Carrel and Marilyn Turner
Adams 12 - 5 Star Schools
All

Gain new perspectives, develop agency and identity, participate in an international teacher exchange. Work with Australian teachers, gain new strategies, ideas, and processes, while sharing your knowledge and expertise. A 1-year, life-changing experience.

260 The Art of Braiding: Blending Literature, ELA, and SEL

Stacy Bailey
University of Northern Colorado
3-6, Middle School, High School

Integrating SEL into the ELA classroom via the use of literature can help students recognize their own strengths and practice identifying and analyzing problems. Experience a sample lesson plan and learn the concrete steps to building your own.

2:45-4:15 90-Minute Workshops

**271 Micro Mentor Texts:
Using short passages from great
books to teach writer's craft**

Penny Kittle
pennykittle.net
All

**This session is only available to
luncheon attendees.**

INVITED
SPEAKER

We all want readers and writers to flourish in our classrooms. We want

students who see a book as a treasure chest of craft moves—the moves that skilled writers use. They can and will begin to name those moves and use them through passage study and imitation. They will learn a wide range of writing skills from grammar in context, varied sentence patterns—both the art and feel of cohesion and style—as well as all the ways a writer is an artist of words. Come to study and write together.



272 Daily Doses of Digital Literacy to Fuel Reading and Thinking!

Kristin Ziemke
kristinziemke.com
K-5, Middle School

INVITED SPEAKER

Engage students in digital literacy by teaching the skills they need to access, read, and create digital content. This session identifies the nuances of digital literacy, offers strategies for explicit instruction, and daily minilessons to amplify thinking.

**273 Life, Literacy, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Creating a Culture of Reading for All**

Don Vu
drdonvu.com
All

INVITED SPEAKER

This session explores how a school's reading culture can be developed and nurtured with a focus on the needs of immigrant and refugee students and families. Dr. Vu presents six conditions of culture (Commitment, Collection, Clock, Conversation, Connection, and Celebration) that must be addressed in order to create a school reading environment where all students can thrive.

**274 The Power of Language**

Charles R. Smith Jr
charlesrsmithjr.com
All

INVITED SPEAKER

Performing poems from subjects including Black history, sports, Greek mythology, boxing, music and more, author and poet Charles R. Smith Jr. will explore the role that language plays in expressing our identity, and how it reflects and shapes society.
Repeats as Session 231

**275 Beyond Form: Studying Structure in Poetry**

Amy VanDerwater
amyludwigvanderwater.com
K-5, Middle School

INVITED SPEAKER

Come explore how to help children learn structure from poems. Poetry is breath and life, so much more than acrostics and forced rhyme, and when children learn new possibilities for organization, they are empowered to write about one idea in endless ways.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM COLBY SHARP

"If you live for weekends and vacations, your shit is broken."

— Gary Vaynerchuck —

276 Feedback Beyond Commentary

Dana Sorensen and Mary Anne O'Connell
PEBC
3-6

Students and teachers engaged in a feedback process are more invested in growth. Feedback clearly makes a significant difference for educators and students, but it continues to be elusive and ineffective in terms of shifting understanding.

277 Nurturing Agency in Writers: Revisiting Peter Elbow

Karen Hartman and Stevi Quate
PEBC
3-6, Middle School, High School

In 1973, Peter Elbow wrote *Writing Without Teachers*. His lessons on developing writers with agency still resonate today. Join us to revisit his work, try out his ideas, and write in community.

278 Building Empathy through Viewing

Keith Patterson and Roland Schendel
Metropolitan State University Denver
PK-6

Viewing is the gateway to our world. Explicitly defining, practicing, and applying viewing strategies using primary sources can ameliorate empathy of minority experiences, views, and perspectives.

279 Making Thoughtful Use of Decodable Texts (K-2)

Jan Burkins
drjanburkins.com
K-2

INVITED SPEAKER

Join Dr. Jan Burkins, co-author of *Shifting the Balance* (Kari Yates), in taking a close look at the place of decodable texts in beginning reading instruction. Participants will learn practical and powerful ways to enable young readers.



FAVORITE QUOTE FROM JAN BURKINS

"Enjoy yourself; it's later than you think."

— Socrates (and Guy Lombardo) —

280 How to FRAME the First 10 Minutes of Class

Peg Grafwallner

Milwaukee Public Schools

3-6, Middle School, High School

Let's FRAME your class for optimum student learning! Within the first 10 minutes of class, FRAME (Focus, Reach, Ask, Model and Encourage), an evidenced-based structured classroom opener, gives your students the tools they need to be successful.

281 Panel of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

Panel from RMC-SCBWI

All

You don't have to live in Edinburgh to be an award-winning children's book author. Come join us for a panel discussion with members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. These authors and illustrators of picture books (fiction and non-fiction) and middle grade and young adult novels, will share excerpts from their most recent titles and fill you in on what it's like to work in the children's book industry.

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **DEBBIE MILLER**

"A child must have some vision of 'Yes, I imagine I can do this.' And the teacher must view the present child as capable, and on that basis, imagine new possibilities."

—— Anne Dyson ——

282 #WriteNow:**Getting Real with Literacy in the Classroom**

Rebecca Harper

Augusta University

3-6, Middle School, High School

This session will explore how writing can be taught effectively through multiple venues including rap music, post it notes, commercials, peacock feathers, props, sports programming, and social media. Learn to effectively teach writing and have fun too!

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM **DON VU**

"One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."

