

President's Message

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

John Quincy Adams

As the school year comes to a close, it provides us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has been accomplished in our classrooms and schools during the last year. I would like to offer a few questions to guide that reflection.

1. Have I helped to grow my students' passion for reading and writing?
2. Have I helped my students to better understand the world around them through reading?
3. Have I helped my students to better communicate about the world around them through writing?
4. Have I helped to grow the level of engagement and confidence of my students as readers and writers, especially those who struggle with literacy?
5. Have I accurately measured my success with the previous four reflection questions?

I believe that the last question is critical to our continuous literacy improvement as a state. While the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is a reliable and valid summative measure of reading achievement, it is important that we also measure students' passion, engagement, and confidence as readers and writers throughout the year. It is often these "soft" skills, indirectly measured by FCAT, which produce less than expected scores for our students. Fortunately, these leading indicators of student success can be measured throughout the year and instruction adjusted based on those measures.

In the coming weeks, I know many schools will review the FCAT data to compare proficiency levels within schools, across schools, and across districts. As you analyze these data, I challenge you and your colleagues to dig deeper, to bypass simplistic answers, and try to understand what has produced these summative scores for individuals and groups of students. More importantly, as you reflect back on the school year, seek to understand the instructional decisions that led to student success or a lack thereof. It is this critical reflection that will lead to improved instruction and learning for students next year. This ability to engage in courageous conversations is what distinguishes true teacher leaders. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Florida Reading Journal.

Yours Sincerely,

Evan Lefsky

In Memoriam: E.L. Konigsburg **1930-2013**

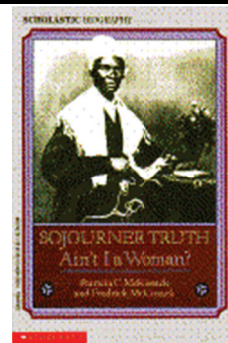
E.L. Konigsburg won the John Newbery Medal in 1997 for her book *The View from Saturday* and in 1968 for *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Konigsburg started writing and illustrating children's books when her youngest child began kindergarten.



In Memoriam: Fredrick L. McKissack **1939-2013**



Fredrick L. McKissack, who with his wife and partner Patricia created more than 100 books illuminating aspects of the African-American experience.



In Memoriam: Lisa Johns Wells – Duval County Reading Council

The Florida Reading Association is saddened to announce the loss of Lisa Johns Wells. She was currently serving as the Immediate Past-President of the Duval County Reading Council. Lisa will be remembered as a vivacious, selfless worker whose passions included early childhood literacy and professional development. Her sudden and unexpected passing leaves a void in the educational community that cannot be filled. Lisa's memory will live on through the tireless literacy work accomplished through FRA and the many local councils around Florida.

International Reading Association Honor Council

Congratulations to the following districts for achieving the International Reading Association's Honor Council award:



Kathy Fontaine – Bay County



Denise Pedro – Duval County

Florida Reading Association Hall of Fame



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COMMITTEE NEWS

Children's Book Award, coordinated by Jodi Vizzi and Roberta Mann

- The winner of the 2012-2013 book award was announced on May 1.
 - Winner: *Two Bobbies* by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery
 - Honor Books: *Memoirs of a Goldfish* by Devin Scillian
Gingerbread Man Loose in the School by Laura Murray
- Roberta Mann was recognized with a plaque at the May FRA Leadership Conference for her past few years of committed service to the Children's Book Award Project.

Literacy Projects, coordinated by Margaret Adams

- The International Projects committee sent books to Boswana and are currently asking for donations of more books, pencils and markers, school supplies, and suitcases to send in another shipment. Councils can bring donations to the conference.
- You may contact Enrique Puig with any information on this project or suggestions for future international projects.
- Access the FRA website for resources related to family literacy: <http://www.flreads.org/Family-Literacy/>

Membership Committee, coordinated by Cher Gauweiler

- Remember that your FRA membership year expires June 30, 2013. (If you joined on or before March 1, 2013, then your membership is valid through June 30, 2014). One advantage to joining and/or renewing is that FRA members receive reduced rates for the annual conference in September.

