



Secondary Reading League Charting the Course for Adolescent Literacy

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Sailing into a New Year!

By Susanne Faber

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Upcoming Events:

- * November 8— Day of Reading
- * February 7— Local researcher (details to follow)
- * March 10-21, 2009— SRL's "Secondary Reading Strand" at IRC
- * April 16—2009— Spring Book Talk



Secondary Reading League
Day of Reading

SRL board members would like to officially welcome everyone back to another exciting school year! Although many of us were not able to attend this year's IRC Leadership Conference in Utica, our July board meeting was a tremendous success! The feedback on last year's newsletter format was very encouraging, so as you can see, we are continuing with the same format and motto. Although our board members are providing the topics for this first newsletter, we welcome any ideas and submissions from our members. Our board is such a passionate group who are all truly committed to collaborating with each and every one of our members to get the word out about adolescent literacy! We look forward to greater participation from our valued colleagues across the state.

Well, I have so much news to share with you; I'd better jump right in!

First, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Terry McHugh for taking on the job as our full-time webmaster. If you haven't had a chance to see the wonderful new layout, you absolutely *have* to visit www.dayofreading.org/! Terry has added several new links including Reading/Literacy Resources and an innovative Day of Reading Blog, where members can discuss any and all topics associated with adolescent literacy. Speaking of Day of Reading... Barb Chrz-White and her DOR Committee members have been hard at work putting the final touches on this year's 32nd Day of Reading. I cannot wait to meet Chris Tovani and Lois Duncan, upclose and personal! Board members have also been working hard to secure a high profile speaker for our Fall/Winter Author Breakfast. Updates on this will be forthcoming. Also, Anderson's Book Store has agreed to collaborate with us on our traditional and enormously popular Spring Book-Talk event. We are in the final stages of planning, so again, we will update you as soon as the details are settled. Moving right along, we would like to participate in an SRL service project this year, but we are in need of ideas from all of you. Keeping in line with IRC's commitment to service projects, we feel this would be a positive step in supporting the mission and vision not

literacy strand would be a great opportunity to improve professional development focused on the issues unique to the students and staff with whom we work. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this, again, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will not be able to guarantee everyone an opportunity to present, but we will do our best to select the most up-to-date and relevant presentations as possible.

I hope that the above mentioned news has everyone excited about the coming year in SRL! As I said earlier, the SRL Board is so enthusiastic about all of the new and exciting things we have planned for this year. We look forward to seeing everyone at our events and reaching out fellow colleagues, one member at a time...

Best wishes for a smooth and successful start to the new school year! Ahoy mates.

HOT Topics in Education

by Donna Monti

Welcome to SRL's newest feature! In the coming months we will explore educational topics that are at the forefront in Illinois and across the country. This month I'm recommending several websites. I found an interesting podcast at www.npr.org. Click on Weekend Edition and listen to the May 25, 2008 chat titled *Why Education isn't a Hot Topic in Election 2008*. Both the NEA and AFT have sections on their sites that discuss hot button issues.

Go to www.NEA.org/topics/index.html and www.aft.org/topics/. ASCD has an interesting article, titled *High Schools at the Tipping Point* in the Best of Educational Leadership issue (Summer 2008 Volume 65). As we begin the new school year, I hope we won't settle for just being aware of **hot** topics in secondary education. Together we can be knowledgeable about these issues and work toward greater understanding and success. If there are issues you would like to see addressed in this column, please email me. Until next time, I'll be on the lookout for **HOT** Topics in Education!

Meet Your Officers

In each SRL newsletter a column will be included to give members the opportunity to learn more about their board members. Feature in this are SRL President, Susanne Faber and Day of Reading Chair, Barb Chrz-White.

Susanne Faber- SRL President

Susanne is a Reading Specialist and Instructional Coach at Plainfield East High School, where she will be entering her thirteenth year of teaching. Susanne's focus this year is two-fold: She will continue to teach two sections of freshman reading intervention classes, but she will also be launching an instructional coaching initiative in her building. She has a Masters in Reading and Literacy from Lewis University and is completing her C.A.S. in Educational Leadership this December. This is her third year as a member of the SRL Executive Board. Susanne has been married for 15 years, has two daughters, Lauren 13 and Anna 11, has five miniature daschunds, and has been living in Joliet for the past seven years.