—— Malala Yousefzai ——

**5:00-6:30****Friday Evening Keynote****The Audacity of Equality for All****Don Vu**

drdonvu.com

All

The Audacity of Equality is the belief that you have equal rights and protections as any American citizen no matter where you were born. How can educators help instill it in immigrant and refugee students using the power of books and stories?



Graham Allen, son of Patrick A. Allen

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM DONALYN MILLER

*“Reading shaped my dreams,
and more reading helped me
make my dreams come true.”*

—— Ruth Bader Ginsburg ——

Saturday Morning – A Literacy Trifecta

Session 300

Increasing Readers’ Engagement: Three Views

Join us for *A Literacy Trifecta* with Donalyn Miller, John Shu, and Colby Sharp. They will share their latest views about supporting readers’ engagement with texts in an ever-changing literacy landscape.

The morning will begin with breakfast and conversation, followed by time for conference goers to hear all three of these dynamic educators. We’ll end our time together with a book signing with Donalyn, John, and Colby.

Donalyn’s outlook: *Navigating Slumps in Reading Motivation*

John’s perspective: *John Schu’s Best-Loved Books of 2022 and 2023*

Colby’s vista: *What My 5th Graders Taught Me About Loving Reading*

Timing:

7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast and Conversation
7:30 - 8:00 a.m.	Setting the Stage
8:00 - 8:15 a.m.	Break and Transition
8:15 - 9:00 a.m.	Round One
9:10 - 9:55 a.m.	Round Two
10:05 - 10:50 a.m.	Round Three
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.	Whole Group Closing
11:45 - 12:30 p.m.	Book Signing

FAVORITE QUOTE FROM JOHN SCHU

*“Story is
inside all of us.”*

—— Erin Entrada Kelly ——

Navigating Slumps in Reading Motivation

Donalyn Miller

bookwhisperer.com

All

While some readers increased their reading volume and interest during the global pandemic and isolation, others reported they didn't have the emotional or intellectual energy to read or have lost their joy in it. The demands of school and home responsibilities may consume their time. Others report that they're too distracted and worried to read. Throughout our lives, readers encounter slumps in reading motivation and interest. How can readers find their way back to reading when we don't feel like reading much? In this session, Donalyn Miller will share suggestions from hundreds of readers of all ages for navigating reading slumps in our lives. The session includes numerous book recommendations and resources.



John Schu’s Best-Loved Books of 2022 and 2023

John Schu

johnschu.com

All

Be inspired by John Schu as he shares some of the best new books with book trailers, websites, activities, and interviews you can easily incorporate into your school reading culture to increase reading motivation, stamina, and growth.



What My 5th Graders Taught Me About Loving Reading

Colby Sharp

mrcolbysharp.com

All

In this session, Colby will share the things that he has seen help his students fall in love with reading. He'll share stories from his classroom and talk about the impact that a classroom library can have on the readers it serves.



Ruth Ayres



As a director of a professional development consortium of 30 schools, Ruth spends her days helping students find meaning in their stories, and encouraging teachers to reflect and refine the art of teaching. “I love documenting ordinary stories from everyday life,” Ruth says.

Ruth earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Indiana University. She taught seventh-grade

language arts in Wawasee Middle School for four years, followed by a dozen years as the district’s writing coach. She became an innovation specialist, working alongside building instructional coaches and providing district PD to increase inquiry in workshop and develop structures to support innovation via PBL.

Ruth says that she wanted to become a teacher because she wanted to have a positive impact on the lives of middle schoolers. “I like helping students see the power of their everyday stories and to learn how their words can make the world a better place. I consider myself among the most fortunate because I spend my days with children and adolescents, teaching them how to make sense of the world through reading and to impact the world with their voice through writing.”

Ruth and her husband, Andy, have four active teens. Family life is a bustle, but no matter how busy they are, you will find them cooking together and sharing stories around the kitchen table.

Dr. Jan Burkins



Dr. Jan Burkins is the author or co-author of six books on literacy instruction and a collection of instructional materials for K-2 classrooms. Jan’s books and curriculum materials include:

Shifting the Balance: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom (Burkins & Yates, Stenhouse 2021)

Who’s Doing the Work? How to Say Less So Readers Can Do More (Burkins & Yaris; Stenhouse, 2016)

Preventing Misguided Reading: New Strategies for Guided Reading Teachers (Burkins & Croft; Stenhouse, 2015)

Reading Wellness: Lessons in Independence and Proficiency (Burkins & Yaris; Stenhouse, 2014)

Coaching for Balance: How to Meet the Challenges of Literacy Coaching (Burkins; IRA, 2007)

Practical Literacy Coaching: A Collection of Tools to Support Your Work (IRA & Corwin, 2009)

The Who’s Doing the Work? K-2 Lesson Sets (Stenhouse, 2017)

The Who’s Doing the Work? 3-5 Lesson Sets (Burkins & Yaris, 2020)

The Who’s Doing the Work Guided Reading Collection (Mondo, 2017)

In 1989, Jan received her undergraduate degree in early childhood education from Birmingham - Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama, and in 1993, earned her master’s from the University of Alabama. She earned her K-12 reading specialist certification and her doctorate from the University of Kansas in 1999. Her dissertation, which was a meta-analysis of the research on phonemic awareness, was the Dissertation of the Year for the University of Kansas School of Education and one of three finalists for the International Literacy Association’s (ILA) Dissertation of the Year.

