



QUERY

The Saskatchewan Reading Council



In This Issue

- The Praise Paradox: Increasing Reading Achievement through Effective Practice of Praise
- It Takes Creative Interpretation to Tell a Great Story about a “Real” Piece of History: An Interview with Judith Silverthorne
- Young Saskatchewan Writers – Our Classroom Experience
- One School, One Book: Family Literacy Project
- Summer Workshop with Literacy Royalty
- Take Your Love of Reading to the Next Level: Start a School Book Club
- Book Reviews:
 - Comprehension Going Forward: Where We Are/What’s Next*
 - Linger*
 - Picture a Tree*
- SRC Conference 2013 Reading Together

2012-2013
Provincial Executive:

President
Gisele Carlson

Vice President
Angela Hutton

Past President
Lynda Gellner

Secretary
Heather Hobbs

Treasurer
Pam Foy

Membership Director
Sherri Sieffert

Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator
Joan Bue

Read to Me
Shelly Galloway

Conference Chairs
Tana Arnott
Amanda Hassen

Query Editor
Magi McFadden

International Reading Association Coordinator
Gloria Antifaiff

Communications Director
Tammie Latimer

Deadline for Submissions
April 30, 2013
October 31, 2013

Query is the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, an affiliate of the International Reading Association. The Saskatchewan Reading Council is made up of the local councils that exist throughout the province. *Query* is published through the facilities of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation at 2317 Arlington Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

VIEWS OF THE AUTHORS: Articles published in *Query* reflect the views of their authors and are not necessarily those of the editors, the Saskatchewan Reading Council, its local councils, or the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

INDEX: *Query* is indexed in the Canadian Education Index and listed in the Canadian Serials Directory and Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory.

INVITATION TO WRITERS: You are invited to submit your writing to be considered for publication in the *Query*. Articles, reports and essays are welcome.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Manuscripts and related correspondence should be addressed to the SRC.

SRC MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone having a professional interest in the teaching of Language Arts. *Query* and other communications from SRC are automatically sent to current members. Potential members are encouraged to join one of the nine local councils in Saskatchewan. For no extra cost one can participate in local council activities as well as receive the benefits of an automatic provincial membership. Student memberships are also available.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: Membership correspondence, changes of address, and requests for back issues should be directed to:

Saskatchewan Reading Council
c/o The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
2317 Arlington Avenue
Saskatoon SK S7J 2H8

Front Cover – iStockphoto.com image

ISSN 0380-240X

A Special Subject Council of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
A Council of the International Reading Association

CONTENTS

QUERY | VOLUME 42 | NUMBER 1 | FALL/WINTER 2012-2013

REPORTS

Editor's Message	1
President's Report	2
Past President's Report	2
Vice President's Report	3
Membership Director's Report	3
Read to Me Coordinator's Report	3
Communication Director's Report	4
Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report	4
International Reading Association Coordinator's Report	5
Local Council Reports	6

ARTICLES

The Praise Paradox: Increasing Reading Achievement through Effective Practice of Praise By Magi McFadden	10
It Takes Creative Interpretation to Tell a Great Story about a "Real" Piece of History: An Interview with Judith Silverthorne By Magi McFadden	14
Young Saskatchewan Writers – Our Classroom Experience By Courtney Thornhill	16
One School, One Book: Family Literacy Project By Tammie Latimer	17
Summer Workshop with Literacy Royalty By Angela Hutton	19
Take Your Love of Reading to the Next Level: Start a School Book Club By Magi McFadden	25

BOOK REVIEWS

Comprehension Going Forward: Where We Are/What's Next by Harvey "Smokey" Daniels Reviewed by Lynda Gellner	30
Linger by Marny Duncan-Cary Reviewed by Shelly Galloway	30
Picture a Tree by Barbara Reid Reviewed by Magi McFadden	30

CONFERENCE

Reading Together Saskatchewan Reading Conference Poster April 25-26, 2013 Mosaic Place, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan	20
Reading Together Saskatchewan Reading Conference April 25-26, 2013 Presentation Proposal	23
Grant Application for Registration to the Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2013	24

INTEREST

Wanted: Student Writing for the <i>Young Saskatchewan Writers Journal</i> K-12	31
What's Happening Around Saskatchewan	32
Did You Know?	32
Membership Renewal Form	33
School Reading Liaison Form	34
Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice – The Willow Awards	35

AWARDS

Prairie Lily Award	35
International Reading Association Application Deadlines for Awards and Programs	36
Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form	38
Administrator's Award Nomination Form	40
Exemplary Reading Program Award Nomination Form	41
Local Community Service Award Nomination Form	42

Past Presidents of the Saskatchewan Reading Council	Inside back cover
--	-------------------

Editor's Message

Magi McFadden



Reading together, that is what matters to children! Shared experience that shows loving regard, compassion, enthusiasm and respect for children is what reading instruction means to caring teachers! The Fall/Winter issue of *Query* focuses on literacy initiatives that emphasize reading together in real and virtual

communities, schools, libraries and homes. It focuses on professional perspective and practical initiatives aimed at achieving literacy success with children through collaborative efforts of communities, schools and families. Experiences that provide meaningful engagement with text motivate children to read. Moreover, teacher interaction in the form of sincere praise during reading encourages children to make meaning from text and it challenges them to strive for comprehension. Constant praise is meant to be an angel on the shoulder, ensuring that children do not sell their talents short. In *The Praise Paradox: Increasing Reading Achievement through Effective Practice of Praise* we learn that artful practice of praise by caring teachers commends children on effort put forth in specific reading tasks, challenges children to continue striving for mastery and is effective for enhancing reading achievement.

Making reading experiences "real" for children or, said differently, "making print come alive" for children is what Judith Silverthorne does with apparent ease. A true master of her craft, this Saskatchewan-based multiple award-winning author of several popular novels for young readers, including *The Secret of Sentinel Rock*, *The Secret of the Stone House*, *The Secret of the Stone Circle*, *Dinosaur Hideout*, *Dinosaur Breakout*, *Dinosaur Stakeout* and *Dinosaur Blackout*, has written hundreds of articles and columns for newspapers and magazines and worked as an editor, researcher, curator, scriptwriter and television documentary producer. Her repertoire also includes writing workshops, film classes and author presentations. In this interview for *Query* readers, Judith talks about reading, writing and her Diamond Willow Award nominated book, *Ghosts of Government House* (Nickel's Worth Publishing, 2012). When advising young writers, Judith says, "Read, read, read. Write, write and write some more." and above all "Write from the heart."

Encouraging children to write is a priority for Courtney Thornhill who shares the positive impact that *Young Saskatchewan Writers* (YSW) has had for participating

students in her classroom. In *Young Saskatchewan Writers – Our Classroom Experience*, Courtney tells *Query* readers of a transformative writing experience for shy students lacking in self-confidence. The writing and publishing opportunity offered by Young Saskatchewan Writers allowed students to set goals and push themselves through the zone of creativity to achieve a zone of productivity worthy of celebration. Courtney's detailed account attests to a positive impactful classroom writing and publishing experience for children, their teacher and their families. In advocating for the Young Saskatchewan Writers initiative of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, Courtney encourages teachers to submit student work samples to Young Saskatchewan Writers so that they, too, may share in the delightfully positive experience that it offers children.

That parents have a powerful influence in the relationship their children have with reading is seen in the next article by Tammie Latimer. Through vivid description, Tammie describes an innovative initiative for facilitating family literacy which she calls the *One School, One Book: Family Literacy Project*. In this article, Tammie describes one school's strong commitment to literacy, a commitment so strong that children, their parents and their teachers rallied together to create family fun, bolster school spirit and strengthen a sense of community. The immediate impact that caring initiatives such as the One School, One Book project have for achieving literacy goals may be measureable in terms of number of books read, number of hours spent reading, number of shared reading encounters and number of participating readers but it may be immeasurable in terms of the positive influence that caring shared engagement in reading has for lifelong commitment to learning.

In *Summer Workshop with Literacy Royalty*, Angela Hutton declares gratitude for a truly enriching learning experience in which she felt as though she was being "entertained by royalty" during recent attendance at a workshop hosted by Stephanie Harvey, Cris Tovani and Debbie Miller held in Denver, Colorado during July. The workshop, titled "Comprehension X3", offered instruction on research-based techniques to teach reading comprehension through a variety of explicit activities, sample lessons, an examination of each learner's own comprehension strategies and an investigation of active literacy. Angela delineates professional learning experiences during three full days of keynote sessions and breakout sessions. To Angela's delight, the July workshop was a wonderful opportunity to hear the latest research, confirm beliefs and learn best practices.