Barb Chrz-White (Day of Reading chairperson)

Barb grew up on the southwest side of Chicago and attended Chicago public schools. She earned her BS in Child Development and then continued on for a MS in Reading, both at NIU. The majority of her career was teaching remedial reading classes in middle/junior high schools in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. Since most of her students didn't want to read, creating that desire became the first priority in her classes. After that, the teaching was easy. Retirement came in 2007. Barb has been an SRL member since 1978 when she was recruited by her teaching partner, Lorri Davis. This is the eleventh Day of Reading Barb has chaired....November 8, 2008.

SRL's Day of Reading Conference Web Site: New and Improved

In an effort to better serve its members and provide useful resources for teachers, the Day of Reading Conference Committee is pleased to announce its redesigned web site. The goal of the redesigned web site is to provide all the information SRL members need to remain active within SRL and to remain current with literacy research and reading and instructional best practice. Of course the primary purpose of the web site is to provide program and registration information for the Day of Reading Conference.

The Day of Reading website can be located at <http://dayofreading.org> As always, information regarding SRL activities, including the 32nd Day of Reading Conference can also be found at our site.

Putting all the technical talk aside, the redesigned web site is compliant with the latest technological standards and will allow the technology to grow with our organization. Besides the new look and feel to the website, updated features include:

- Complete listing of upcoming SRL activities, workshops and conferences;
- **Exclusive!!!** Reading/Literacy resources section containing handouts/materials from past Day of Reading Conference.
- Links to other web based reading/literacy resources;
- **New!!!** Access to the [Day of Reading Blog](#), our online professional discussion of adolescent literacy issues;
- **Expanded!!!** Links to state, regional and national literacy organizations;
- Online Photo Gallery highlighting five years of the Day of Reading Conferences;
- Complete 32nd Day of Reading Conference program and DOR promotional materials;
- Registration information, including registration forms for the Day of Reading Conference;
- **New Feature!!!** Online registration (requires credit card) for the [32nd Day of Reading Conference](#)

In addition, new features will be added shortly, as soon as they are fully developed, including:

- SRL Newsletter archive containing a historical record of SRL activities as recorded in the SRL newsletter
- Day of Reading Conference Hall of Fame
- Celebrating New Members

The new website also provides features for enhanced email communication that should allow the Secondary Reading League to communicate more efficiently and effectively with members.

Be sure to visit the SRL/Day of Reading web site often. In fact why not [visit now](#) and be sure to bookmark the site.

Great Reads to Start the School Year

Read through this multi-genre list for young adult titles that are sure to please students.

Homboyz by Alan Lawrence Sitomer-Teddy, is determined to avenge his baby sister's murder by a gang member. His attempts at getting revenge get him caught and soon Teddy is mentoring Micah, a young soon-to-be gang member, as part of his sentence. It is through Micah that Teddy learns what really happened to his sister, but Teddy must now decide how to act because his actions will not only affect Teddy, but his family and Micah as well and in a world dominated by gang culture, no one is safe.

How to Be Bad by E. Lockhart, Sarah Lynowski and Lauren Myracle- The unlikely trio of Mel, Vicks and Jesse set out on a road trip less for the destination and more for an escape. Mel wants to prove that she isn't the goody, goody wallflower. Knowing her mother has cancer, but unable to share this devastating news, Jesse heads out on the road trip to escape the truth, and Vicks is off to convince herself that she doesn't need her boyfriend anymore. Like all road trips, memorable experiences abound, and the unlikely trio realizes how friendships can develop even on the craziest of road trips.

All-In by Pete Hautman- Though Denn Doyle is only 17, he has made quite a name for himself in the world of poker. Like any gambler in Las Vegas, Denn Doyle has had his share of good and bad luck, but when the girl of his dreams, Cattie plays him against an enemy from his past, Artie Kingston, Denn's luck runs out. This book alternates chapters between various characters, but manages to remain clear and interesting. Like so many other Las Vegas stories, whether Denn Doyle turns around his luck or not hangs in the balance of his last hand.