During her tenure in education Jan has worked as a classroom

teacher, a part-time assistant professor, a district-level literacy leader, a literacy coach, and a full-time writer and consultant. Jan’s practical insights into implementing the Common Core State Standards, including a systematic analysis of the CCSS with her writing partner Kim Yaris (burkinsandyaris.com), set them apart during a time when division seemed the norm. Jan has established herself as skilled in tempered thinking that considers all sides of a debate. The result has been a thirty-year commitment to joyful instruction that meets accountability demands and moves beyond the false binaries that divide the field.

Whether you are interested in Jan’s professional books or you are looking for a consultant who will customize professional learning for teachers, coaches, or administrators, Jan has the skills to support your team. She has the varied experience required to match the design and content of professional learning to the specific needs of your group. With extensive expertise in balanced literacy, experimental reading science, group facilitation, standards-based instruction, and even mindfulness, Jan supports relevant investigations and conversations among professionals, and is uniquely skilled at working within the tensions that are a natural part of teaching reading.

In particular, Jan can help you balance out the inherent weaknesses in whatever approach you are using, as every approach has an Achilles heel. If you are teaching in a “balanced literacy” environment and want to consider the ways “the science of reading” might support your students, or if you are locked into a systematic phonics program and are finding that students lack engagement and eventually have difficulty with comprehension, Jan can help you take a reasoned look at the competing demands of teaching reading.

Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul



Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul is the founder of Red Clay Educators. Her research and work stem from an unyielding commitment to anti-bias and antiracist pedagogy and practices. Sonja leads professional development with educators around the world spotlighting the relationship between teaching, literacy, and equity. She supports educators in developing the capacity and will to continually examine themselves and to critically inquire into their own practices.

In the world of professional development, Sonja is unique. As a former middle school classroom teacher for twenty-years, she recognizes the common and local challenges that educators face. She also understands kids, specifically, how to use asset-based pedagogies that honor their identities and support their individual needs. Further, Sonja knows what it takes to forge relationships with caregivers and communities in order to cultivate trusting learning environments where all students thrive. Sonja’s expertise is in using her scholarship to develop curricula that advances the work of antiracism in all aspects of schooling. She spotlights and centers issues related to race and racism, providing faculty and staff with the language and tools to facilitate transformational conversations and instruction with students about race.

Sonja leads professional development for classroom teachers, coaches, and administrators and guides the development of culturally responsive and antiracist teaching and curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students. She is the host of *The Black Creators Series*, a collaboration with Candlewick Press, where she leads educator-focused discussions and highlights the powerful ways the work of Black authors and illustrators can live in classrooms. Sonja is the co-founder of the Institute for Racial Equity in Literacy, an

annual institute that provides professional development that supports educators around the globe in using their power and position to transform systems including individual classrooms, districts, and communities. Sonja has been the Director of Diversity and Equity at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University. And as Senior Advisor of the Heinemann Fellows, Sonja supported an accomplished group of educators as they engaged in individual action research that addressed pressing issues and challenges in the field of education.

Sonja has adapted the #1 New York Times Best Seller *Stamped (For Kids)*, published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, which has earned starred reviews by Kirkus and School Library Journal, and was selected as one of the best nonfiction/informational books of 2021 by *Parents Magazine*, *School Library Journal*, the New York Public Library, and the Chicago Public Library. *Stamped (For Kids)* was selected by the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) as a 2022 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People. She is the co-author of four books published by Heinemann: *Teaching Interpretation: Using Text-Based Evidence to Construct Meaning* (2014), *Flip Your Writing Workshop: A Blended Learning Approach* (2016), *Breathing New Life into Book Clubs: A Practical Guide for Teachers* (2019) and *Critical Literacy: Unlocking Contemporary Fiction* (2020).

Sonja is a frequent keynote speaker and presenter at national and international conferences.

Matthew Cordell



Matthew Cordell has illustrated many books for children including works of poetry, novels, and picture books including *The Only Fish in the Sea* and *Follow That Frog* by Philip Stead. He has written and illustrated numerous picture books himself including *Hello, Neighbor! The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers*, *Bear Island*, and *Wish*. His work has been published around the globe in many different

languages, including Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, French, and Italian. Matthew's books have been recognized as Best of the Year selections by the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Boston Globe*, and his first wordless picture book, *Wolf in the Snow*, was awarded a 2017 *Boston Globe*-Horn Book honor award and the 2018 Caldecott Medal. Matthew lives in suburban Chicago with his wife, author, Julie Halpern, and their two children

Kristine O'Connell George



Kristine O'Connell George is one of the principal voices in contemporary children's poetry. Since her first highly-acclaimed book, *The Great Frog Race* was published in 1997, Kristine O'Connell George's poetry has generated excitement and earned honors and praise. Awards for her books include the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, International Reading Association / Lee Bennett Hopkins

Promising Poet Award, the Golden Kite, Myra Cohn Livingston Poetry Awards, Claudia Lewis Poetry Awards, ALA notables, NCTE notables, School Library Journal Best Books, Hornbook Fanfare, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Award, and IRA-CBC Children's Choice.

George says she "fell in love with children's poetry" in 1989 in a children's poetry writing class taught by Myra Cohn Livingston for the UCLA Writer's Program. George studied with Livingston until her death in 1996 and has taught courses on writing poetry for children

at the UCLA Writer's Program where she first met Livingston. George served as poetry consultant for PBS's Storytime, is a board member emeritus for the Children's Literature Council of Southern California, and received an International Reading Association "Celebrate Literacy" award from the Foothill Reading Council. She is a member of educational and writers' organizations including PEN, The Author's Guild, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

A frequent speaker at conferences, George also enjoys visiting schools, conducting poetry enrichment workshops, and sharing her enthusiasm for poetry with students of all ages.

