



Secondary Reading League

Charting the Course for Adolescent Literacy

Fall

September, 2009

A letter from the President

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Upcoming Events | 1 |
| A letter from the President | 1 |
| Join SRL | 2 |
| Recommended Books | 3 |
| Program Information | 5-7 |
| 33rd Day of Reading Program Proposal | See Insert |
| Celebrity Author Info | 8-9 |

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 19 — Critical Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum with Susan Cisna**
- Oct. 3—Increasing Reading Performances through Technology with Tracy Tarasiuk**
- Nov. 6—Meet and Greet and Dinner with Sharon and Fabiola**
- Nov. 7—33rd Day of Reading Conference**

Greetings!

In our last newsletter our former president, Sandy Coughlin, discussed her renewed commitment to this organization. I appreciate her wonderful example and in that spirit of commitment, several current and former officers met this summer to chart an exciting course for Secondary Reading League’s upcoming year.

Each summer the Illinois Reading Council provides its local and statewide council leaders with planning time. No, they don’t lock us in a small, windowless room with one naked light bulb. IRC graciously sends us to Grand Bear Lodge (which backs up to Starved Rock State Park) in Utica. It’s a lovely and peaceful setting! Yes, we spend a couple of days away from our families, but it is certainly time well spent! This year, Liz Strejcek, Barb Chrz-White, Gayle Huizinga, Christy Ziller, Suzanne Picchi, and I committed our work time to clarifying SRL’s purpose and to planning even more high quality staff development programs for you. On a personal note, being able to plan with such dedicated SRL members, like these ladies, was an eye-opening experience. Their passion for Secondary Reading League was clearly evident in every decision that was made. Your executive board is unwavering in our desire to offer programs that you will find enlightening and that will help you improve or refine your practice.

In September, SRL will kick-off the year with IRC’s president-elect, Susan Cisna. Susan will bring her vast knowledge of secondary education issues and high level of enthusiasm to our opening program. Future programs will focus on other interesting topics. Please check our website link on IRC’s homepage at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org. You’ll find information about our regular programs and our very popular **Day of Reading** conference too.

As your president, I want to hear your thoughts about Secondary Reading League. I don’t issue this invitation lightly. My email address is srl@illinoisreadingcouncil.org. I am looking forward to a most successful year.

Warmly,

Donna K. Monti

2009-2010 Officers

President

Donna Monti

Vice President

(Could Be You)

Secretary

Jennifer O'Connor

Treasurer

Liz Streicek

Membership

Suzanne Nelson

DOR/Chairperson

Barb Chrz-White

Past-President

Sandy Caughlin

Newsletter

Christy Ziller

Join SRL



Secondary
Reading League

What do I get for my SRL membership?

Below is a quick and easy list of benefits of being a member of SRL:

- Opportunity to research secondary, creative, corrective and remedial reading through Literacy Grants.
- Opportunity to study reading problems through professional development offerings.
- Opportunity to network with educators in elementary, middle, high school, special areas, college and leadership positions.
- Opportunity to volunteer for services in a literacy arena through involvement in the council and other service projects promoted by



SRL is Going Green!

If you would like to help save the planet one tree at a time, e-mail Christy Ziller.

She can get you the SRL

Newsletter out to you via the internet!

cziller@wilmington.will.k12.il.us

Meet Your SRL Officers

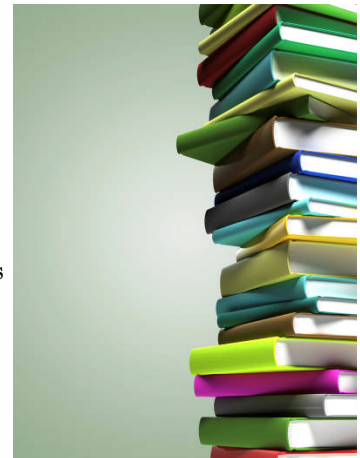
In each SRL newsletter a column will be included to give members the opportunity to learn more about their board members. Featured in this newsletter is the new newsletter chair Christy Ziller.



