

Secondary Reading League

Charting the Course for Adolescent Literacy

Volume I, Issue 3
January/February 2011



SRL's Breakfast Series

Improving Adolescent Literacy

Dr. Taffy Raphael

Breakfast Buffet and Workshop

Saturday, February 26, 2011

9 am-1 pm

Willowbrook Holiday Inn

7800 Kingery Highway

Willowbrook, IL 60527

\$35--SRL members \$40--Non-SRL members

Registration form available at the SRL/DOR website: <http://www.dayofreading.org>

Introducing



Dr. Taffy Raphael

Dr. Taffy Raphael is a member of the Curriculum and Instruction faculty in Literary Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Raphael's research has focused on Question Answer Relationships, strategy instruction in writing, and the Book Club, a literature-based reading program. She believes that "teacher expertise, not packaged programs, is the key to improved achievement."

Literacy



OUTSIDE THE BOX!

**Illinois Reading Council's
2011 Conference
March 17-19
Springfield, IL**

Join the IRC Ning to view the Final Program book, handouts from the featured speakers and presenters, or to network with other educators at illinoisreadingcouncil.ning.com/



Upcoming Events

Feb 26 — Improving Adolescent Literacy with Taffy Rafael @ Holiday Inn, Willowbrook, IL.

March 17-19 — SRL Strand at IRC Conference, "Literacy Outside the Box," Springfield, IL. (For 2011 Conference registration information and Preliminary Program, see the Illinois Reading Council website: <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference.html>)

April 7—Spring Book Talk with Dinner at Lou Malnati's, Naperville, IL.

Join SRL or renew your membership at <http://www.dayofreading.org/aboutSRL/aboutSRL.htm>

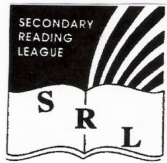
Review of *The Hunger Games*

The Hunger Games trilogy is set in a future world of Panem, located in North America. In this totalitarian society, one section controls the other 11 sections, keeping the inhabitants poor and afraid while doling out favors to a select few. Like the myth, Theseus and the Minotaur, the "Capitol" demands a tribute of two youths between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the ultimate "reality show," The Games, which are orchestrated and televised throughout the lands. Katniss Everdeen becomes a "tribute" when her beloved little sister, Prim, is

chosen and she volunteers to take Prim's place. Katniss is a survivor in the sense that she has kept her mother and sister alive by illegally hunting with a bow and arrow and scrounging for food and supplies for them. She truly thinks "outside the box" and manages to win the games (saving her friend Peeta, also a tribute) by finding edible plants, hunting and out-thinking the other tributes who try to kill her. Her ordeal is not over when she wins, because



in *Catching Fire* (book two of the trilogy), Katniss and Peeta must participate again. In book three, *Mockingjay*, Katniss becomes a leader of the rebellion against the Capitol. Plans to make this series into a movie will make this exciting futuristic story even more popular. The author, Suzanne Collins who also authored *Gregor, the Overlander* series, will write the screenplay. —Review by Liz Strejcek



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Featured Teaching Strategy: Team Blockout

When to use:

1. Prereading—to access and assess background knowledge
2. During a lesson as a formative assessment
3. After a lesson to review

Advance Preparation:

1. Create a “Blockout” grid (use “table” in MS Word)
2. Gather “tokens” (plastic bread tags, poker chips, pennies, pebbles, game pieces, foam squares, etc.)

Procedure:

Form teams of three or four students.

Give each team a a game board, which is merely a sheet of paper printed with a grid of nine to 16 squares, and a set of tokens. The number of tokens depends upon the number of

squares you put on the game board. Each game board square contains a word or phrase from the unit. (Make each square large enough to fit a token.)

In each team, one student chooses a term or phrase he can explain. If his teammates agree that he has explained or defined the term or phrase correctly, he may block out that square with a token. “Play” continues counter-clockwise; each student defines or explains an item in a box of his choice.

Meanwhile, the teacher moves from team to team, listening, asking for clarification, praising, and checking (if a square is covered, every member of

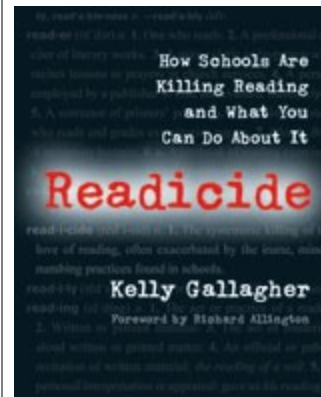
the team should be able to explain the idea.)

Extension:

1. Each student makes flash cards of the terms
2. Ask each student to write a sentence using two of the terms.
3. Have each team report out the meaning of one term to the class
4. Have students use the terms to make matching quizzes to trade with other classmates
5. Rearrange the items and replay the next day

—Contributed by Patti Tylka

May we suggest ...?



Kelly Gallagher defines *readicide* as the “systematic killing of the love of reading by the inane, mind-numbing practices found in schools.” In *Readicide*, Gallagher argues (with statistics) that standard instructional practices used in most schools are killing reading. A classroom teacher himself, he offers realistic, honest, practical ideas to keep students engaged in both academic and recreational reading. He provides teachers with activities that create thinkers instead of test-takers, copies of which can be accessed (free) at his website (www.kellygallagher.org). *Readicide* provides teachers, literacy coaches and administrators with specific steps to reverse the killing of reading in our schools.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE TEAM BLOCKOUT—KNIVES

BIRD'S BEAK	BONING	BUTTER	CHEESE
CHEF'S	CLEAVER	FILET	PARING
SERRATED	TOMATO	UTILITY	STEAK



Friction	Gravity	Lubrication
Winch	Lever	Gear
Force	Fulcrum	Resistance
Gradient	Axle	Slope

Blockout

Circe	Epithet	Telemachus	Polyphemus	Lotus Eaters
Paris	Eurylochus	Athene	Achilles	Zeus
Cyclops	Poseidon		Epic Simile	Aphrodite
Golden Apple	Penelope	Hera	Aeolus	Agamemnon
Simile	Troy	Personification	Ithaca	Helen



BLOCKOUT Characters from Romeo and Juliet

Romeo Montague	Juliet Capulet	Nurse	Benvolio
Prince	Lady Capulet	Lord Capulet	Mercutio
Paris	Lord Montague	Lady Montague	Tybalt
Rosaline	Balthazar	Apothecary	Friar Laurence



BLOCKOUT—The American Civil War

Jefferson Davis	Ku Klux Klan	Robert E. Lee
Emancipation Proclamation	Abraham Lincoln	Union
Blockade	Confederacy	Ulysses S. Grant
Gettysburg	John Wilkes Booth	Slavery