Shannon Hale



New York Times best selling author Shannon Hale started writing books at age ten and never stopped, eventually earning an MFA in Creative Writing. After nineteen years of writing and dozens of rejections, she published *The Goose Girl*, the first book in her award-winning *Books of Bayern* series. Her other books for young adults include the acclaimed fantasy *Book of a Thousand Days*, the sci-fi adventure

Dangerous, and genre-bending comedy *Kind of a Big Deal*. For middle grade readers, Shannon penned the Newbery Honor winner *Princess Academy* and sequels, the *USA Today* bestselling *Ever After High* series, and her award-winning graphic novel memoirs *Real Friends*, *Best Friends*, and *Friends Forever*, illustrated by LeUyen Pham. With director Jerusha Hess, Shannon co-wrote the screenplay for the film adaptation of her novel *Austenland*. With her husband Dean Hale, Shannon co-wrote: Eisner-nominee *Rapunzel's Revenge* and *Calamity Jack* (with Nathan Hale), two books about Marvel's unbeatable super hero *Squirrel Girl*, DC's *Diana, Princess of the Amazons* (with Victoria Ying) and *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld* (with Asiah Fulmore), and the popular early chapter book series *The Princess in Black* (with LeUyen Pham). Shannon's books have been translated into more than twenty-five languages and studied in classrooms from elementary schools to universities. She is a renowned public speaker and advocate for gender equality. She and Dean live with their four children near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Aeriale Johnson



Aeriale N. Johnson, she/her/we, is a Reggio-inspired, abolitionist educator. She taught public school for twenty-three years in Florida, Alaska, and California. In 2021, she transitioned from being a classroom teacher to serving as a staff developer for Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Aeriale strives to help teachers build a democratic classroom where all adults (educators and families) believe in children, allow children to bring the fullness of their humanity into the space, and deliberately relinquish their power to the children.

Aeriale is dedicated to antiracism and works every day of her life to disrupt oppressive systems and promote a more just and equitable world wherein all folk can thrive. She is committed to the deep study of colonization and decolonization. This inquiry has led her on personal and professional journeys through Ghana, South Africa, India, and Alaska. (Aeriale likes to travel — a lot!).

Aeriale does this work alongside many phenomenal human beings, but it is her #squad — Tricia Ebarvia, Dr. Kim Parker, Tiana Silvas, and (nearly Dr.) Anna Osborn — that sustains her. It is with them that she has the most courageous (and ridiculous) conversations. Sara

Ahmed is another top homie. She challenges Aeriale's thinking and helps her keep it together when life goes awry.

From 2017-2021, Aeriale worked as an associate director for the San Jose Area Writing Project, facilitating professional development for teachers and writing workshops for children.

Aeriale is a National Board Certified Teacher, specializing in early-middle childhood literacy, and a recipient of many grants and fellowships. Aeriale most recently served as a Heinemann Fellow.

Aeriale serves on NCTE's Build Your Stack committee and was recently elected to the Elementary Steering Committee. She is also a column editor for Language Arts.

Aeriale's blogs, articles, and essays have been published by NCTE, Heinemann, the International Literacy Association, Scholastic, School Library Journal, and ASCD. She is the author of the teachers guide for glorious children's book *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, which was written by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson and illustrated by Nikkolas Smith. Aeriale is currently co-authoring a book, *Possibilities of Poetry*, with Clare Landrigan, which will be published by Stenhouse Publishers.

Matthew Kay



Matthew R. Kay is a proud product of Philadelphia's public schools and a founding teacher at Science Leadership Academy. He believes that any teacher who is willing to put in the hard work of reflection can, through the practice of discrete skills, lead meaningful race conversations. Driven by this conviction, he is passionate about designing professional development that teachers find valuable.

Matthew lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Cait, and his daughters, Adia Sherrill and Bennu Jane.

Penny Kittle



Penny Kittle teaches first year writers at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. She was a teacher and literacy coach in public schools for 34 years. She is the author of nine books including *Micro Mentor Texts*, *Book Love*, *Write Beside Them*, and two books co-authored with Kelly Gallagher: *4 Essential Studies* and *180 Days*. She is the founder and president of the Book Love Foundation, which annually grants

classroom libraries to teachers throughout North America. Penny works beside teachers and leaders across the world to empower young readers and writers.

Lester Laminack



Lester L. Laminack is Professor Emeritus from department of Birth-Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle Grades Education, at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina where he received two awards for excellence in teaching [the Botner Superior Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award].

Lester is now a full-time writer and consultant working with schools throughout the United States. He is an active member of the National Council of Teachers of English and served three years as co-editor of the NCTE journal *Primary Voices* and as editor of the Children's Book Review Department of the NCTE journal *Language Arts* (2003-2006). He also served as a teaching editor for the magazine *Teaching K-8* and wrote the Parent Connection

column (2000-2002). He is a former member of the Whole Language Umbrella Governing Board, a former member of the Governing Board and Secretary of the North Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, and a former member of the Board of Directors for the Center for the Expansion of Language and Thinking. He served as the Basic Reading Consultant to Literacy Volunteers of America from 1987 through 2001. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of Our Children's Place [www.ourchildrensplace.com].

His academic publications include several books including:

Reading with Children (Literacy Volunteers of America)

Learning with Zachary (Scholastic)

Spelling in Use (NCTE)

Tutor: A Collaborative Approach to Literacy Instruction (Literacy Volunteers of America)

Volunteers Working with Young Readers (NCTE)

The Writing Workshop: Working Through the Hard Parts (NCTE)

Learning Under the Influence of Language and Literature (Heinemann)

Reading Aloud Across the Curriculum (Heinemann)

Cracking Open the Author's Craft (Scholastic)

Climb Inside a Poem (Heinemann)

Unwrapping the Read Aloud (Scholastic)

The Classroom Library Book (Classroom Library Company)

Bullying Hurts (Heinemann)

The Writing Teacher's Troubleshooting Guide (Heinemann)

Writers ARE Readers (Heinemann)

The Ultimate Read-Aloud Resource: Making Every Moment Intentional and Instructional With Best Friend Books

Reading to Make a Difference (Heinemann)

In addition he has several articles published in journals such as *The Reading Teacher*, *Early Years*, *Science and Children*, *Language Arts*, *Teaching pre-K/8*, *Primary Voices*, and *Young Children*.

Lester is also the author of several children's books:

The Sunsets of Miss Olivia Wiggins (Peachtree Publishers)

Trevor's Wiggly-Wobbly Tooth (Peachtree Publishers)

Saturdays and Tea Cakes (Peachtree Publishers)

Jake's 100th Day of School (Peachtree Publishers)

Snow Day! (Peachtree Publishers)

Three Hens and a Peacock (Peachtree Publishers)

The King of Bees (Peachtree Publishers)

Lester was born July 11, 1956 in Flint, Michigan. His mom and dad had left their families in Alabama and moved to Michigan where his dad, Jimmy, worked for GM. But Michigan is long way from Alabama when you have a two year old and a brand new baby. So, just two weeks after Lester was born his parents packed everything and moved back to their hometown, Heflin, Alabama. They wanted Lester and his brother Scott to grow up near grandparents, aunts and uncles and lots of cousins.

When Lester was 6 the family moved again. This time to Zachary, LA where Lester attended part of 1st and all of 2nd grade. Then they moved back to Heflin where he completed 3rd grade and 4th grade. In

April of 1966, while he was in the 4th grade, Lester's sister, Amanda, was born. She was so little when they brought her home that he had to hold her on a pillow. Every day when he came home from school he held her and told her stories. Some people think that's why he is a writer. Lester and Amanda have always been very close even though he is 10 years older.

When Scott was in the 7th grade and Lester was in the 5th grade and Amanda was just one year old the family moved again. This time it was to Key West, FL. They lived there under a year before moving back to Alabama.

Lester finished high school back in Heflin and then earned a BS and MS in Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL. Then he earned an Ed.D. in Elementary Education and Reading from Auburn University, Auburn AL.

And now Lester lives in Whittier, North Carolina. He starts every day with a cup of coffee, loves to listen to music and NPR. He plays saxophone and a Native American flute made from river cane. He reads a lot of children's books, Southern Fiction, poetry, and books on teaching reading and writing. He loves taking drives on the Blue Ridge Parkway and along the two-lane roads in the countryside.

Clare Landrigan



After graduating from Bucknell University, I moved to Boston, MA to pursue my MA in Child Development at Tufts University. During this time, I also taught at the Lab School at Eliot-Pearson Children's School at Tufts University. After teaching for some years, I became a project manager and consultant for Tufts University's Center for Applied Child Development where I spent four years helping urban, suburban, and rural schools implement research-based literacy instruction through reading and writing workshops. In 2003, I joined Wayland Public Schools as the co-director of curriculum for English Language Arts for Wayland Public Elementary Schools. I then founded this private staff development business. I work with various school systems around the country to implement best practices in the field of literacy and to engage in institutional change through shared leadership. Most of these partnerships are designed for three to five-year projects. I also speak at state and national conferences, as well as facilitate virtual webinars.

Debbie Miller



Debbie Miller taught and learned from children in the Denver Public Schools for thirty years. She is the author and co-author of several books, including *Reading With Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades*, and most recently, *"I'm the Kind of Kid Who" ...: Invitations that Support Learner Identity and Agency* with Emily Callahan.

Debbie now works with children and teachers in classrooms across the country and internationally.

Donalyn Miller



Donalyn Miller is an award-winning teacher, author, and staff development leader who has taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grade language arts and social studies in the Fort Worth, Texas area. Her teaching awards include TCTELA's Elementary Language Arts Teacher of the Year (2011), Keller ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year (2010), ESC Region XI Teacher of the Year (2010), TEA State Finalist Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year (2010), Trinity Meadows Intermediate School Teacher of the Year (2010), and Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented Region XI Rising Star Teacher (2008). In 2018, Donalyn was awarded TCTELA's Edmund J. Farrell Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the language arts teaching profession.

Donalyn is the author or co-author of several books about creating engaging and inclusive reading communities for all children. In her first book, *The Book Whisperer* (Jossey-Bass, 2009), Donalyn reflects on her journey to become a reading teacher and describes how she inspires and motivates her middle school students to read 40 or more books a year. In a starred review, *Library Journal* said, "Her approach is simple yet provocative: affirm the reader in every student, allow students to choose their own books, carve out extra reading time, model authentic reading behaviors, discard timeworn reading assignments such as book reports and comprehension worksheets, and develop a classroom library filled with high-interest books." *The Book Whisperer* has been translated into several languages including French and Chinese.

In her second book, *Reading in the Wild* (Jossey-Bass, 2013), Donalyn collected survey responses from over 900 adult readers about their reading habits and used this information to explicitly model and teach lifelong reading habits to her students. Donalyn's articles about teaching and reading have appeared in publications such as *Gifted Child International*, *Education Week Teacher*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Voices From the Middle*, *Educational Leadership*, *Horn Book*, and *The Washington Post*. Donalyn has two new books: *The Joy of Reading*, with Dr. Teri Lesesne and *The Commonsense Guide to Your Classroom Library* with Colby Sharp.

With her friend and collaborator Colby Sharp, Donalyn co-founded *The Nerdy Book Club* blog, which provides daily inspiration, book recommendations, resources, and advice about raising and teaching young readers. Since the blog began in 2011, *Nerdy Book Club* has grown into a podcast, numerous state and national conference presentations, and several Ed Camp-style professional development events including Nerd Camp Michigan and Nerd Camp, Jr. held annually in Parma, Michigan.

Donalyn is the founder of the annual summer #bookaday challenge and co-hosts (along with Colby Sharp) the monthly Twitter chat #titledtalk, a monthly chat about reading and books.

From 2014 to 2019, Donalyn served as Scholastic Book Fairs' Ambassador of Independent Reading Advocacy. In this role, Donalyn traveled to conferences and schools as a reading ambassador, sat on several Scholastic advisory boards, and hosted the web-based teaching tips and book talk show—*The Book Whisperer: Back to the Books*. With her colleague and friend, John Schumacher, Donalyn co-edited the Reader Leader blog and co-hosted Scholastic Book Fairs' annual Reading Summits.

Through her international conference presentations, workshops, school visits, published works, and online collaborations with

colleagues, Donalyn shares the importance of self-selected independent reading and provides suggestions and resources that foster children's love of reading and the development of positive reading identities. Presentations include current and timeless research, classroom rituals and routines that support engaging reading communities, classroom and home library development, book recommendations, practical reading and writing workshop strategies and instructional moves, and personal stories about the power of independent reading and student choice.

Donalyn and her husband, Don, have two grown daughters and three grandchildren. They live in Colleyville, Texas in a house full of bookcases.

Cornelius Minor



Cornelius Minor is a Brooklyn-based educator. He works with teachers, school leaders, and leaders of community-based organizations to support equitable literacy reform in cities (and sometimes villages) across the globe. His latest book, *We Got This*, explores how the work of creating more equitable school spaces is embedded in our everyday choices—specifically in the choice to really listen to kids. He

has been featured in *Education Week*, *Brooklyn Magazine*, and *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*. He has partnered with The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, The New York City Department of Education, The International Literacy Association, and Lesley University's Center for Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative. Out of Print, a documentary featuring Cornelius made its way around the film festival circuit, and he has been a featured speaker at conferences all over the world. Most recently, along with his partner and wife, Kass Minor, he has established The Minor Collective, a community-based movement designed to foster sustainable change in schools. Whether working with educators and kids in Los Angeles, Seattle, or New York City, Cornelius uses his love for technology, hip-hop, and social media to bring communities together. As a teacher, Cornelius draws not only on his years teaching middle school in the Bronx and Brooklyn, but also on time spent skateboarding, shooting hoops, and working with young people.

You can connect with him at Kass and Corn, or on Twitter at @MisterMinor.

Lesléa Newman



Lesléa (pronounced "Lez-LEE-uh") Newman is the author of 75 books for readers of all ages, including *A Letter to Harvey Milk*; *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard*; *I Carry My Mother*; *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*; *Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed*; and *Heather Has Two Mommies*.

She has received many literary awards, including creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, two National Jewish Book Awards, two American Library Association Stonewall Honors, the Massachusetts Book Award, two Association of Jewish Libraries Sydney Taylor Awards as well as the Sydney Taylor Body-of-Work Award, the Highlights for Children Fiction Writing Award, a Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fiction Writing grant, the James Baldwin Award for Cultural Achievement, the Cat Writers' Association Muse Medallion, and the Dog Writers' Association of America's Maxwell Medallion. Nine of her books have been Lambda Literary Award Finalists.

Ms. Newman wrote *Heather Has Two Mommies*, the first children's book to portray lesbian families in a positive way, and has followed up this pioneering work with several more children's books on lesbian and gay families: *Felicia's Favorite Story*, *Too Far Away to Touch*, *Saturday Is Pattyday*, *Mommy, Mama, and Me*, and *Daddy, Papa, and Me*.

She is also the author of many books for adults that deal with lesbian identity, Jewish identity and the intersection and collision between the two. Other topics Ms. Newman explores include AIDS, eating disorders, butch/femme relationships, and sexual abuse. Her award-winning short story, *A Letter To Harvey Milk*, has been made into a film and adapted for the stage.

In addition to being an author, Ms. Newman is a popular guest lecturer, and has spoken on college campuses across the country including Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Oregon, Bryn Mawr College, Smith College and the University of Judaism. From 2005-2009, Lesléa was on the faculty of the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine. From 2008-2010, she served as the Poet Laureate of Northampton, MA. She has taught fiction writing at Clark University and currently she is a faculty mentor at Spalding University's School of Creative and Professional Writing.

Recently published books include the poetry collections *I Wish My Father and I Carry My Mother* (Golden Crown Literary Society Award and Massachusetts Center for the Book "Must Read" title); picture books *Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale With A Tail* (National Jewish Book Award and Sydney Taylor Award); *Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed* (Massachusetts Book Award, Sydney Taylor Award, and Cat Writers' Association Best "Litter-ary" Award); *Sparkle Boy* (Massachusetts Center for the Book Honor Title); and *Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story* (National Jewish Book Award). Forthcoming books include *Alicia and the Hurricane/Alicia y el huracán*, (Lee & Low); *What Daddies Do* (Abrams); *I Can Be....Me!* (Lee & Low); *The Babka Sisters* (Kar-Ben); *Song of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Enchanted Lion); *The Fairest in the Land* (Abrams); and *Always Matt: The Story of Matthew Shepard* (Abrams)."

Linda Sue Park



Linda Sue Park is the author of many books for young readers, including the 2002 Newbery Medal winner *A Single Shard* and the *New York Times* bestseller *A Long Walk to Water*. Her most recent title is *Prairie Lotus*, a historical fiction middle-grade novel. When she's not writing, speaking, teaching, or caregiving for her two grandchildren, she spends most of her time on equity/inclusion work for We Need Diverse Books and the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators. She is also on the advisory board of the Rabbit hOle national children's literature museum project.

Linda Sue has served as a panelist for several awards and grants, including the Kirkus Prize, the National Book Award, the PEN Naylor grant, and the SCBWI Golden Kite Award. In her travels to promote reading and writing, she has visited more than 30 countries and 49 states. Linda Sue knows very well that she will never be able to read every great book ever written, but she keeps trying anyway.

Nawal Qarooni



Nawal Qarooni is an educator and writer who works in learning spaces to support a holistic model of literacy instruction. She and her team of coaches at NQC Literacy work with teachers and school leaders to grow a love of reading and composition in ways that exalt the whole child, their cultural capital and their intrinsic curiosities. She is the proud daughter of immigrants, and mothering her four young kids

shapes her understanding of teaching and learning. She is a former international newspaper reporter and currently a contributing writer for We Need Diverse Books. Nawal holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan; a master's degree in newspaper, magazine, and online journalism from Syracuse University's Newhouse School; and a master's degree from Brooklyn College via the NYC Teaching Fellows program. In her daily literacy coaching and school-based support, Nawal draws on her years as a middle grades classroom teacher and professional writer, as well as her love of photography and connection to nature. Her recent projects include researching and designing a family literacy program for Chicago Public Schools and authoring a forthcoming book on caregiver literacy. You can find her reading aloud to her kids, running in Liberty State Park, or on Twitter @NQCLiteracy. Learn more about her work at NQCLiteracy.com.

Aida Salazar



Aida Salazar is an award-winning author, arts activist, and translator whose writings for adults and children explore issues of identity and social justice. She is the author of the critically acclaimed middle grade verse novels, *The Moon Within* (International Latino Book Award Winner) and *Land of the Cranes* (Américas Award, California Library Association Beatty Award, Northern CA Book Award, NCTE Charlotte Huck

Honor, Jane Addams Peace Honor, International Latino Book Award Honor). Her forthcoming books include the picture book anthology, *In the Spirit of a Dream: 13 Stories of Immigrants of Color* (Fall, 2021), the novel, *A Seed in the Sun* (Fall, 2022), the bio picture book *Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Freedom Fighter* (Spring, 2023), and the anthology *Calling the Moon: Period Stories by BIPOC Authors* (Spring, 2023). Aida is a founding member of Las Musas - a Latinx kidlit debut author collective. Her story, *By the Light of the Moon*, was adapted into a ballet

production by the Sonoma Conservatory of Dance and is the first Xicana-themed ballet in history. She lives with her family of artists in a teal house in Oakland, CA.

John Schu



John Schu has made a career out of advocating for the people and things he cares about most: kids, books, and the people that connect them. He was named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker for his dynamic interactions with students and his passionate adoption of new technologies as a means of connecting authors, illustrators, books, and readers. He is the children's librarian for

Bookelicious, a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, and shares his love of reading with countless educators and students around the world. He is the author of *This Is a School* (Candlewick Press, 2022) illustrated by Veronica Miller Jamison, *This Is a Story* (Candlewick Press, 2023) illustrated by Caldecott Honor artist Lauren Castillo, and *The Gift of Story: Exploring the Affective Side of the Reading Life* (Stenhouse, 2022). He is a contributor to *The Creativity Project* (Little, Brown, 2018), edited by Colby Sharp. John Schu lives in Naperville, Illinois.

Colby Sharp



Colby Sharp is a fifth-grade teacher in Parma, Michigan. He and his wife have five children (Breslin, Dharia, Adelai, Hobbes, and Harvey). Helping kids find the books that help them fall in love with reading brings him tremendous joy. Colby has been a classroom teacher since 2006. In 2011, he started the Nerdy Book Club blog with his friend Donalyn Miller. He co-hosts *The Yarn* podcast with Teacher Librarian Travis Jonker. Colby also serves on the Nerd Camp Michigan team. You can follow Colby at his blog, *Sharpread*. He also helps lead the Nerdy Book Club.

Charles R. Smith Jr.



Charles R. Smith Jr. is an award-winning author, photographer and poet with over thirty books to his credit. His awards include a Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration (2010) for his photographs accompanying the Langston Hughes poem, *My People* and a Coretta Scott King Honor Author Award (2008) for his biography on Muhammad Ali, *Twelve Rounds to Glory*. Many of his books have also garnered reluctant reader awards, proving that kids that don't like to read, do like to read his books.

Charles's interest in writing came first, years ago, growing up in Compton, California when he began composing simple poems and stories inspired by the books he read. "Reading books filled with stories and poems inspired me to write my own. And if I wasn't reading a book, I was playing a sport: I played everything, particularly basketball, and spent many afternoons on the court, perfecting my jump shot."

In high school, Charles's love of writing led to him join the high school yearbook staff as a writer where he was also required to take photographs. Through trial and error, Charles soon found a new love in photography. "Right up until that point I wanted to be an astronaut, but after taking yearbook pictures nonstop for a year, I knew I wanted to become a professional photographer."

Today, Charles combines his passions of writing and photography with a variety of subjects that spark his interest, from basketball with *Rimshots*, *Hoop Kings* and *Hoop Queens* to black history with *28 Days* and *Brick by Brick*, to diversity with *I Am America* and *I Am the World*, to name just a few of his books. Many of those books have been brought to life with the launch of his YouTube channel centered around cultivating the mind, the body and spirit. From poetry performance, to favorite books, to photography how-to, to American Ninja Warrior and fitness training and more, Charles is harnessing the power of video to engage readers and educators in new ways.

Of the distinctive niche Charles fills with his books, he notes, “I want to show students, particularly boys, that there are many ways to pursue their interests, no matter what they may be.”

Charles R. Smith Jr. was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He currently lives in Poughkeepsie, New York. You can find him on the web at www.charlessmithjr.com

Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow



Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, M.S.Ed, is a Philadelphia-based educator and children’s book author. A curriculum writer and former English teacher, she has educated children and teens in traditional and alternative learning settings for 15 years. As an inaugural AMAL fellow with the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC), she developed foundational curricular frameworks for youth and adult anti-racist programming. Her picture books and short stories, which feature young Black and Muslim protagonists, have been recognized as the best in children’s literature by *Time Magazine*, *Read Across America*, and NPR. These works include *Mommy’s Khimar*, *Once Upon an Eid* (anthology contributor), and *Your Name is a Song*, as well as soon-to-be-released books: *Abdul’s Story* and *Hold Them Close*.

Amy Ludwig VanDerwater



Amy Ludwig VanDerwater is author of poetry and picture books including *Forest Has a Song*, *Every Day Birds*, *With My Hands*, *Read! Read! Read!*, *Dreaming of You*, *Write! Write! Write!*, *That Missing Feeling*, and *If This Bird Had Pockets*. She has led writing workshops for the past 22 years, and her professional book *Poems Are Teachers: How Studying Poetry Strengthens Writing in All Genres* grew from this work as well as from her classroom blog, *The Poem Farm*. Amy loves making things from a poetry project for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra to a pair of red wool mittens to a jar of peach butter. During COVID, she taught 72 free notebooking mini lessons from her vintage camper Betsy and is always seeking ways to connect with children around words and the world. Amy’s forthcoming picture books include *The Sound of Kindness* (June 2023) and *John and Betsy* (TBD). Find Amy in or around her family’s old farmhouse in Western New York or online at The Poem Farm.

Don Vu



Dr. Don Vu has been an elementary school teacher and principal for 24 years.

Don and his former school staff chartered a literacy campaign in 2013 to foster the love of reading in all students. In 2017, he received the Celebrate Literacy Award from the California Reading Association (CRA) for his outstanding leadership in literacy. In 2018, his school was one of five schools nationally to receive the Exemplary Reading Program Award from the International Literacy Association (ILA). In 2020, the school received the California Distinguished School Award for its work in closing the opportunity gap for all kids.

He understands the challenges children face when learning a new language and culture, having fled Vietnam with his family in 1975. He also knows that reading can be transformative and life-changing. Don continues to spread the message that literacy can change the world through his work with state and national literacy organizations as well as his writing in publications such as *Edutopia* and *Scholastic*. He currently serves on the national advisory boards of Scholastic Book Fairs and the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program. His new book, *Life, Literacy, and the Pursuit of Happiness*, is a call to action for all educators who want to build a school culture of literacy to empower all students as they pursue their American Dream.

Sarah Zerwin



My career started with student teaching at Abraham Lincoln High School in Denver, Colorado in January of 1996. Since then, I have taught in Washington State, Illinois, and Colorado, both high school and university methods classes (but mostly high school). I am proud to be public school educated, K through PhD, with all but three of those years in Colorado schools. I am also a teacher consultant for the Colorado Writing Project. My first book came out in 2020: *Pointless: An English Teacher’s Guide to More Meaningful Grading*, and I’m working on my second book. My ultimate goal as a teacher is to invite my students to read our complex world so they can write their own futures within it. I teach language arts and work as an instructional coach at Fairview High School in Boulder, Colorado, where I live with my husband and dog, across town from our college student daughter (whom we get to see at least every other weekend when she needs to do her laundry).

Kristin Ziemke



Kristin Ziemke is a teacher, staff developer and co-author of *Read the World: Rethinking Literacy for Empathy and Action*, *Amplify: Digital Teaching and Learning in the K-6 Classroom* and *Connecting Comprehension and Technology*. Recognized as an international expert in literacy, inquiry and technology, Kristin collaborates with organizations around the world to develop learning experiences that redefine school. Currently serving as a resident teacher and learning innovation specialist for the Big Shoulders Fund, Kristin has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educator, Chicago Public Schools Tech Innovator of the Year, National Board Certified Teacher and Emerging Leader by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Her work has been featured by Apple, EdWeek, Mindshift and Scholastic.

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Megan Sloan