Christy Ziller is a 7th grade teacher at Wilmington Middle School. She has her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree as a reading specialist. Both were earned at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois. She is involved in her local council of Will County and serves on the IRC Struggling Readers Committee. She enjoys spending time with her husband of 18 years and her only child, Shelby, a senior at Wilmington High School. Christy loves to travel, scrapbook, coach cheerleading, and teaches Confirmation at her church. She looks forward to a rewarding year with the Secondary Reading League.

YA Titles

As you begin the school year check out these titles to engage your students, particularly your male readers.

**1. Response- Paul Volponi** Viking Juvenile (February 2009)

Racism is at the heart of this novel in which Noah, a seventeen-year-old, African-American is badly beaten by three white teens after he and his friends attempt to steal a car. The case is quickly ruled a hate crime and the three teens who participated in the beating are arrested. What follows is a look at the bigotry that permeates the town. Though Noah goes to a primarily black high school, racist white students and teachers alike take the side of the white teens. Noah's sudden "celebrity" status is something he grapples with as he balances the case and his life as a teen father.

2. Dope Sick-Walter Dean Myers Amistad (February 2009)

Myers again provides a look at the life of an urban teen in his recent novel, *Dope Sick*. Lil J is forced into hiding after participating in a drug deal gone bad where he is believed to have shot a cop. Though Lil J's life is similar to the lives of many of Myers' previous characters, this novel provides a bit of the fantastical when Lil J meets Kelly, while in hiding. Kelly offers to show Lil J not only a glimpse of his past-run-ins with the law, early drug use and life as a teen father, but of his possible future. The realistic portrayal of Lil J's life makes for a good read, as does the unexpected ending.

3. All-In-2008-Pete Hautman Simon Pulse (September 2008)

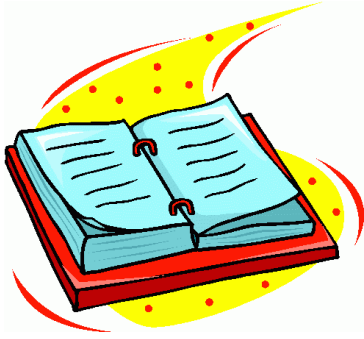
With the rise in popularity of Black-Jack and Texas Hold-em, this novel, about a teen gambler, Denn Doyle, will certainly be of interest to many young adult readers. Denn is an unusually good gambler who has managed to make a pretty good name for himself in Vegas. His name and his livelihood is put to the test, however, when he falls for a girl who threatens to wreck everything Denn has worked for, bringing him face to face with Artie Kingston-an enemy from Denn's past.

4. Catching Fire-Suzanne Collins Scholastic Press (September 2009)

This sequel to the science-fiction thriller, *The Hunger Games*, is just as much a pager turner as Collins' first novel in the series. The Games is a televised event that pits two teens against one another in a fight to the death. In the first novel of the series Katniss takes the place of her sister in the Games and while she is able to use her wit to survive the Hunger Games, her win places her in danger with the government. President Snow is unhappy with Katniss' win and with rebellion swelling among the subjects, Snow is on edge, making his dislike for Katniss quite clear. In this world of government control Katniss' life is in danger as her loyalty to the Capitol is questioned.

5. Unwind- Neal Shusterman Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing (June 2009)

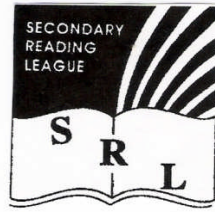
Another science-fiction novel, *Unwind* chronicles the life of three teens in a futuristic world in which teens between the ages of 13 and 18 can be unwound (have their body parts divided up and distributed to others that need them). Connor, Lev and Risa are three teens chosen for different reasons to go through unwinding who are unexpectedly brought together. The novel follows the three teens as they go into hiding, in the hopes of making it to their eighteenth birthdays, when they will be safe from unwinding. Though the reader may



