



# Secondary Reading League

Charting the Course for Adolescent Literacy

## 2011 Secondary Reading League Literacy Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

Do you have an innovative literacy project or activity that needs funding? In these times of limited funding, grants are a necessary source of revenue for educators. The Secondary Reading League (SRL) has established two (2) \$500 Literacy Grants to be awarded to SRL members. This monetary award is intended to support educators in developing new or supporting existing innovative literacy projects in their schools or classrooms. Over the past five years, a variety of projects have been funded by this grant. Throughout the year, 2010 winners and their projects will be highlighted in the newsletter. Check out how the Literacy Grant is supporting secondary reading and writing throughout the state.

Interested Secondary Reading League members are encouraged to complete the two-page application form. A grant application is included in this newsletter as well on SRL's website [www.dayofreading.org](http://www.dayofreading.org). Please note the deadline for all applications is September 2, 2011.

If you have questions, contact Gail Huizinga, Literacy Grant Chair, [ghuizinga@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ghuizinga@sbcglobal.net)

### Secondary Reading Leagues Literacy Grant Winner

## Meeting the Needs of Secondary Students with Leveled Text

Gail Huizinga, Grant Winner  
Coordinator for Teaching, Learning, and Accountability  
Homewood School District 153

Thanks to a 2011 Secondary Reading League Literacy Grant, 5th and 6th grade students at Millennium School in Homewood District 153 are reading a little easier. SRL's Literacy Grant purchased 9 on-line subscriptions to Reading A to Z. With the subscriptions, teachers were able to print leveled books for use in guided, shared, and independent reading directly from the website at relatively low cost. Once the books were used by the teacher, they were housed in the building's book room for teachers to share in their guided reading program and independent practice libraries. The evaluation of the grant project was very positive. Teachers shared that their students were engaged with the text and enjoyed the content. The Reading A to Z materials made it easier to differentiate in their small

group instruction. Access to independent reading materials for students was also increased. The most compelling evaluation of the grant project's success was a 3.8% increase in Millennium School's 2011 ISAT Reading scores. A balanced literacy approach is a large undertaking for any grade level or school. The amount of text needed to provide appropriate reading materials for all students takes a great deal of funding. The Secondary Reading League Literacy Grant provided Millennium School the opportunity to support literacy and student reading achievement in a very practical way. The students and staff of Millennium School would like to thank Secondary Reading League for their support of secondary literacy throughout the State of Illinois.

### Why Join the SRL?

- Discounted registration for the *Day of Reading Conference*
- Access to other secondary reading professionals
- Opportunities for leadership

For more information visit us at:  
[www.dayofreading.org](http://www.dayofreading.org)

-OR-

Find us on Facebook

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## Please join us for...

SRL's Fall Breakfast Series:  
 "The Good News and Challenges of  
 the Common Core Standards"  
 featuring Donna Ogle

Saturday, October 8, 2011  
 Willowbrook Holiday Inn  
 7800 Kingery (I-55 and Kingery/Rte 83)  
 Willowbrook, IL

# 35<sup>th</sup> Day of Reading

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Featured Speakers:

**TODD STRASSER**

Young Adult Author, TV Writer, Journalist

- ★ Author: *Blood On My Hands; If I Grow Up; Can't Get There From Here; The Accident; Boot Camp; The Wave; Give A Boy a Gun; Mob Princess series; Drift X series*
- ★ ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers; IRA YA Choice; Notable Social Studies Books for Young People 2010, ALA Best Book for Teens, 2010 ALA Popular Paperbacks for YA
- ★ TV films - *The Wave; The Accident*

**DR. JEFFREY D. WILHELM**

Internationally-Known Presenter and Teacher

- ★ Professor at Boise State University, teaching courses in middle and secondary level literacy
- ★ Boise State Writing Project founding director; Maine Writing Project founding director
- ★ Author of: *Teaching Literacy for Love and Wisdom; Being the Book and Being the Change; Reading for Themselves; How to Transform Adolescents into Lifelong Readers Through Out-of-Class Book Clubs; You Gotta BE the Book; Teaching Engaged and Reflective Reading With Adolescents*

## Pre-Conference Workshop with Dr. Wilhelm

Friday, November 4, 2011      *Limit 100*

**Morning (2 hours) – Going With the Flow: Teaching for Engagement and Understanding**

Dr. Wilhelm's highly interactive workshop will:

- review findings of Dr. Wilhelm's two major studies of boys & their literacy (*READING DON'T FIX NO CHEVY'S* and *GOING WITH THE FLOW*), & how these explain issues of motivation & learning
- explore how to create the conditions of engagement & understanding in units, through the use of the inquiry model, & through specific lessons with the use of think aloud & action strategies.

**Afternoon (3 hours) – Going with the Flow (continued)**

Dr. Wilhelm will pursue 5 strands:

- What is inquiry, and why does this structure engage and assist learners?
- How can we reframe units we already teach into inquiry-oriented pursuits using "Big/Essential" Questions?
- How can we use backwards planning to teach towards meaningful compositions and culminating projects?
- How can we effectively design assignment sequences framed by inquiry using frontloading & sequencing techniques?
- How can we use think-alouds and action strategies as lesson level inquiry techniques?

Todd Strasser's and Dr. Jeff Wilhelm's books will be sold & autographed at the conference. Only books purchased at the preconference & Day of Reading will be signed.

For more information contact: Barbara Chrz-White 847-699-0797 bchrzwhite@comcast.net  
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