Publicity Committee, coordinated by Rachelle Savitz

- The publicity committee is moving and grooving! They are ordering door prizes for the membership table at the FRA conference and have created Facebook and Twitter accounts to keep FRA members up to date with the most current information.

Council Development Committee, coordinated by Deanne Nelson

- Council Development wants to thank everyone who contributed to making Leadership 2013 a successful event and are already planning for Leadership 2014.
- Craig Cosden provided the keynote address at Leadership 2014 and gave an extremely informative and entertaining presentation on the Common Core State Standards.

Publications Committee, coordinated by Enrique Puig and Joyce Warner

- Publications Committee created a survey to collect data regarding the journal and newsletter. If you have not responded to the survey, please take a minute to respond to the questions: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jucYgk-mf2XXMLTF5uj91incVq6_nVAb3qOlt-BuH2I/viewform

District Directors

Local Reading Councils enhance the IRA/FRA experience by providing:

Connection. Joining a diverse group of professionals who share a passion for literacy, instruction, and student achievement, can expand professional relations and transform formal and informal learning opportunities.

Leadership outside classroom walls. Teaching can be an isolation career, but volunteer-led professional organizations develop and grow leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of areas.

Community building for a literate future. Councils engage whole communities in literacy awareness campaigns through recognition programs, community service, and special projects.

For the Regional Coordinator for your specific area, you may directly contact any local council or access them through **www.FLReads.org**. Click on FRA Organizations, and then click on Local Councils and Associations. Alternately, contact the IRA Coordinator Ellen Supran at: **esupran@aol.com**.

Current highlights from local councils:

Bay County

- Bay County Reading Association held a luncheon for the installation of the new executive board members on May 4, 2013. Planning is underway for a summer retreat to plot out the activities for the 2013-2014 academic year. The 29th Annual Language Arts/Reading Classic will be held on January 25, 2014. The theme is Reading Southern Style!
- President Kathleen Fontaine and President-elect Jenne Palmer attended the 58th Annual International Reading Association Conference in San Antonio, TX to accept the IRA Honor Council Award. This is the 10th year BCRA has earned this coveted award. In addition, Kathleen and Jenne presented the Comprehensive Instructional Sequence (CIS) Model during the Special Interest Group session on Literacy at the conference.
- For more information please contact Kathleen Fontaine at: fontakh@bay.k12.fl.us

Broward County

- The Broward Reading Council had a reorganization meeting in April and is in the process of planning for the fall. The first big project will be to arrange for a bus to take members to the FRA conference in September.
 - For more information contact Dr. Lois Haid at lhaid@belsouth.net

Duval County

- The Membership Director has created an email distribution list for all members and sends meeting reminders and a colorful flyer for each meeting. They have partnered with the University of North Florida, a local university, to bring in speakers. The DCRC plans to target more community members this year (i.e., parents, business partners, organizations, etc.).

- DCRC is supporting the Clay County Reading Council as they reinstate. Their newly elected board members have met with the DCRC board and will officially begin their roles in the 2013-2014 academic year. DCRC board members will continue to support the Clay County Reading Council as they build their membership and plan events for the upcoming year.

Literacy Projects:

- Little Red Bookshelf
The Little Red Bookshelves will be placed in high traffic areas of town where children likely accompany their parents (grocery, hair salon, etc.); however, the Board has not determined the exact locations for placement. Members will donate children's books to be placed on the shelves with a message to families that the Little Red Bookshelf is a place for children to borrow, trade, and share rich children's literature.
- Bags for Hubbard House
DCRC collects gift bags at their December general meeting to take to Hubbard House for the children. Hubbard House is a shelter for abused women and their children. The Duval members look forward to providing gift bags with books, toiletries and other necessities for families who must leave their homes and go to this haven for moms and children. The bags are distributed to children in need throughout the year.
- Dollars for Magazines
Through this project, DCRC provides children's magazine subscriptions, such as *Ranger Rick*, for two agencies; Hubbard House and Ronald McDonald House. Members donate "dollars" at one or two general meetings to fund this effort.
 - For more information please contact Robert Kelly at: kellyjrr@duvalschools.org

Hillsborough County

- Hillsborough Reading Council recently participated in *Strawberry Reads* which coordinates with *Temple Terrace Reads*. Students from all over the county were invited to the Plant City area to participate in reading events and activities in carnival style to entice students and families to participate.
 - For more information, please contact Jessica Hessler at: jessica.hessler@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Lee County

- LCRC's end of the year banquet was held at Olive Garden in Fort Myers. Approximately 50 members attended the event. They celebrated the Lee County Reading Teachers of the year in elementary, middle, and high school. Jamie Ayers, a local teacher and LCRC member, was the keynote speaker. Jamie spoke about her recent book: *18 Things*.
- An early membership drive for the next fiscal year was coordinated with the banquet and 22 people joined.
- Tom Tufts will be presenting a 4-hour workshop in August.
- The council is currently exploring venues for their annual conference scheduled for Nov 2, 2013.

Literacy Projects:

- Saturday Readers

This continues to be one of the council's strongest community service projects. Teachers that are involved in reading to the pediatric patients have coordinated other club projects with the council's. One teacher got her book club involved and donated books totaling \$135.00. Another school hosted a Build-A-Bear community service project over the holidays and decided to give the bears to LCRC to deliver them in conjunction with the reading.

- RAP - Read Aloud Program
LCRC continues to publicize this program in order to increase membership participation. Members are encouraged to read aloud to their students and color in a book on the RAP form for each 15 minutes they read. Once the form is completed, the form is sent to their RAP coordinator who in turn sends the member an age appropriate book for their classroom library.
 - For more information, please contact Shannon Barone at: shannonmb@leeschools.net

Leon County

- On April 11, 2013, finalists and sponsoring teachers for the Young Authors Writing Contest were recognized at the awards ceremony at the Leroy Collins Public Library in Tallahassee. The students read their award winning writing and were presented with gift certificates and Barnes and Nobel gift cards for those placing in each category, K-12. Light refreshments were served.
- On May 2, LCRC Spring Assembly, Election, and Membership awards were held at El Jalisco in Tallahassee from 5:30-7:30.
- De Soto Trail Elementary School was the recipient of the Marilyn Sharp Membership Award.
 - For more information, please contact Kathy Hall at: hallk@leonschools.net

Pasco County

- Pasco County Reading Council is excited to report that their final membership count was 235. Presidents Lacey Kwasnicki and Torrey Primeau had set a membership goal of 200. They feel this is quite an accomplishment in a county where teachers have not had a raise in over five years.
- Two speakers from the Tampa Bay Area Writing Project spoke at the final meeting for the 2012-2013 academic year. Robin Irby spoke on Growing Writers: Writer's Notebooks & Writing Across the Curriculum. Mari Uscatequ shared about the shifts in writing with Common Core State Standards. Karen Morris, a representative from Scholastic shared information about Scholastic's Summer Reading Program. To conclude the evening, FRA District Director, Joy Milner, installed the officers for 2013-2014.
 - Lacey Kwasnicki, Past President
 - Torrey Primeau, President
 - Kristine Mullins, Vice President
 - Lisa Fisher, Membership
 - Robin Irby, Recording Secretary

Pinellas County

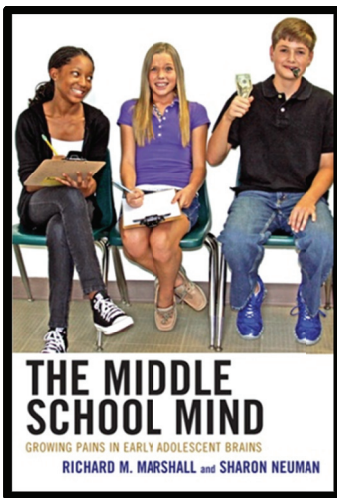
- Council members delivered "Read to Me" t-shirts to The Kimberly Home and New Life Solutions as well as books to support their literacy projects with families in their transitional housing

program. The end of the year celebration for building reps and installation of officers for the 2013-2014 will be dinner at Panera Bread.

- PRC Presidents will now be recognized with a plaque that will hang in the Administration Building.
- Visit the Pinellas Reading Council website at <http://pinellasreadingcouncil.wetpaint.com>.
 - For more information, please contact Margaret Adams at: moonchild@tampabay.rr.com.

Polk County

- Recently PCRC hosted an evening for their members with local authors titled *The Story Behind the Story*. Each of the four authors shared for 15 minutes the inspiration for their books followed by a brief time for questions. Following the authors' presentations, council members had the opportunity to talk to the authors and purchase their books. The dinner was catered by Palace Pizza.



- For more information, please contact Leslie Phillips at : leslie.phillips@polk-fl.net

Sarasota County

- Sarasota Reading Council reached out to the surrounding community through a Cinco de Mayo Banquet and Celebration.
- Another community event was the Poetry Life Weekend held at the Florida Studio Theater.



Fifty in Fifty Schools

- For more information, please contact David Schatz at: david_schatz@sarasota.k12.fl.us

Affiliated Networks

Florida Literacy Coaches

The FLCA website is undergoing some changes to make it more user friendly and up-to-date. Please visit our newly improved website at www.floridaliteracycoaches.org

Also, we are in the process of organizing our Reading Coaches Conference which is expanding to include instructional coaches in other content areas as well. The conference is scheduled for May 20, 2013 at UCF. We are scheduling excellent keynote speakers and breakout session presenters. The Institute will culminate in a panel discussion immediately followed by a networking social. Please plan on joining us for a great day centered on coaching.



**Secondary
Reading
Council
of FLorida**

Secondary Reading Council of Florida

The Secondary Reading Council of Florida (SRCFL) continues to collaborate with literacy-related organizations throughout the state of Florida and provide opportunities for educators to collaborate. They are excited to now be

working more strategically with IRA to build a much stronger organization.

They hosted the 19th Annual Spring Conference at the Sanibel Harbour Marriot Resort on May 10-11, 2013. Attendees came from over 28 counties in Florida, as well as from New Mexico, Ohio, and Michigan. Topics that were discussed were primarily regarding CCSS, writing, and literacy in the content areas. Teacher of the Year recipients were Jamie Pascucci from Palm Beach County who received the Novice award and Carol Strachen from Hillsborough for the Veteran award.

The SRCFL is already planning for next year. They have secured Alex Flinn and Carol Jago to name a few exciting presenters they have planned.

For more information, please visit the SRCFL website at www.srcfl.org.

Reading Supervisors of Florida

The Reading Supervisors of Florida have been working diligently to support their districts in the transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Many supervisors have served on state level work groups focusing on the standards, formative assessment item banks, and college and career readiness as well as investigating the changes to the ninety-minute reading block. Additionally, the elementary supervisors have been involved in the adoption of new core and intervention reading materials that are aligned to the CCSS.

They met with the Florida Council of Language Arts Supervisors in May and examined the "re-marriage" of reading and language arts prompted by the CCSS. For more information, contact Patty Adams at adams.pat@brevardschools.org.

UCF Morgridge International Reading Center

The Morgridge International Reading Center was established to be a resource for professional learning to improve the art and science of literacy acquisition and instruction. Pre-service teachers, in-service teachers, school and district administrators, parents, researchers, policymakers, non-profit organizations and others interested in the education of students can visit the Center on-line (mirc.ucf.edu) and on site to investigate and share successful instructional practices for assisting students in becoming literate.



Based on many recommendations from focus groups held with various stakeholders to establish the vision and mission of the Center, the Center collects and distributes information on successful instructional practices used nationally and internationally. Grounded in the work of titans in education, the Morgridge International Reading Center serves as a conduit of information at a national and international level with the sole purpose of improving literacy acquisition and instruction in all languages. As a conduit of information the Center, free of political affiliation, provides all stakeholders the opportunity to share breakthrough research and instructional materials in the area of literacy acquisition and instruction to better serve third millennium teachers and students.

Using technology and inter-university articulation, the Center is a catalyst for relationships among major PK-20 stakeholders. The relationship building started at the state level with inter-university literacy representatives meeting to learn and share on a variety of topics from state and national policies to international research. In addition to state university representatives meeting, the Morgridge International Reading Center collaborates with a group of distinguished professors to serve as advisors to guide the evolving form and function of the Center from a university perspective. Teachers, school district personnel, and state administrators were sought as well to complete the network of professionals. The wealth of knowledge and experiences from all these stakeholders make the Center a unique, synergistic and constantly evolving enterprise that fulfills a global need for communication to improve literacy acquisition and instruction.

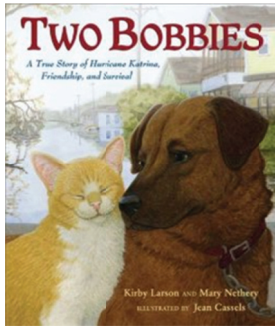
Congratulations to the 2012-2013 Children's Book Award Winners

*******THANKS to the 352 Schools that Voted*******

Winner

Two Bobbies

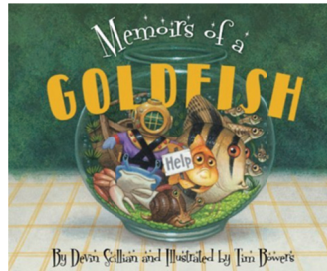
by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery



Honor Titles

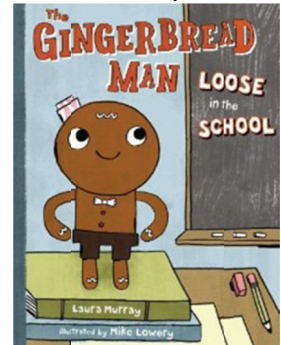
Memoirs of a Goldfish

by Devin Scillian

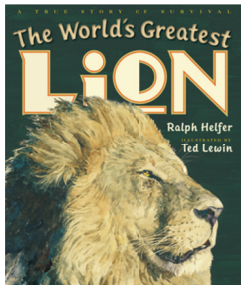


The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School

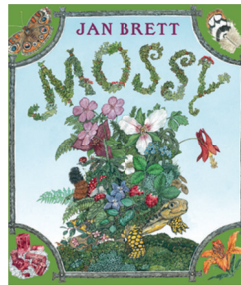
by Laura Murray



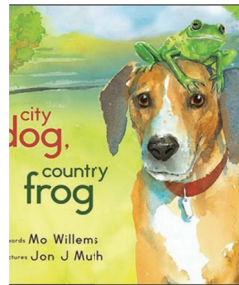
The titles for the 2013-2014 Children's Book Award program are:



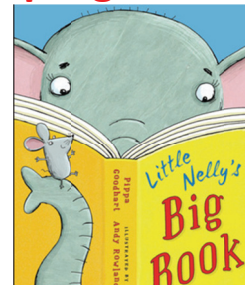
The World's Greatest Lion
By: Ralph Heifer



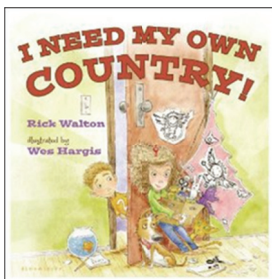
Mossy
By: Jan Brett



City Dog, Country Frog
By: Mo Williams



Little Nelly's Big Book
By: Pippa Goodhart



Need My Own Country!
By: Rick Walton



Eight Days Gone
By: Linda McReynolds



Lost and Found
By: Bill Harley



The Fantastic Flying Books of
Mr. Morris Lessmore
By: William Joyce

For more information on the Children's Book Award Program please visit the Florida Reading Association web site and select the Children's Book Award link.



FRA Membership
P.O. Box 151555
Cape Coral, FL 33915
www.FLReads.org

Check Appropriate Box: New Member Renewal
Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____
(Required to receive electronic journals and newsletter)

Mailing Address _____ City _____

County _____ State _____ Zip code _____

School or Organization _____

Occupation: Elementary Teacher (PreK-5) Secondary Teacher (6-12)
 District/School Administrator College/University Instructor
 Retired Educator Full Time College Student
 Consultant/Representative Other _____

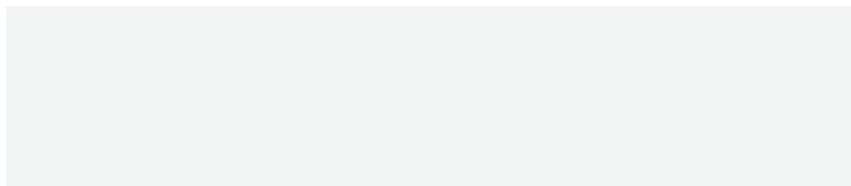
I am a current member of: International Reading Association (IRA)
 Local Reading Council _____

Referred for membership by a current FRA member? If so, please list both

Member's name _____ Member # _____

The membership year is from July 1 through June 30. Membership applications received after March 1 will become effective immediately and extend through June 30 of the following year.


- | | | |
|------------------|--|---------|
| Membership Type: | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular with electronic Florida Reading Journal (FRJ) | \$30.00 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular with print FRJ | \$60.00 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired with electronic FRJ | \$20.00 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired with print FRJ | \$50.00 |



Make checks payable to: **FRA**

VISA MasterCard American Express Expiration Date: ___ / ___ (month / year)

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Signature _____



ROCK ON WITH READING

The Florida Reading Association
Annual Conference
September 26-29, 2013
Rosen Shingle Creek Resort
Orlando, Florida

THIS YEAR'S DYNAMIC LINE UP INCLUDES.....

AN EVENING WITH THE RESEARCHERS
IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS AND PARCC
A PANEL DISCUSSION ON FRIDAY EVENING WITH:

DR. DICK ALLINGTON ✦ DR. TIM SHANAHAN ✦ DR. BILL MCBRIDE

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS BY
DR. TIMOTHY SHANAHAN
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT TEAM
"THE COMMON CORE ATE MY BABY....AND OTHER MYTHS"

DR. DICK ALLINGTON
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

DR. JANET ALLEN
AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER
"ROCK ON WITH READING!"

DR. WILLIAM TEALE
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
"SOCIOECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMMON CORE"

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE
DR. KEN WOMACK, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY LAUREATE
ROSEMARY WELLS ✦ JERRY PINKNEY ✦ TERRY TRUEMAN ✦ DR. MARY PALMER
RICK DUVALL ✦ ENRIQUE PUIG ✦ MELANIE CHRISMER ✦ JANE FEBER
SHEILA TURNAGE ✦ THE DINAH ZIKE ACADEMY ✦ KATIE GARNER ✦ SUSAN ELLIOT-JOHN

PLEASE VISIT [WWW.FLREADS.ORG](http://www.flreads.org) FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION

Link for exhibitors:

<http://www.flreads.org/Annual%20Conference/exhibit/exhibitors.htm>



NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2013

Articles for the **next** *FRA Newsletter* should be sent to the newsletter editor:

Ruth Sylvester, Ph.D.
University of South Florida

E-mail: rsylvester58@gmail.com

NOTE: E-mailing articles allows the editor to cut and paste your information directly into the *FRA Newsletter*.

FRA Newsletter

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