Mark Your Calendar

Secondary Reading League 2009-2010 Events

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|---|
| September 19, 2009 | Susan Cisna | Willowbrook Holiday Inn , Willowbrook, IL |
| | “Critical Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum” | |
| October 3, 2009 | Tracy Tarasiuk | Doubletree Hotel , Downers Grove, IL |
| | “ Increasing Reading Performances Through Technology” | |
| November 6, 2009 | Sharon Draper Dr. Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala | Holiday Inn Select, Tinley Park, IL |
| | Meet and Greet, and Dinner with Sharon and Fabiola | |
| November 7, 2009 | Sharon Draper Dr. Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala Local educators | Holiday Inn Select, Tinley Park, IL |
| | 33rd Day of Reading conference – Exclusively secondary | |
| December 5, 2009 | Gail Huizinga Sue Johnson | Willowbrook Holiday Inn, Willowbrook, IL |
| | “Teaching Research Skills With Picture Books” | |
| February 20, 2010 | Dr. Roberta Sejnost | Crown Plaza Glen Ellyn, IL |
| | “Critical Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum” | |
| March 18-20, 2010 | SRL Members | Springfield, IL |
| | A Secondary Strand of Literacy Presentations (IRC Conference) | |
| April 15, 2010 | Jan Dundon | Anderson’s Books, Naperville, IL |
| | Dinner at Lou Malnati’s | |
| | “Hot Books for Young Adults” | |



Secondary Reading League

Presents

Breakfast With Susan Cisna

Vocabulary Strategies

for the Content Area Studies

This presentation will highlight the differences in word meaning when presented in content area class compared to how the words are used in fiction. The strategies presented are flexible and adaptable to most levels. A must presentation for the beginning of the year!

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Willowbrook Holiday Inn

7800 Kingery Highway

Willowbrook, IL 60527

9 am to 11:30

Breakfast Brunch!

Registration Form due by September 14 by mail....or pay at door!

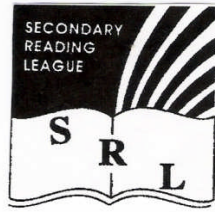
Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

\$20.00

Send to: Liz Strejcek, 20 w 528 Westminster Dr, Downers Grove, IL 60516 lizstrejcek@hotmail.com



Secondary Reading League

Presents

Brunch With Tracy Tarasiuk

Increasing Reading Performance Through Technology

Tracy is a Reading Specialist and Doctoral candidate at NIU who has experience teaching all grade levels. She had an article published in "Voices in the Middle" last March about poetry and podcasting! Today she will concentrate on the technology prized by students and teachers, touching on Wiki spaces to enhance meaning and live texting in book talks!

Saturday, October 3, 2009

9 am to 12:00 pm

Breakfast Brunch!

Doubletree Guest Suites & Conference Center
2111 Butterfield Road
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Registration Form **due before October 1st** by mail....or pay at door (\$45.00).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

\$35 – SRL members \$45 - Non-SRL members

\$45 - At the door

Send to: Liz Strejcek, 20 w 528 Westminster Dr, Downers Grove, IL 60516 lizstrejcek@hotmail.com

COME JOIN THE FUN!!

Pre-Conference Cocktails and Dinner
With

Sharon Draper
and
Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala



Tinley Park Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center
Friday, November 6, 2009

5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Suites C and D

MENU

Variety of Appetizers
Fresh Fruit Cup
Crisp Mixed Greens Salad
Dinner Rolls and Butter
Fresh Roasted Turkey & Gravy
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce, Honey Glazed Carrots
Chocolate Cake
Freshly brewed Coffee, Decaf, Tea, or Iced Tea

\$36.00

(Include payment with your pre-registration form)



Dear Colleagues,

The 33rd Day of Reading is almost here, so I am writing to invite you to join us at this year's conference, and pre-conference dinner.

I am delighted to have been invited to deliver one of the keynote addresses at this year's conference, and I would like to thank the organizers of this exciting event.

I am looking forward to having the opportunity to meet you there to discuss the question: "What Do Teachers Need to Know about English Language Learners to Ensure Reading Success?" I will be sharing with you my answer to this question, informed not only by my research and teaching experience in this area, but also by my experience as a Chilean-American whose native language is Spanish, and learned English as a foreign/second language. In my talk, you will learn more about my literacy development in my first and second language, and you might find it interesting to learn that I do not come from a privileged background, yet I have been able to succeed despite what was working against me. My own personal experiences have, as you can imagine, contributed to my strongly held belief that all English language learners have the potential to succeed with the appropriate support. I do believe that committed teachers do make a difference!

I am also excited to return to Illinois where I lived for fourteen years. At Illinois State University (ISU), I completed my graduate education, and taught in its Bilingual/Bicultural Education program for several years. During that time, I had an opportunity to train teachers in bilingual education, and ESL both in Central Illinois (Bloomington/Normal) and in the Chicago area, especially, Elgin, Wheeling, and Waukegan.

Currently, I am an Associate Professor in the English Department at Colorado State University (CSU), where I teach graduate courses training teachers in the area of teaching English as a second/foreign language. I also serve as the Co-Director of CSU's Community Literacy Center (CLC). As a university professor, as you may expect, I have been actively involved in my professional organizations, regularly presenting at the annual meetings of international TESOL, the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), and the International Reading Association (IRA), among others. In terms of professional service, I am a Past-President of Illinois TESOL/Bilingual Education (ITBE), Past-Chair of the Bilingual Interest Section within international TESOL, and currently I chair the international TESOL's Nominating Committee. My publications include, *Reading Strategies for Spanish Speakers*, a book co-authored with Susan Lenski (2004); several book chapters in edited collections, with the latest being: "How Can Teachers Help Adolescent English Language Learners Attain Academic Literacy?"--co-authored with Laura Azcoitia (a bilingual teacher from Larkin High School in Elgin), which recently appeared in *Essential Questions in Adolescent Literacy* edited by Jill Lewis (2009), and published by Guilford Press; and other articles in refereed journals.

With this brief introduction, I hope to have the opportunity to personally meet many of you to learn about your work at the Friday night dinner before the conference, and discuss topics that pertain to the education of English language learners for the success of Illinois schools in particular.

Sincerely,

Fabiola

Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala, Ph.D.

Associate Professor in TESOL/Pedagogical Linguistics

Colorado State University



Q & A with Sharon M. Draper

By Felicia Pride -- Publishers Weekly, 6/25/2009

Sharon M. Draper has been busy of late, with her new Sassy series for tween girls from Scholastic, as well as the release of Just Another Hero (Atheneum, July), the final book in her Jericho trilogy. The former teacher now writes fulltime, and does school visits and appearances. Children's Bookshelf caught up with the author to talk about her writing life.

*This year marks the 15th anniversary of *Tears of the Tiger*, your first book. How have things changed for you?*

So much has changed. I've learned a great deal about writing and the publishing business. I've been blessed with two really good editors who have taught me so much about the nuances of writing—Marcia Marshall, who has retired, and Caitlyn Dlouhy, my current editor. I believe I'm a better writer now than I was when I started. I'm grateful that I had good guidance because you don't make it in this business without good editors and a lot of support from your publishers.

Have things changed regarding the types of books that young people want to read?

No. They want it to be good. They are very impatient, so the cover, back copy and flap have to grab them. It has to grab them on page one because they don't have time to read 10 chapters to get to the good part. If those don't capture them, then they put it down because the cell phone is ringing, text messages are coming in, and there are other things to do.

*Like *The Battle of Jericho* and *November Blues*, the two previous titles in your Jericho trilogy, *Just Another Hero* tackles serious issues, including prescription drug addiction and school violence. How do you manage to pack so much into your books?*

Well, I try not to overload them. But I found that young people are expecting something to happen. Also, there are issues that they need and want to talk about. A lot of times, the adults in their lives won't.

I've been thinking about doing something about school violence since Columbine, but I couldn't write about killing children. I wanted to bring up the issue so kids can talk about it, without gratuitous bloodshed. I also wanted to discuss the idea of heroism. What is a hero? What makes a hero? We have a tendency to think of heroes as movie stars; I wanted young people to talk about the real heroes in their lives.

This is your second trilogy. Is there something in particular that you like about them?

With the Hazelwood High trilogy, I wasn't sure I was writing a trilogy. I would just write one book, then another, and then another, because the young adults who wrote me told me that they wanted to read more. This time, I knew I was writing a trilogy and planned it, so it reads chronologically. There's so much to cover and you can do it more effectively in a three-part series than in one book.

Are you sad when the final book is released?

I'm waiting for the letters that ask when I'm going to write book four. I got those a lot with the first trilogy.

But I do get a little sad because the characters are like friends to me. I treat them like they're real people. I live with them and know what their kitchen smells like. If you can get that kind of detail in the minds of readers, they tend to feel the same way.



Secondary Reading League
Day of Reading

Christy Ziller
Wilmington Middle School
715 South Joliet
Wilmington, IL 60481