Sight by Adrienne Maria Vrettos- Dylan is no ordinary teenager. Though she does not have them often, Dylan has visions of children who have been kidnapped and killed, an ability that no one but her mother and the police know about. Unfortunately her visions usually just help the police locate a dead body. Her secret becomes a threat when a new girl, Cate moves into Dylan's small mountain town and threatens to expose Dylan's secret, while withholding an important secret of her own. Will Cate's secret mean more visions for Dylan, and this time will she be able to do something before it's too late?

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow- Marcus thought, like any American, that he had certain unalienable rights, but when his friends and he are apprehended by Homeland Security for potential involvement in a terrorist attack, Marcus realizes that what he thought about his freedoms is no longer true. This is amazing book that looks at the dangers that come from a government too concerned with finding and punishing the bad guy, even if that means taking down a lot of good guys in the process.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

We are busy planning many wonderful events for this coming year.

- **November 8, 2008** - Our first major event is the Day of Reading Conference (see article). This conference is an outstanding opportunity to meet with Cris Tovani, reading researcher/author, Lois Duncan, award winning author, and many wonderful practitioners from across the region.
- **February 7, 2009** (tentative) - Our second event is planned for early February – date to be confirmed soon. We will be hosting a local researcher. More details to follow.
- **March 10-21, 2009** - In the spring SRL will be hosting a “Secondary Reading Strand” at the Illinois Reading Council. We are incredibly excited about bringing this opportunity to IRC. Look for a list of breakouts and speakers in future newsletters and on our website.
- **April 16, 2009** - Our final meeting of the year will be our very popular Spring Book Talk partnering with Anderson’s Bookshop in Naperville. At our final meeting we will be announcing new board members, awarding SRL Literacy Grants, and concluding our event with shopping at Andersons. You won’t want to miss this event.

For more information about all of these events, please check on our website:

<http://www.dayofreading.org/aboutSRL/aboutSRL.htm>

**SECONDARY CONFERENCE
CONTENT AREAS—GRADES 6-12**

Saturday, November 8, 2008

**Secondary Reading League's
32nd Day of Reading**

An EXCLUSIVELY secondary literacy conference in Tinley Park, Illinois

Lois Duncan

- *Luncheon: **The Road to Becoming a Writer**
- *Sessions 1&2: **Writing for Young Adults: Informal Q&A Sessions**
- *YA author: **Don't Look Behind You*
- *Who Killed My Daughter?*
- *Killing Mr. Griffin* **Hotel for Dogs*
- *Down a Dark Hall*
- *I Know What You Did Last Summer*

Cris Tovani

- *Keynote: **Why is Reading Hard? What Adolescent Readers Say About School Reading**
- *Session 1: **Using Companion Pieces to Anchor Learning**
- *Session 2: **Setting a Purpose: The Crux to Determining Importance**
- *Author: *I Read It, But I Don't Get It*
- *Comprehending Content*
- *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading?*

ALL Teachers of Grades 6-12 Should Be Here

*Interdisciplinary/Instructional teams *Teachers of remedial, average, & gifted *Literacy teams *Title I teachers *Mentors
Reading & Instructional specialists *Content area *Media Specialists *Subject area coordinators
School & District administrators

Join us for dinner and spend the night at the Holiday Inn, Nov. 7

TEAM DISCOUNTS

Contact Terry McHugh by 10-15-08 for details
708-220-4544 tmchugh@dayofreading.org

Credit Card Registration Now Available Online at www.dayofreading.org

Sponsors: Lake-Cook Distributors
Prentice Hall Holt-McDougal

Registration fee received before Oct. 31-SRL member \$110, or Non-member \$145

***Oct. 31-Nov. 5, SRL member \$120, Non-member \$155; Nov, 6&7 SRL member \$130, Non-member \$165 ***

CREDIT CARD REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.dayofreading.org

Bring your school team.Contact Terry McHugh by 10-15 for details on team discount.

CPS Vendor # 80827

On site registration - \$175

Lois Duncan's & Cris Tovani's books sold & autographed (books purchased at the Day of Reading)

Location: Holiday Inn Select and Convention Center, 18501 South Harlem Avenue, Tinley Park, IL (W of I-294 off of I-80)

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