Do you love to read books and enjoy talking about the books you have read? If so, the article *Take Your Love of Reading to the Next Level: Start a School Book Club*, is tailor-made for you! In this article, Magi McFadden reports results of action research implemented by teachers, tutors,

librarians and parents to meet the needs of avid student readers in a remote Northern Saskatchewan community. The article provides rich description from which *Query* readers may choose to establish their own school book clubs. According to these action researchers, book clubs provide an opportunity to learn and have fun while you're doing it! Organizing a book club at your school may be the way to help your students take their love of reading to the next level and it may help you take reading to new heights.

That *Query* members read and read some more is somewhat of an understatement. Surely they exude a love of reading. For readers seeking further professional reading, this issue of *Query* includes a review of *Comprehension Going Forward: Where Are We/What's Next* by Harvey "Smokey" Daniels, reviewed by Lynda Gellner. For those

among you searching for "good reads" for children, Shelly Galloway has reviewed, *Linger*, a tender story of motherly love. On a more playful note, Magi McFadden reviews Barbara Reid's, Shining Willow Award nominated book, *Picture a Tree*, which is sure to stimulate vast, varied and colorful visual imagery during engaged reading.

Remember to mark your calendar for the spring Saskatchewan Reading Conference (SRC). The SRC is thrilled to announce that for the first time in Saskatchewan Reading Council history, the next annual conference, *Reading Together*, will be held at Mosaic Place in Moose Jaw, April 25-26, 2013. See you there!

Submissions to Query are welcomed at any time. Readers are encouraged to share this issue with colleagues to inform them of the benefits of an SRC membership.

President's Report

Gisèle Carlson



I am pleased to be serving as President for the Saskatchewan Reading Council this coming year. I have been a member of my local Reading Council and of the provincial council for over eight years and treasure the individuals I have had the pleasure of meeting who share my passion for literacy and the

many professional development opportunities that have been offered to me.

The Reading Council has provided numerous opportunities for its members over the years. These opportunities have included professional development, the annual conference, networking opportunities and involvement in service projects. As we move into the next year, I would challenge our executive to look ahead to examine how we might meet the needs of our future council members. The challenge of inspiring students' passion for reading in a highly visual world will be an integral part of meeting the needs of both teachers and students in the coming years.

I would invite you to reflect on how the Reading Council can best meet your needs and would encourage you to share these thoughts with our executive.

Past President's Report

Lynda Gellner



Welcome to the new school year and to the new schedule of events and activities with the Saskatchewan Reading Council. I truly enjoy the change of pace during the summer months but I always look forward to starting the new school year and rejuvenating my love for literacy through interactions with mem-

bers of the Reading Council.

A special Thank You to the literacy leaders in our community who volunteer their time to support programs such as the Young Saskatchewan Writers Publication, Read to Me, *Query* and our Annual Conference. We are blessed to have your commitment, expertise and leadership!

We are transforming the way we meet the needs of our members through our website redesign, our *Query* publication and by offering a new location for our 2013 Annual Conference - Watch out Moose Jaw! Let us continue to listen to the voice of change and adapt to expand. Looking forward to serving with you in Literacy.

Vice President's Report

Angela Hutton

It is an honour and a privilege to serve as this year's vice president of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. I look forward to working with Gisele Carlson, the current president, the past president, Lynda Gellner and the current SRC executive to make this year a successful one. I believe that the professional development opportunities and community service projects that this council provides are extraordinary. I encourage all teachers to get involved with their local reading council!

"A person's a person, no matter how small." – *Dr. Seuss*

Membership Director's Report

Sherri Sieffert



Well another year has passed. I am on my third term as membership director. During the past year, I attended executive meetings in September and January and also attended the AGM at the Saskatchewan Reading Conference in Regina. We still have our liaison program, but numbers were lower than in the previous year. I noted

that some liaisons purchased regular memberships after their liaison year. This has been a valuable program to promote local reading council events.

Our membership was down this past year. Hopefully we can increase our membership again in 2012-13. Saskatchewan IRA memberships increased slightly in 2011-12. Once again I will be e-mailing all current members about the expiration of their membership and the STF will also be mailing out renewals.

I look forward to working with our President, Gisele Carlson, as well as the other members of our Saskatchewan Reading Council executive to promote literacy throughout our province.

Read to Me Coordinator's Report

Shelly Galloway



The purpose of the READ to ME project is to raise awareness of the importance of reading to children in the home and to provide parents of children with a book and pamphlets full of information concerning the benefits of reading to their children from an early age.

Read-to-Me Bags

To be given to children:

a. Read-to-Me bags will include:

The program is designed to address the needs of young children having access to books and literacy activities before they start school.

- One book from Scholastic
- One letter to parents with information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council and ideas on how to read to children
- One bookmark about READING
- One booklet "For the Love of Reading" from the Saskatchewan Literacy Network
- LOVE OF READING bag

b. Individual councils are encouraged to add any items they wish to their bags.

c. Each council will take the following:

Council	Bags	Books	Bookmarks	Letter	Booklets
East Central	100	100	100	100	100
Kewetin Nene*	200	200	200	200	200
Moose Jaw	100	100	100	100	100
North Central	100	100	100	100	100
North West	100	100	100	100	100
Saskatoon	100	100	100	100	100
South East	100	100	100	100	100
South Sask	100	100	100	100	100
South West	100	100	100	100	100
Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

This is a very worthwhile program that students love and parents appreciate.

Communication Director's Report

Tammie Latimer



The Saskatchewan Reading Council continues to be a very active special subject council which promotes the importance of literacy instruction in Saskatchewan. This year we have hired Brandon Wu to redesign our SRC website and make it more inviting, informative and easier for the communications

officer to update on a regular basis. The new website can be found at www.saskreading.com. We are currently working on linking this to our original address www.saskreading.org so that only one site will be found on the internet and all information will be current. We

have also placed the last two years of *Query* journals on the new website. The journals are currently available to everyone, not just SRC members. This access to information may have to be reviewed as we look at what 'benefits' there are to purchasing a membership if all benefits are actually available for free.

I would also recommend that the council look at new publicity posters for the schools promoting membership in the SRC when the list of current special benefits for members is determined. It is essential that we continue to communicate with teachers and promote the value of belonging to a special subject council as part of all teachers' professional development.

Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report

Joan Bue



It was another successful year for our *Young Saskatchewan Writers Project*! I think the submissions were down a little this year and some councils struggled to find enough writing to submit and/or quality writing to submit. The book turned out great. The addition of photos and illustrations makes for a more

interesting book I think!

At our spring 2011 meeting, it was decided to move the due dates for writing to an earlier date so that books would be delivered in time for Young Writer Celebrations. I believe everyone received their books on time this year. I contacted the STF, and they have once again reserved a spot for our publication for April 1, 2013. I put February 1, 2013 on the poster for writing to be in to the YSW reps for each council. March 1, 2013 is when all writing needs to be emailed to me with the hard copies, permission slips and book orders following by March 15. This gives me a month to get everything

together to send into the STF publishing unit. Permission slips (Writing and Picture) must accompany each piece of writing or it cannot be published. It is a big job to get all the writing into Grades, edited and formatted to send into the STF. I would appreciate it if the timelines are met. Thank you to all of last year's YSW reps for getting the writing to me in a timely fashion!

Each council will be allotted eight pages and 16 pieces (two per page) once again this year. Thank you to everyone who submitted writing to the project last year. I know it isn't an easy job choosing the writing, gathering up permission slips and collecting money for the books ordered. The SRC couldn't do a Young Writers Book without your help, so thank you and keep up the great work!

I will be communicating directly with the YSW reps in each council and will send the forms for this year directly to them. Thank you for all the dedication and hard work that goes into making this an amazing publication year after year!

International Reading Association Coordinator's Report

Gloria Antifaiff

I am looking forward to my first term as IRA Coordinator and working with a group of committed professionals to promote high levels of literacy for all in our province. My primary role as IRA Coordinator is to serve as a liaison between the IRA and the Executive, provide information to the membership and promote the programs of IRA, and coordinate the work of all councils in the province. I attended an online meeting for IRA Coordinators on September 20, 2012 and learned more about my role.

IRA Updates

New Guidelines for Honor Council

The IRA has changed the date for submission of Honor Council to February 1. The purpose of this change is to align with the fiscal year which is July 1 – June 30. The intent is to allow more time for councils to reflect upon the previous year of activity and submit a more “thoughtful” submission. Eventually the deadline will be November or December. I’ve attached a Honor Council Planning form to this report. Please use the attached one, rather than the online planning form, as the online version is incorrect at this point in time.

- Part I (A): Note the exception for increasing council membership. Eventually the IRA is considering removing the increase of membership criteria and focusing more on quality programs rather than number of members.
- Part I (F): Note website/social networking section.
- Part I (H): Added New Educators.
- Part II (G): Newspaper in Education has been added back in.
- Part III (A): IRA will become stricter in expecting the submission of the Office Report Form by June 30.
- Part III (D): Note the exception for new IRA members.

IRA Membership Summary for September 22, 2012	
Total Number of Current IRA Members	111
Total Number of Current Regular IRA Members	81
Total Number of Current Online IRA Members	29
Total Number of Current Student IRA Members	1
Total Number of New IRA Members	40
Total Number of Non-IRA Members (Membership Lapsed)	141

Annual Conference

The 58th Annual Convention will be in San Antonio, TX this year. There are new dates for the convention which are: April 19-22, 2013. The new dates are better situated to not interfere with State assessments. Four proposals have been submitted to the convention committee for approval:

1. Council Leaders Session on Friday, April 19 (1/2 day session)
2. Two Hour Session for Presidents
3. Two Hour Session for IRA Coordinators
4. Two Hour Session for Membership Directors

Top leadership commitments include:

1. Care.
2. Serve.
3. Clarify. Clarity drives success.
4. Know where you're going and tell others, often.
5. Act. Step toward the future. Only look backward as it enables forward movement.
6. Choose optimism or get out of leadership.
7. Point out what isn't working, quickly.
8. Don't whine.
9. Set deadlines.
10. Find celebration points every day.
11. Act in harmony with your heart. Pleasing others always falls within your values.
12. Pause. Stop doing and spend time in self-reflection, daily. Failure to reflect creates disconnected frantic lives.
13. People before projects. It's always about building people who become part of effective teams.
14. Study people. Know and understand what makes them tick and wind their clocks.
15. Ask hard questions.
16. Stop giving answers; help others find them.
17. Encourage all the time, even when correcting.
18. Use mistakes as learning opportunities rather than blaming moments.
19. Let others know they matter by explaining their contribution.
20. Look people in the eye, gently.

Source: <http://leadershipfreak.wordpress.com/2012/09/12/20-commitments-that-enhance-leadership/>

Summary of Month/Year of Expiration for Current IRA Members

2012				2013												2014		
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	May	Mar
4	9	5	6	21	13	6	7	4	4	4	7	8	5	3	0	3	1	1

Local Council Reports

Saskatoon and District Reading Council

Maureen Bezanson, President



The Saskatoon and District Reading Council supports and promotes literacy by our commitment to carry out the yearly projects of the SRC and of our own. We are working with a small executive so we wish to continue to bring in new people and to possibly create a brand new project.

In June, a young and energetic new teacher approached me with interest in our council. I am happy to report that she will be mentored this year so that she can take on the role of presidency in the fall of 2013. We welcome Courtney Thornhill! Courtney will bring to our council a renewed energy as well as more new members. Thank you Courtney for the gifts that we know you will bring to our council.

Our vice president, Marilyn Vaughan has resigned her position. Courtney will take on this responsibility. Thank you, Marilyn, for the time and support that you gave to our council.

Mary-Sue Muldoon has stepped down as treasurer. We thank her for the two years that she worked for us. I will be taking over this position.

Our current executive membership includes:

President – Maureen Bezanson
Vice President – Courtney Thornhill
Secretary – Najla Akl
Treasurer – Maureen Bezanson
Membership – Lorraine Bentham
Members at Large – Paula Klein
Audrey MacDonald
Mary Bishop

Over the past three years we have been focusing our efforts to develop a more active participation of our membership. We will continue this focus and will be discussing better ways to renew our membership support. Our local council AGM will be held in late October. Shortly after, we will begin our local council project that we call *The Gift of Reading*. This project has been very

successful over many years. Our school communities donate great books which are distributed in December to several community organizations around our area. Many of the books are also distributed to some of our community schools. Some organizations that received books last year were:

- Egadz
- Friendship Inn
- Crisis Nursery
- Salvation Army Men's Hostel
- Interval House

We look forward to a great year and thank all of the local councils for sharing their creative ideas with us!.

East Central Reading Council

Jan Niebergall, President

Our council has grown this year by three new members to our executive. Our annual AGM in June was held and three new people joined us and signed up for positions. We now have an executive of eight members. We are excited to have the new members indeed.

We have ordered postcards again to promote our coming year's events. Unfortunately they should be here any day but not as yet so unable to share them with you.

We promoted International Literacy Day by sending posters to all our schools advertising the event. I was interviewed by our local paper commenting on the importance of literacy.

We also will promote literacy by giving each one of our Pre K students in all our schools a new book with a reading pamphlet. We have 2,250 PreK students.

In October we will be Skyping with author Margriet Ruurs on October 23. She will be speaking on writing strategies for grades one to six. We are excited to have her present and hope to have at least 50 plus teachers arrive. We will have several draws for many of her books as well a draw for a free membership to IRA for those teachers that buy their membership that day.

In December, we will purchase Christmas story books to give to the Food Banks and Salvation Army to include in the families Christmas hampers for their children.

We will promote Young Writers again in January and hope to have a great turn out. We are fortunate to have the same executive member looking after this great event.

In February, one of our members, Tammy Latimer will hold a book event at her home or if needed a larger location. Teachers will bring a book to share with others that they have enjoyed.

We will continue to support the Read to Me program sponsored by the Sask. Reading Council and give the books to our public health region.

For the past several years, we have held memorable June Young Writers Teas. We look forward to another special event in June to celebrate our young writers.

We look forward to a very rewarding year in literacy.

South Saskatchewan Reading Council

Angela Hutton, President

There are a few new and exciting events for the South Saskatchewan Reading Council this year. The council has decided to support the new "Regina Children's Initiative" which is a collaborative of community stakeholders working towards improved outcomes for all children (with a focus on the early years newborn to six years) in Regina. The Initiative is working towards establishing and supporting a Family Centre (Parent/Child Centre); which can be essentially a one stop shop for programs and services supporting children and families, and will develop based on the specific needs and interests of the pilot community in which it is established. Our council will be making monetary donations to purchase books and book packages for the center. We have also partnered with the "Infant and Toddler Center" at Scott Collegiate in Regina to offer books and programs.

The South Saskatchewan Reading Council is also offering an assorted array of other programs this year. In October, the council will be donating books to teen mothers of a local high school's tutorial program. The council is also offering "Get-Well Soon Literacy Kits" to students in grades PreK to 5, that are in the South Saskatchewan Reading Council area, that are ill or injured and will be away from school for an extended period of time. The kits include books, games, activities, information on reading and other little surprises made especially for each individual student. For our members, we are offering a Regie Routman book club this winter. Members will have the opportunity to receive a free book and get to know the work of Regie Routman before she arrives in Saskatchewan for the 2013 conference.

It takes dedication and commitment to become a part of a special subject council. The South Saskatchewan Reading Council is very fortunate to have so many of these dedicated educators as part of our group. This year, we have more new faces joining our meetings and we are excited to meet even more educators committed to improving literacy.

Moose Jaw and District Reading Council

Tana Arnott, President



The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council has a busy year ahead of us. We will be continuing our Read to Me program – all babies born in the Moose Jaw Union Hospital will receive a package with a new book and information about the importance of literacy and reading to children. As well, we are expanding our Paper Back Book Exchange program. We will host a Paper Back Book Exchange in both the Fall and the Spring in our Rural Schools, as well as a school in Moose Jaw. This is a great way for students to bring in their old books that they are done with and exchange it for a new-to-them book. We will also host a Professional Development Workshop for increasing interest in reading for pleasure for our students. Family Literacy Day in January will continue to be a focus for us, as well, as we provide our schools with information about how to incorporate celebrating the day in our schools.

Our Council has taken on a large task with hosting the Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2013 in Moose Jaw on April 25-26 at Mosaic Place. This year's theme "Reading Together" incorporates the importance of reading with and to children with a focus on increasing interest and helping those readers who struggle. We are extremely excited for this opportunity, and I would like to thank Amanda Hassen (Consultant with Holy Trinity) for helping me co-chair this event. I could not be doing this without her.

I would also like to thank the other members of our executive council: Amber Pladson, Amanda Olson, and Jaime Ackerman. We are hoping that our council expands this year as we invite teachers to be a part of the Conference committees.

We look forward to an exciting year!.

Kewatin Nene Reading Council

Debby Noble, President

It has been an extremely busy fall! The snow is already flying as we plan our AGM. We will hold our Kewatin Nene AGM in November 2012 in La Ronge. Since our council covers a vast area of northern Saskatchewan some of our members join us for the meeting by Skype. The members attending the supper meeting review our activities over the past year and make new plans for the remainder of the 2012-13 school year. Some of the activity ideas are:

- We plan to again sponsor a professional development session on *Growing Up Wild*, (a Project Wild program from the Council for Environmental Education), to be facilitated by a KNRC member. *Growing Up Wild* handbooks will be provided free to all participating KNRC members.
- KNRC members are planning a variety of imaginative fun activities in many schools across the north such as school Willow Award programs, family literacy events and celebrations. KNRC will once again partner with Pahkisimon Nuyeh?ah Library System in the *Northern Reading Program* that promotes literacy through various activities during the winter such as a reading challenge, reading promotion bulletin board contest and an author tour to northern communities.
- KNRC participates in SRC programs such as Young Saskatchewan Writers and Read to Me. Our YSW coordinator will again collect student writing for publication. Our Read-to-Me coordinator will also involve her NORTEP students in the distribution of book bags across the north, where the books are very well received by appreciative new moms.
- Our membership drive began with the start of the school year when the new forms and KNRC brochures were sent to all northern schools. Our membership numbers increased with renewals and our sponsorship of new NORTEP student memberships, and support from Northern Lights School Division #113 for Literacy-Numeracy Catalyst Teacher memberships. We also actively sought liaison representatives in the schools. Thank you to all KNRC members for their continued commitment to literacy!

Southwest Reading Council

Jennifer Lundsten, President



Another school year has begun. I hope the warm fall weather has kept you energized and productive as we speed towards the Christmas season. The SWRC was excited to launch a new program for the primary students in our area. Over 200 plastic book bags were given to K-3 students throughout our area to support home reading programs. The teachers and parents were excited to receive the book bags as they help keep school bags a little more organized.

Through the year, we will continue with our usual programs, including:

- *Young Saskatchewan Writers Contest*
- Read to Me – books delivered to babies to encourage reading at home
- Project Love – sending school supplies overseas

If you have any ideas to improve literacy in your school please share them with us. We are looking for ways to help teachers and students throughout the southwest. I can be contacted through our email at swrc@hotmail.com.

Southeast Reading Council

Joan Bue, President

The South East Reading Council continues to operate with a very small core group of people. Pam Foy is the glue that holds us all together! Thank you to our small but mighty crew for your continued interest in promoting literacy in the South East!

We have an author visit planned for Library week in October. Jerry Haigh a writer from Saskatoon will visit some area schools.

We will continue to provide support for any literacy programs that are being run in our Council area. One new program being offered in Carlyle for Pre-K families "Families On The Move With Literacy", was made possible through a one-time grant from RIC. The funding came about as a result of several years of data

collected in our area that showed Kindergarten children were scoring below the norm in areas such as empathy (ability to read and understand others' feelings), gross and fine motor skills, as well as pre-literacy skills linked to reading.

Once a month throughout the year families are invited in for a meal. They are read a book by a Come Read with Me facilitator and then the families take part in a movement type activity or craft. Each family gets a copy of the book to take home. Feelings, Respect For Nature, Basic Concepts, Empathy, and Movement are all areas we hope to cover through the books chosen for the program. We have teachers, parents, high school students, librarians and Cornerstone Family and Youth all involved in this project. We are very excited to be part of this!

Book for Babies, Family Literacy Day, Project Love, and Young Writers are a few of the other projects we support.

We are looking forward to another great year full of literacy activities in the South East!

North Central Reading Council

Sandra Quayle, President

North Central Reading Council continues to struggle with membership. This is due in part to the Saskatchewan Reading Conference being held in Regina this past year. This always has a negative effect on our membership. We have a small executive this year and a few dedicated members continue to try to promote literacy through our region. I would like to thank those who help out by organizing programs and generally getting things done.

We had two schools participate in Jumpstart's "Read for the Record." In partnership with the Pearson Foundation, this is one day of the year when millions of individuals come together to celebrate literacy and

support Jumpstart in its efforts to promote early childhood education. On October 4th, people across the world read the children's book *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad*, by David Soman and Jacky Davis, in support of Jumpstart's mission to work towards the day that every child enters school prepared to succeed. This year 2,385,305 people participated in Jumpstart's *Read for the Record*, over 100,000 more than last year.

"Read to Me" books were given out during a literacy fair celebration at one of Prince Albert's Community Schools when Prekindergarten and Kindergarten children participated in the Aboriginal Holistic Assessment Day. Both parents and children appreciated the book bags and literature given to them.

I urge members to get their memberships renewed and attend the meetings planned for this coming year. We all need to help promote literacy throughout our local council area. Teachers with interns are encouraged to give their intern a free membership to the Saskatchewan Reading Council as a thank you gift for the time they spend in your classrooms.

Check out our new website www.saskreading.com. You can also find information on our up-coming conference next April to be held in Moose Jaw. The organizers are planning a wonderful experience with great speakers. Plan to attend if possible.

Northwest Reading Council

Emilie Wolfe, President

The North West council has had a quiet fall. We are still trying to recruit council members and are hoping to have many exciting events this winter and spring for our members and for our schools. We hope to fill the next edition of *Query* with our exciting results of a successful year of reading!

Submit articles, lessons, units, in-services plans, book reviews, local council updates, pictures, and reviews of programs to *Query*, YOUR journal for the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

mcfaddenm@hotmail.com

The Praise Paradox: Increasing Reading Achievement through Effective Practice of Praise

Magi McFadden

Leadership training at the Fall Saskatchewan Reading Council business meeting chaired by Saskatchewan Reading Council president Giselle Carlson focused on a growing body of research that strongly suggests a paradoxical effect of praise. Angela Hutton, Saskatchewan Reading Council vice president, initiated lively discussion of the power of the praise. Discussion aimed to answer the question, "Are we smothering kids in kind words?" and centered on effective implementation of praise to increase reading achievement. Constant praise is meant to be an angel on the shoulder, ensuring that children do not sell their talents short. Concern was raised for overpraise that focuses on general ability eventually instilling fear of failure and having an inverse effect. By and large, the literature shows that praise that is honest and specific can be an effective motivating practice. Sincere praise that commends children on effort put forth in specific reading tasks and challenges children to continue striving can be effective for enhancing reading achievement.

Motivational Power of Praise

Teacher praise is a practice that can be a powerful motivator for students. Effective teacher praise is comprised of three elements (Wright, 2012):

- a description of noteworthy student achievement,
- a display of approval, and
- relevance to the student.

The power of praise in increasing student reading achievement is that it both indicates teacher approval and informs the student about exactly how the praised academic behavior conforms to teacher expectations – but only if the student finds it reinforcing. To be effective, praise must be shaped according to the following principles:

- 1. Describe Noteworthy Student Achievement.** Praise statements that lack an account of specific student behavior in observable terms do not provide students with sufficient performance feedback to guide their learning. For example, a praise statement such as "Great work!" is inadequate because it lacks description of task achievement (Moss, 2012). However, such a statement becomes motivational when expanded to include an observable behavioral element as in the following expanded praise statement, "Your summary accurately answered the 5-W questions. Great work!"
- 2. Praise Effort and Accomplishment, Not Ability.** Bronson and Merryman (2011 a, b) have been
- 3. Match the Method of Praise Delivery to Student Preferences.** Teachers can deliver praise in a variety of ways and in varied contexts. For example, a teacher may choose to praise a student over the intercom or in front of the class or may instead deliver that praise in a private conversation or as written feedback in an assignment. When possible, teachers should determine and abide by student preferences for receiving individual praise. It is worth noting that students in elementary grades may find public praise motivating, whereas students in middle and high-school may actually prefer private praise. So when in doubt with middle school or secondary students, deliver praise in private rather than in public (Wright, 2102).

Practice of Praise During the Reading Lesson

Praise is a powerful motivating practice because it allows the teacher to selectively encourage different aspects of student production. For example, teachers may use praise to increase student reading achievement, praising

effort, accuracy or speed in an assignment. Or the teacher may instead focus on a product and use praise to demonstrate how closely the actual product matches an external standard or goal set by the student. The table below presents several types of praise statements tied to various student goals (Wright, 2012):

Student Goal	Example Praise Statement
<p>Effort. Learning a new skill requires that the student work hard and put forth considerable effort while often not seeing immediate improvement. For beginning learners teacher praise can motivate and offer encouragement by focusing on effort (sustained silent reading) rather than on product.</p>	<p>“Today in class, you read non-stop through the entire Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading (USSR) period. I appreciate your hard work.”</p>
<p>Accuracy. Students progress through distinct stages of learning. Of these stages one of the most challenging is the stage of acquisition. In the acquisition stage of learning, students acquire rudiments of the new skill and strive to respond accurately. Teachers can provide encouragement to students during the acquisition phase of learning by praising student growth in accuracy of responding.</p>	<p>“This week you were able to correctly identify 18 of 20 Frye Picture Nouns. That is up from 8 last week. Terrific progress!”</p>
<p>Fluency. When students have progressed beyond the acquisition stage of learning, the new goal may be to promote fluency (a combination of accuracy and rate of responding). Teacher praise can motivate students to become more efficient on the reading task by emphasizing learner gains in fluency.</p>	<p>“You were able to silently read 245 words per minute and achieve 90% in the reading comprehension rubric today. That’s 20 more words per minute at the 90% level of accuracy this week. Impressive!”</p>
<p>Goal-Setting. A motivating strategy for a reluctant reader is to have the student set a goal before undertaking a reading task and then to report out at the conclusion of the task about whether the goal was reached. The teacher can then increase the motivating power of student goal-setting by offering praise when the student successfully sets and attains a goal. The praise statement states the original goal and describes how the product has met the goal.</p>	<p>“At the start of class, you set a goal of completing a concept web for the historical article in Power Magazine. I can see that the web you have produced today includes key concepts. It is well-structured, organized and legible. Well done!”</p>
<p>Comparison to an External Standard. Teacher praise often evaluates student products against some external standard. Praise linked to an external standard reminds the student that objective expectations exist for reading achievement (eg. guided reading levels) and provides information about how closely student performance conforms to these expectations. When comparing student work to an external standard, the teacher praise statement identifies the external standard and describes how closely the student’s work sample meets the standard.</p>	<p>“On this benchmark assessment, I can see that you have successfully achieved at guided reading level 24. Congratulations, you have just shown mastery of one of our school division’s Grade 6 reading standards. Great work!”</p>

Keeping Track of Praise

It takes considerable expertise to praise lavishly and effectively. One reason for this is because it is difficult for teachers to both deliver praise and keep track of praise to individual students. Here are several informal self-monitoring tips for teachers to use praise with greater consistency (Wright, 2012):

- **Keep Score.** The teacher sets a goal of the number of student-relevant praise statements to be delivered during a class period each day. The teacher then keeps a tally of praise statements delivered and compares that to the total goal.
- **Select Students for Praise.** Before class, the teacher jots down the names of several students to target as recipients of praise statements. After class, the teacher engages in self-monitoring by returning to the list of names to place a checkmark next to the names of students whom actually received praise at least once during the period.
- **Tie Praise to Classroom Routines.** Like any other effective practice, praise can be delivered more consistently by taking advantage of the power of habit-formation by weaving praise into the classroom routine. To do this the teacher first defines various activities during which praise is to be delivered, the teacher decides on a minimum number of individual praise statements to be

delivered as part of the instructional routine, the teacher monitors the number of praise statements actually delivered during instruction striving to align these totals with the minimum levels previously established as goals, and as delivery of praise becomes associated with learning activities, the onset of a particular reading activity serves as a reminder (stimulus) to deliver praise. Effective delivery of praise that increases reading achievement becomes a habit embedded in classroom routine.

References

- Bronson, P. & Merryman, A. (2011a). *Nurture shock: New thinking about children*. NY: Hachette Book Group.
- Bronson, P. & Merryman, A. (2011b). The praise paradox, *NEA Today Magazine*, March/April, 1-10.
- Moss, A. (2012). How to not talk to your kids, *New York Magazine*, NY: New York Media LLC, 1-2.
- Wright, J. (2012). Teacher praise: An effective tool to motivate students, *Intervention Central: Response to Intervention*. Retrieved October 19, 2012 from <http://www.interventioncentra.org>

Ask the Experts

The Saskatchewan Reading Council is made up of individuals committed to quality literacy education. These individuals are teachers, administrators, literacy specialists, learning resource teachers, librarians and consultants. Let these “experts” help you! If you have a question about literacy or about the council we would love to hear from you. Please email questions to saskatchewanreadingcouncil@gmail.com

SRC Executive Meeting

Left to right: Amanda Hassen,
Tana Arnott, Gisele Carlson



Left to right: Peggy Telfer, Emilie Wolfe



Left to right: Lynda Gellner,
Sherri Sieffert, Jan Niebergall



Left to right: Shelly Galloway,
Gloria Antifaiff, Lynda Gellner



Left to right: Debby Noble, Peggy Telfer,
Emile Wolfe, Heather Hobbs, Sandra Quayle,
Joan Bue, Jennifer Lundsten, Amanda Hassen



Foreground from left to right:
Sandra Quayle, Pam Foy,
Joan Bue, Jennifer Lundsten,
Amanda Hassen, Tana Arnott

It Takes Creative Interpretation to Tell a Great Story about a Real Piece of History: An Interview with Judith Silverthorne

Magi McFadden

Award winning author Judith Silverthorne, writes from “lived” experience. Judith has lived most of her life in Saskatchewan in rural and urban centres, and it is the source of much of her material. She is the author of several novels for young readers, including The Secret of Sentinel Rock, The Secret of the Stone House, The Secret of the Stone Circle, Dinosaur Hideout, Dinosaur Breakout, Dinosaur Stakeout and Dinosaur Blackout. Her latest title, Ghosts of Government House, released by Nickel’s Worth Publishing this spring, has been nominated for the 2012 Diamond Willow Award. Two of her novels for young readers have won the Saskatchewan Book Award for Children’s Literature. Her first book, The Secret of Sentinel Rock, was nominated for the Geoffery Bilson Award for Historical Writing for Young People. This Regina-based multiple award-winning freelance writer has written hundreds of articles and columns for newspapers and magazines. During recent years she has worked as an editor, researcher, curator, scriptwriter and television documentary producer. Her repertoire has also expanded to include writing workshops, film classes and author presentations. In this interview Magi McFadden, Query Editor, talks to Judith Silverthorne about reading, writing and her Diamond Willow Award nominated book, Ghosts of Government House (Nickel’s Worth Publishing, 2012).

Query Editor

Tell us about your 2011 Willow Award nominated book, “Ghosts of Government House” (Nickel’s Worth Publishing, 2012).

Judith Silverthorne

Ghosts of Government House is a fun way of unraveling the past of the historical home of previous Lieutenant Governor’s of Saskatchewan and its ‘resident ghost’ stories. Although somewhat scary because of the way the mysterious ‘people’ pop up, the book is meant to create an intriguing way to explore accurate history and the people who lived in it.

My two main ten-year-old characters, Samantha (Sam) and Jensyn (J.J.) are based on real girls of the same name from Regina, who formed a ghost detecting agency and were in fact researching Government House. I had started this story several years earlier, but after meeting these two girls, the premise of their real life activities opened as a gift for a premise. I modified and embellished their adventures. In the story Sam also has a twelve year old brother (Gabe), who doesn’t believe in ghosts, and the girls share their adventures with their Grandma Louise, who takes them places they couldn’t go on their own. Their adventures carry them through the various transformation of this historic building, which was used first for a residence and then a Veteran hospital, adult education centre and finally a museum. The book also builds on the presence of “Howie,” the famous resident ghost attributed to the place.

Query Editor

What specific readership did you have in mind when you wrote your book?

Judith Silverthorne

When I wrote this book, I specifically geared it towards a younger audience than my usual children’s novels. This one is targeted an either side of ten years of age, as the two main protagonists are ten year old girls, though children of other ages and adults too, enjoy its contents.

Query Editor

What was your first publication?

Judith Silverthorne

My first children's novel published was *The Secret of Sentinel Rock*, a time travel mystery about a twelve year old going into pioneer days on the prairies. This is the first of a trilogy and is based loosely on my experiences and stories told to me by my great-grandparents and grandparents. It's been popular in schools as a novel study.

Query Editor

If you had to recommend three books for Saskatchewan children to put on their "Must Read List" what would those books be?

Judith Silverthorne

Other than some of my own books, for Saskatchewan authored books I'd recommend *Racing Home* by Adele Dueck, *Megiddo's Shadow* by Arthur Slade, *Grandpa's Alkali* or *A Prairie Alphabet* by Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet.

Query Editor

What is the focus of your writing research right now?

Judith Silverthorne

Presently I'm completing a young adult novel (tentatively called *Convictions*) about a fourteen year old British girl who is exiled to a female convict ship sailing for Australia in 1842. Jennie's only crime was stealing a moldy loaf of bread from a rubbish bin to help feed her starving family. This novel explores the social, economic and cultural conditions during that era and the way society viewed and treated women then, and sadly in some cases still does. It touches on the discrimination of the social classes and how poor were treated, the extremeness of the justice system, the horrid treatment of prisoners; and the prejudices against people of various nationalities. It's a novel about decency, hope and perseverance. It's also one of tenacity, defining morals and the breaking of social norms, as well as the compromises in personal convictions that sometimes have to be made in order to survive.

Query Editor

What useful advice have you received as a writer?

Judith Silverthorne

I've been given so many wonderful pieces of advice over the years as a writer. Those that stick out in my mind the most are to "Read, read, read," "Write, write and write some more," and to persevere with your writing regardless of the obstacles. Do research to become thoroughly versed in your subject matter and to be accurate. Additionally, I've been told, and know this to be true as well, that one must "Write from the heart" and "really immerse yourself in your story and in your characters" and to "write what you know," at least in the beginning of your career.

Query Editor

What advice do you have for motivating young student writers regarding planning, researching, editing and publishing one's work?

Judith Silverthorne

Everyone can write and all ideas are valid. Take the writing process one step at a time and have fun with each part. Write about something that you know or really find of interest to you as you will be with your story for a long time through the whole writing and editing process. Brain-storming with others about ideas, the writing process and for feedback is important and highly recommended. Enjoy the creative process and let your ideas flow as you write your first draft. Worry about the mechanical bits in the editing process later. Observe the world around or within you and simply start writing.

Query Editor

When will your next book hit the bookstores?

Judith Silverthorne

Probably late 2013 or early 2014.

Young Saskatchewan Writers – Our Classroom Experience

Courtney Thornhill

Courtney Thornhill is a grade 8 teacher at Confederation Park Community School, in Saskatoon. Last year was her first year teaching in Saskatchewan, where she came across the Young Saskatchewan Writers Program. She is fortunate to be teaching grade 8 at Confederation Park again this year, where she will continue to encourage her students to write and participate in the Young Saskatchewan Writers Program. Courtney is currently vice-president of the Saskatoon and District Reading Council. The Young Writers of Saskatchewan is an annual publication supported by the Saskatchewan Reading Council. Teachers are asked to collect well written student submissions and forward them to their local council in January. The local council has a selection committee that chooses 16 pieces to be forwarded to the Saskatchewan Young Writers coordinator March 1. All nine councils in Saskatchewan submit writing which makes up the entire publication that comes out in June. Many local reading councils also host a tea or celebration where students read their work to parents and guests. These celebrations are always a delight.

My name is Courtney Thornhill and I am a grade eight teacher at Confederation Park Community School, in Saskatoon. Last year was my first year teaching in Saskatchewan, where I came across the Young Saskatchewan Writers Program. I would like to share with you, the positive impact this program had on my classroom.

When I informed the class of the Young Saskatchewan Writers Program, many students seemed curious, interested and a little sceptical. Having your work published can be both a positive and negative experience. Many of my students were too shy, concerned, or lacked confidence in their own ability to put their work forward. One student decided to enter

this process. She had always been a strong writer, with a great imagination and creativity. This opportunity offered her a chance to set goals and push herself to create a story that was out of her comfort zone. It was evident that this story was different than others she had written before. She spent hours after school in the library, editing, rewriting and asking teachers for their advice and opinions. When we found out her work would be published, it was a celebration many could participate in.

It became obvious the positive affect this publishing had on her. Her confidence as an author grew and it was a very proud moment for her family and me to watch her read her story at the Young Writer's Celebration in Saskatoon. What surprised me the most, however, was the positive impact it had on my class.

Not only were her fellow students proud of her accomplishments, but they also embraced the positive academic feel it had over our classroom. The confidence in their own abilities started to grow as more students shared their writing with peers and me. Comments like, "Next year I am going to hand in my writing," often came up when we talked about editing and publishing our work. At first I was worried because not everyone's work can be included in the final publication. However, for my students, it wasn't about that. It was about celebrating a positive academic event that happened to our class. My students now understand the risk of entering their work and perhaps of not having it selected. For them, it is about taking that risk, putting themselves out there, while growing as writers. This was a great accomplishment for my class, as a whole. It gave our class a positive reputation and attitude.

This year I am grateful to once again be teaching grade 8 at Confederation Park Community School. I will continue to encourage my students to write for their own enjoyment and enter the Young Saskatchewan Writers. I encourage you to persuade your students to enter their best piece of writing and share in the positive impact it could have on your entire class.

One School, One Book: Family Literacy Project

Tammie Latimer

Tammie Latimer is a Learning Achievement Coach and Grade 5 teacher at St. Paul's School in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Tammie is Communications Director for the Saskatchewan Reading Council and Saskatchewan Young Reader's Choice – Willow Award board member.

For the past three years, St. Paul's School in Yorkton, Saskatchewan has participated in a Family Literacy Project called *One School, One Book*. The program supports reading aloud to children by family members and is promoted through an organization called Read to Them. (<http://readtothem.org>).

To run the program, we purchase the same book for each family in our school. We have a big kick-off assembly on the first day back in January and each family receives the book in a special bag along with information on the importance of reading aloud and a nightly reading calendar for January. Each week night every family reads aloud the same pages of the same book. Each morning at school a trivia question is asked about the information read the night before. Students have the opportunity to answer the question and win a prize. Classroom totals of correct answers are also tabulated and posted to see how each grade is doing!

The purpose of the daily trivia questions is to keep the momentum of the novel going for the whole month and it often leads to good classroom discussions too! Our Saskatchewan Reading Council also often hosts one or two spirit days through the month to celebrate or connect to the chosen novel. Finally, our month of reading concludes on Family Literacy Night (January 27) with a big celebration in the evening at our school. The stations are lead by our Grade 8 students and are centered on ideas in the novel we have read.

The first novel our families read was *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. The cold month of January passed quickly as we cozied up and read with our children each night. The program concluded on a stormy evening with many families bundling up and journeying back to school for a wonderful celebration. In our second year, we read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. This was a familiar book to many of our parents and the whole school had a lot of fun building Mr. Wonka's Chocolate Factory throughout the month as our central library became the chocolate river with brown tissue paper flowing to each classroom in the school. Each classroom was a different room in the factory too and students had fun building their special



rooms from the 'Chocolate Milk Room' with a giant cow's udder hanging from the ceiling to the 'Taffy Room' with long strings of taffy hanging everywhere! The Family Literacy night was also a big hit with almost 300 people coming out to celebrate! From making chocolates, to writing Oompa-Loompa songs to building a gigantic candy machine which took up most of our gym, families had a fantastic time being together!

Word spread throughout our community after this and in our third year, two more schools in the area joined us. St. Michael's School in Yorkton and St. Henry's Junior School in Melville joined us to read *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. With this book, our schools had fun exploring vocabulary and the use of dictionaries. Once again we celebrated on Family Literacy Night with another great turn out of families and lots of laughs as we played Scrabble and Word Twister as well as holding other fun stations!

Overall the One School, One Book Family Literacy Project has been an excellent way to build a school of readers and an environment in which every family sees and better understands their importance in building readers.

Through the generous support of Raise a Reader, SaskTel/SecurTek Pioneers and the St. Paul's School Community Council, St. Paul's School has been able to provide families with books to treasure and characters to love. One School, One Book is an amazing program for building a family of readers!

For more information, visit the Read to Them website at <http://readtothem.org>.



Tammie Latimer

Local Council Grants

To receive a local council grant, each local council must present the following items to the provincial treasurer by October 1.

- a proposed budget for the upcoming year
- a program plan
- a reviewed financial statement from the previous year
- confirmation of 10 current IRA members which includes officers on the local council executive
- confirmation that all local council executive are SRC members in good standing

Summer Workshop with Literacy Royalty

Angela Hutton

Angela Hutton is a Reading Effects Teacher and Literacy/Engagement Support Teacher with Regina Public Schools. She is the president of the South Saskatchewan Reading Council and the Vice President of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

For three full days in July, several members of the South Saskatchewan Reading Council attended a workshop on comprehension put on by **Stephanie Harvey, Cris Tovani and Debbie Miller** in Denver, Colorado. The workshop, titled “Comprehension X3”, offered instruction on research based techniques to teach reading comprehension through a variety of explicit activities, sample lessons, an examination of each learner’s own comprehension strategies and an investigation of active literacy. The workshop was comprised of morning keynote sessions and afternoon grade specific breakout sessions, all led by Stephanie, Cris and Debbie.

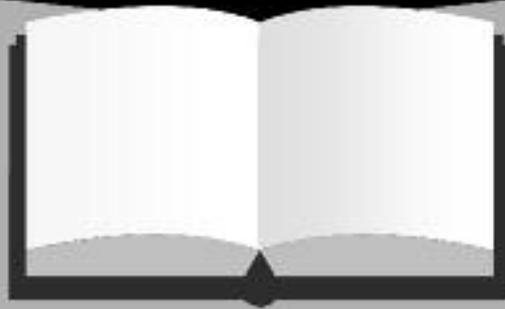
Debbie Miller is an educator from Denver Public Schools. She is the author of *Reading with Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades* (2002), *Teaching with Intention: Defining Beliefs, Aligning Practice, Taking Action* (2008) and co-author of *Comprehension Going Forward* (2011). Debbie Miller, with her focus on primary education, led the registrants through her student-centred, interactive approaches to literacy including readers’ workshop procedures and thoughtful use of time. She spoke about powerful picture books, the importance of student conferring and on expanding our view of “Just Right Books”. In her keynote address

she spoke about the power of teacher language when working with students.

Stephanie Harvey is the author of many books on literacy, collaboration and comprehension. Some of her books include *Nonfiction Matters* (2008), *Comprehension and Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action* (2009) and *Strategies That Work* (2007). With a focus on middle years, Stephanie Harvey presented on the comprehension continuum and on using inquiry to guide literacy instruction. Her powerful quote: “Smart is not something you are...Smart is something you get! And you get smart by reading, writing, talking, listening and investigating... by thinking!” (Harvey 07) seemed to be an overarching theme for the workshop.

Cris Tovani has taught grades 1-12 for the past 28 years. She still teaches today. She is the author of the books *I Read It, but I Don’t Get It* (2000), *Do I Really Have to Teach Reading* (2004) and *So What Do They Really Know?* (2011). With a focus on the senior grades, Cris took the participants through a discussion of using feedback to grow readers, writers and thinkers. She asked three very important questions: 1. How do you know what your students know and need at the end of the day? 2. How do students know what they know and need at the end of the day? 3. How do you differentiate for multiple student contacts? Cris then demonstrated how using annotated text, reading response logs, journal responses and other assessment tools along with student conferring can help all teachers answer these questions and meet the needs of all of their students.

The workshop was a wonderful opportunity to hear the latest research, reconfirm some standard beliefs and practices and learn some new tricks of the trade.



Reading Together

**Saskatchewan Reading Conference
2013**

**Mosaic Place
Moose Jaw, SK**

**April 25/26,
2013**

The Moose Jaw and District

**Reading Council is please to be hosting the
Saskatchewan Reading Council's 44th
Annual Reading Conference.**

For more information, please contact:

**Tana Arnott:
arnott.tana@prairiesouth.ca or**

**Amanda Hassen:
amanda.hassen@htcsd.ca**

**For more information please visit
<http://readingtogether2013.webs.com>.**

Reading Together

Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2013



Thursday, April 25

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Kenneth Oppel

Valerie Sherrard

Judith Silverthorn

John Wilson

Friday, April 26

7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Richard Allington

Kylene Beers & Bob Probst

Aimee Bukner

Adrienne Gear

David Booth

Sue Jackson

Marlene McKay

Dean Shareski

April 25/26, 2013

**Mosaic, Place
Moose Jaw, Sk**

The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council
is pleased to be hosting the Saskatchewan
Reading Council's
44th Annual Reading Conference.

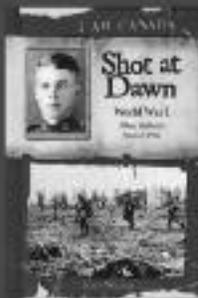
For more information, please contact:
Tana Arnott: arnott.tana@prairiesouth.ca
Amanda Hassen: amanda.hassen@htcsd.ca

For more information please visit
<http://readingtogether2013.webs.com>.

MEET OUR CANADIAN AUTHORS

The Moose Jaw & District Reading Council is Proud to Present the
44th Annual Saskatchewan Reading Conference
For Teachers
April 25-26th, 2013

Each year, we invite authors to present to our conference. This year, we are encouraging schools to take advantage of this amazing opportunity and invite these authors into your schools to speak to your students.



JOHN
WILSON

www.johnwilsonauthor.com

Author of:

- Shot at Dawn
- Flags of War
- Battle Scars
- Death on the River
- Written in Blood
- Ghost Moon
- Germania
- North with Franklin



VALERIE
SHERRARD

<http://valeresberrard.blogspot.ca/>

Author of:

- Accomplice
- In Too Deep
- Out of the Ashes
- Yvonne Hodgson: Superstar Series
- Miss Woudergem's Dreadfully Dreadful Pie
- There's a CDW Under My Bed



KENNETH
OPPEL

www.kennethoppel.com

Author of:

- The Dark Endeavor
- Half Brother
- The King's Taste
- Starclimber
- Darkwing
- Skylbreaker
- Airborn
- Firewing
- Sanwing
- Silverwing



JUDITH
SIVERTHORNE

www.judithsiverthorne.ca

Author of:

- The Secret Series
- The Dino Series
- Secret Series
- Made in Saskatchewan
- Ingrained Legacy

For more information contact
Tana Arnott arnott.tana@prairiesouth.ca
Amanda Hassen amanda.hassen@htcsd.ca

WWW.SASKREADING.COM



Saskatchewan Reading Council Conference
“Relax, Rejuvenate, Read”
April 25-26, 2013
Mosaic Place, Moose Jaw, SK

Presentation Proposal

Name: _____
Address: _____
City / Town: _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____
E-mail: _____ Fax: _____
Title of Presentation: _____
Target Audience: _____
Last conference and date at which this session was presented: _____

AV Needs :

- _____ (If possible, please bring your own laptop)
- Please attach presentation description and presenter's background.
- Presentations should be one hour in length and should be appropriate for an audience of 20 – 35 people.
- An honorarium of \$100.00 will be awarded to a maximum of 2 presenters per session. A discounted rate of \$80 (student rate), if registering for the full conference, is also available. Additional expenses shall be absorbed by the presenter, however out of province presenters will have their hotel room covered.
- Please provide an electronic copy of your presentation for publication in *Query*.
- Deadline for proposals is November 30, 2012.
- You will be notified of your acceptance no later than January 15, 2013.
- Mail proposals to:
Tana Arnott
1427 Sioux Crescent
Rouleau, SK S6H 7C8
Phone: (306) 693-3564 (hm) Fax: (306) Rouleau School
E-mail: arnott.tana@pairiesouth.ca

Grant Application for Registration to the Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2013

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Town: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone (H): _____ (W): _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____
Teacher's Certificate #: _____
School Division: _____
Years of Teaching Experience: _____
Signature: _____

This grant is available to beginning teachers in their first two years of teaching. The SRC will pay the cost of your SRC registration for the 2013 Conference. Three people will receive the grant by random draw.

To be eligible for the grant you must:

1. Be a current member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
2. A first or second year teacher.
3. Write an article for the SRC's publication *Query* by the Fall of 2013.

Submit your applications to:

Sherri Sieffert
Box 682
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

Applications must be received by January 15, 2013.

Take Your Love of Reading to the Next Level: Start a School Book Club

Magi McFadden

Magi McFadden is a resource teacher at Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinehouse Lake Saskatchewan with Northern Lights School Division 113 and a member of Kewatin Nene local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council, and enjoys reading the results of action research implemented by teachers, tutors, librarians and parents to meet the needs of avid student readers in a remote Northern Saskatchewan community. The article provides rich description from which Query readers may choose to establish their own school book clubs. Many thanks go to these research participants for sharing their love of reading with twenty-one highly interested students through School Book Club initiatives: Magi McFadden (Chairperson), Diane Natomagan, Sophie McCallum, Peter Moreau, Catherine Currie, Judy McCallum, Loretta Alcrow, Gabrielle Marsh and Shirley Ross.



Why Book Club?

You love to read and you want to talk about it! You want to learn and have fun while you're doing it! You're students are avid readers, **true book lovers**, and they have been fortunate enough to find a few others just like themselves. Perhaps you're an avid reader, an active learner and you want to find like-minded people who also share your passion (Book-Clubs-Resource, 2012). Organizing a book club at your school may be the way to help your students take their love of reading to the next level and it may help you take reading to new heights.

Forming the Book Club

Display posters of featured books and announce meeting dates, times and locations! Book club members responding to library posters and school intercom announcements self-selected on the basis of interest in a featured Book-of-the-Month. Book Club members represented a good mix of student reading abilities, ages, grades, gender and interests. Teachers, librarians, tutors and parents volunteering as Book Club hosts spanned Grades 6-12. Male and female students self-selected on the basis of interest varied in reading ability, grade level and age. Not all students were best friends nor were they total strangers. Participating students truly enjoyed reading the books, participating in Book Club booktalks, talking about the books during Book Club discussions and participating in fun-focused learning activities during Book Club seminars. Book Club selections featured monthly titles allowing student groupings to vary during the school year according to student interest and their willingness and/or availability to invest time in independent reading in preparation for Book Club discussions, Book Club reviews and ratings and for participation in learning-centered Book Club seminars. A treasure chest of prizes provided a wealth of much sought-after prizes for students who promptly returned Book Club selections.

Establishing the Book Club Schedule

Hold regularly scheduled meetings! Book Club meetings were held on a consensual day, week, time and location each month, usually midweek during the first day of the month right after school in the classroom of the Book Club host teacher or tutor. This routine quickly became the preferred routine for Book Club participants and students found it easy to follow. Book Club meeting dates/times/locations, posted in the library and announced over the school intercom were not changed unless an emergency arose or the group made a collective agreement to change them. Book Club became a commitment for participating members!

Hosting Book Club Meetings

Provide leadership by hosting Book Club meetings! Each month a different librarian, teacher, tutor or parent volunteered to host the meeting. In collaboration with the Book Club chairperson, the Book Club host selected the featured Book-of-the-Month. A hosting schedule was written and Book Club hosts participated in rotation. Hosting a meeting was as critical as reading the book. Book Club host meeting style was based largely on the theme of the book and also on host talents and interests. Book Club hosts were responsible for presenting booktalks, gathering written book ratings, conducting group discussions, gathering discussion ratings and organizing seminar activities.

Hosting Booktalks

Make booktalks exciting! Booktalks were entertaining and lots of fun for everyone! Book Club hosts used preplanned written discussion guides for group discussions (Eaton, 2002; Wikipedia, 2012). Ensuring plenty of opportunity for independent reading of featured books and for group interaction to talk about the books, Book Club hosts planned, prepared and presented seminar activities that immersed students in new learning or provided practice of previous learning.

Organizing Book Club Discussions

Hold lively discussions! Having read the book, each member arrived at the Book Club meeting prepared to discuss questions, a favorite passage or a related personally-relevant topic (Book-Club-Queen, 2012a).

Book Club hosts ensured that discussion during the meeting remained focused and respectful. They provided written discussion questions that guided sometimes controversial discussions of featured books (Keuffer, 2002; Multnomah County Library, 2012). Rating forms were used to evaluate group discussions as well as to judge the personal impact featured books had for Book Club members (Book-Club-Queen, 2012b). Books reviewed by Book Club members were rated using a five star system with five stars being the highest attainable rating (Book-Club-Queen, 2012c). Featured book reviews and book ratings are displayed in the *MWS Book Club Book – Book Reviews* chart.

Ensuring Book Club Success

Adhere to the unbreakable rule of book club – you **must read** the book! Following booktalks, discussions during meetings focused on featured books and not reading equaled exclusion from Book Club meetings. Book Club members self-selected according to interest and willingness and/or availability to participate in booktalks, independent reading, discussions, reviews, ratings and seminars at consensually-determined dates, times and in convenient student-friendly locations. It was on the basis of personal interest in featured books that participating members found it easy to adhere to the unbreakable rule of book club. Using higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation, Book Club members completed reviews and ratings of featured books (Bloom, Engelhart, Furst, Hill & Krathwahl, 1956). Book reviews and ratings by Book Club members became highly valued as guides to selections for further independent reading.

Creating an Atmosphere that Keeps Kids Coming Back

Be interest-based and have fun! Let students tell you what they like about the book. Keeping Book Club interest-based and focused on featured books and at the same time providing valued learning experiences during seminars created an atmosphere that kept true book lovers coming back time and again. Distributing prizes from the Book Club treasure chest reinforced respect for books. Book Club provided an opportunity for sharing reading enjoyment and acknowledging a love of reading. Book Club helped students take their love of reading to the next level!

MWS School Book Club – Book Reviews

Book Title and Publication Information	Book Club Review	Book Club Rating	Booktalk, Discussion Theme & Seminar
<p>Slam Duck</p> <p>Author: Donna King Format: Paperback Publisher: Scholastic Publisher Location: New York Publication Date: 2007 ISBN: 9780545103640</p>	<p>This poignant story teaches virtues of diligence and forgiveness. Thirteen year old daughter of a professional basketball player, Ashley Carson, also a great basketball player is a "good" girl who works hard at school and on the basketball court. Unfortunately her divorced mother cannot see it because she is blinded by past experiences with Ashlee's father who was a professional basketball player burdened by problems with alcohol. Ashlee's mom insists she prioritize academics over basketball. When Ashlee gets the opportunity to compete for a place on the national girls' team, Ashlee chooses sports over school. Going against her mother's wishes she pursues her dream by calling on her absent dad for help to attend the team tryouts. Ashlee's bold decision to pursue her dream helps open her mom's eyes and they begin to put the past behind them.</p>	<p>MWS Book Club Rating 3 stars out of 5 stars A good read! I enjoyed reading this book but won't put it in my personal top 5 list but would recommend it in the right situation. The book stimulated good conversation that exhausted main points of discussion offered by the book.</p>	<p>Booktalk: Book Overview (www.goodreads.com/book/show/996367.Slam_Dunk) Discussion Theme: Perseverance, Forgiveness (www.virtuesproject.com) Seminar: Landscape art in watercolor (Google images keyword "landscape art in water color"); Gym practice of basketball drills, skills and game plays (www.weplay.com/youth-basketball/drills)</p>
<p>You Can't Do that in Canada</p> <p>Author: Bev Spencer Format: Paperback Publisher: Scholastic Publisher Location: New York Publication Date: 2000 ISBN: 9781443102520</p>	<p>Get ready to read some weird and wacky Canadian laws! Canadian laws intended to help us live together peacefully are humorously decontextualized by Bev Spencer in this historical look at Canadian laws. This book features over 200 laws along with hilarious illustrations. For instance, did you know that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is illegal for a commercial AM or FM radio station to play only part of a Canadian song in their broadcasts? The whole song must be played. • It is illegal to go canoeing, kayaking or rowing anywhere in Canada without a flashlight and a whistle? • It is illegal to make purchases using more than \$5.00 worth of nickels any where in Canada? 	<p>MWS Book Club Rating 4 stars out of 5 stars Almost terrific! I really liked this book for many reasons and it came close to receiving a top rating of 5. The book stimulated good conversation that exhausted main points of discussion offered by the book.</p>	<p>Booktalk: Community review, excerpt reading (www.goodreads.com/book/show/8092107-you-can-t-do-that-in-canada) Discussion Theme: Justice, Peacefulness (www.virtuesproject.com) Seminar: Free eBooks (pdf) Gutenberg Library (http://www.gutenberg.org/); On-line book discussion groups; