

# Secondary Reading League

Volume 3 Issue 1  
August 24, 2013

## A Letter from the President

Oh my gosh! Where did summer go? Of course, the weather this year was not very "summery". Oh well, if you are like me, you probably spent a chunk of your summer planning for the new school year anyway! Summer is a great time to catch up on our reading – which usually includes a wide selection of Young Adult books to add to my classroom library. This summer, I included *The Future of Us* by Jay Asher on that list. I had already read *Thirteen Reasons Why* and his newest book had been on my list for quite some time, so I was glad to indulge. I'm extra excited because Jay will be our featured YA author at our 37th Annual Day of Reading! In addition, we will be having my absolute favorite literacy leader, Cris Tovani, to share how to use workshop model and assessment as we align with common core and get kids to think critically about their reading. Their presentations will invigorate you and provide some great ideas for your entire year. If you haven't registered yet, make sure to take care of that pronto. Spots are filling up and you don't want to miss out!

Secondary Reading League just celebrated its 45th year as an organization providing professional development, networking opportunities, and insight into the needs of our adolescent learners. As an SRL member you have access to monthly newsletters, special early registration and discounted rates for all of our events, opportunities to present in our strand at the Illinois Reading Council Conference, and special literacy grants to offset costs for fresh ideas you want to implement. We are always in need of more people to help insure our continued success and growth as a council. If you are interested in participating on any of our committees or leadership opportunities please contact me.

Thank you for including SRL as part of your IRC membership. We value your participation and strive to provide you with the latest information and resources to help you in your classroom. We have started a lot of new initiatives this year including a slew of social media sites. You can now find us on Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, Pinterest, and our website. Keep your eyes open because we may be adding even more outlets in the future so you can find us and we can collaborate on the best ideas for our students.

Cordially,  
Cindi Koudelka  
President, SRL, [srl@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:srl@illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

## In the Classroom with Patti Tylka Back-to-School Interview Project

How can you get to know your new students, get your students acquainted with each other, and get a quick assessment of your students' writing abilities in one engaging assignment? Try this interview/biography activity that comes from the Illinois Writing Project:

1. Introduce the idea of writing a mini-biography. You might use author bios from children's books as examples. Brainstorm questions students could use in their interviews.
2. In trios, students take turns with the following jobs:
  - a. Interviewer
  - b. Interviewee
  - c. Note-taker (may ask clarifying questions).
3. After every student has rotated through all of the jobs, each student writes a bio of the person for which he has

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-Continued on page 3-

## IRC Initiative: *Illinois Reads*

**Cindi Koudelka**  
**SRL President**

Secondary Reading League is proud to support Illinois Reads. The project has been created by an amazing group of people within the Illinois Reading Council to encourage Illinoisans to read books by Illinois authors. According to the Illinois Reads website, "Beginning with read aloud books for babies, 6 books will be selected for each additional age band through adult readers. A variety of topics and themes will be chosen for each age band. The work of Illinois authors will be especially highlighted. There will be a mix of hard covers and paperbacks, with several Spanish-language titles and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-related books and the work of Illinois authors will be especially highlighted....As part of Illinois Reads, which will culminate in a statewide celebration of literacy during Secretary White's Family Reading Night on November 21, classrooms, public and school libraries, community groups, and community bookstores throughout the state will feature the titles of 35 books in six separate age groupings. Please watch the Illinois Reads website ([www.illinoisreads.org](http://www.illinoisreads.org)) for more information

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-Continued on page 2-

## Shared Name, Compelling Story

**Stacie Rossiter**

**SRL Newsletter Editor**

Like many of my students, non-fiction is a genre that doesn't typically hold much appeal for me. That being said, this summer I was on a quest to find intriguing non-fiction books to put in my classroom library. One book that fit the bill was *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. This is the story of two young black men who share a name, as well as being raised by single mothers in poverty stricken neighborhoods in Baltimore. While both young men lived similar lives in adolescence, their adult lives took drastically different turns. While one Wes Moore became a Rhodes Scholar, the other Wes Moore was imprisoned for his role in an armed robbery that led to the death of an off-duty police officer.

What I find most compelling about this story is that it is told from both men's perspectives. The chapters alternate and provide vivid details about the events and choices that lead them to where they are today. And while this story might not appeal to everyone, it will help students examine the choices they make and how those choices will have a lasting impact on their lives.

## Illinois Reads

-Continued from page 1-

to be posted or consider becoming an Illinois Reads ambassador today!"

We will be planning our own activities to support this exciting opportunity for adolescent literacy and you can participate! Keep your eyes open on our various sites for our events and watch the Illinois Reads Site for their information. Below are the books that have been selected for grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

### 6-8 Titles:

- The Danger Box by Blue Balliett
- Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer
- Dark Life by Kat Falls
- Cold Fury by T. M. Goeglein
- The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History by Adam Selzer
- Children of the Fire by Harriette Gillem Robinet

### 9-12 Titles:

- Of Beetles & Angels by Mawi Asgedom
- Perfect Chemistry by Simone Elkeles
- The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
- Into the Wild Nerd Yonder by Julie Halpern
- Divergent by Veronica Roth
- Is it Night or Day? by Fern Schumer Chapman

An Exclusively Secondary Literacy Conference  
For All Teachers & Administrators of Grades 6 and Up  
Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, IL

## 37th Day of Reading

Saturday, November 2, 2013

Featured Speakers:

~JAY ASHER~

Young Adult Author, International Speaker

- ~ Author: *Thirteen Reasons Why*; *The Future of Us*
- ~ NY Times bestseller; Best Books for Young Adults (YALSA)
- ~ Movie release of *13 Reasons Why*-TBA

Breakout- *No Bookmarks Allowed*

Breakout- *The Role of Literature in Discussing Serious Issues*

~ CRIS TOVANI~

Internationally Known Staff Developer, Consultant

- ~ High school reading specialist/English teacher
- ~ National acclaim for work in reading comprehension
- ~ Author: *So What Do They Really Know?; I Read It, but I Don't Get it; Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?*

Keynote- *The Energy to Teach: Matching Instruction to Our Beliefs*

Breakout- *Feedback is a Two-Way Street*

Breakout- *CCSS Literacy Strands: Using the Companion Texts to Anchor Learning*

## Pre-Conference Workshop

Friday, November 1, 2013

9 am- 3pm

with Cris Tovani

*"Harnessing Literacy Instruction to Meet the Demands of the Common Core"*

Continental breakfast and lunch included - both days.

For more information contact:

Barb Chrz-White bchrzwhite@comcast.net

Terry McHugh tmchugh@dayofreading.org

Team Discounts Available

[www.dayofreading.org](http://www.dayofreading.org)

## Be sure to attend...

**Conquering the Standards: Using Nonfiction for Reading,  
Writing, Arguing, and Collaboration**  
featuring Nancy Steineke

Saturday September 28, 2013

9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Wyndham Lisle-Chicago Hotel & Executive Meeting Center  
3000 Warrenville Rd Lisle, IL 60532

**Interview Project**

-Continued from page 1-

interview notes.

4. The trios reconvene and read each other their drafts, editing as they read aloud. Some writers will discover they need to get more information; others will need to correct misinformation.

5. Students revise drafts. (Optional step: Two trios meet. Authors read their drafts aloud and elicit questions/comments from their group. They revise after this meeting.)

6. Publish bios with a picture of the subjects.

Working in trios allows the note-taker to concentrate on taking notes rather than thinking of questions, and it gets three students talking to each other. This activity helps to create a comfortable atmosphere in the classroom as students get to know each other and to establish the protocols of student-to-student academic discussions and writing via a process of prewriting, writing, editing, rewriting, and polishing.

Looking for us on the Web? We're everywhere!



<https://twitter.com/SecondaryRead>

<http://pinterest.com/secondaryread/boards/>



<http://tiny.cc/6pex1w>

Visit our website at  
[www.dayofreading.org](http://www.dayofreading.org)  
or check out our blog at  
[www.secondaryreading.wordpress.com](http://www.secondaryreading.wordpress.com).

## Secondary Reading League 2013-2014 Events

**Conquering the Standards: Using Nonfiction for Reading, Writing, Arguing, and Collaboration**  
featuring **Nancy Steineke**

Saturday September 28, 2013

9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Wyndham Lisle-Chicago Hotel & Executive Meeting Center  
3000 Warrenville Rd Lisle, IL 60532

**SRL's Day of Reading Pre-Conference Workshop**  
featuring **Cris Tovani**

Friday November 1, 2012

9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn Select and Conference Center  
18451 Convention Center Drive (Harlem Ave. and I-80)  
Tinley Park, Illinois

**SRL's 37th Day of Reading Conference**  
featuring **Cris Tovani and Jay Asher (w/ concurrent sessions)**

Saturday, November 2, 2013

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (registration 7:30 a.m.)

Holiday Inn Select and Conference Center  
18451 Convention Center Drive (Harlem and I-80) Tinley  
Park, Illinois

**Webinar/Skype Event (TBD)**  
January Date TBD

**SRL/Midstate Speed Stations Make and Take**

February 5, 2015

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Kingsley Jr. High  
Bloomington, IL

**Illinois Reading Council Conference: Secondary Strand Literacy Presentations**

IRC Conference

March 13-15, 2014

Springfield, IL

**Young Adult Book Talk & Pizza Dinner**  
featuring **Jan Dundon of Anderson's Books**

Thursday, April 10, 2014 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Lou Malinati's, 131 West Jefferson Ave., Naperville, IL

**International Reading Association Conference**

May 9 - 12, 2014

New Orleans, LA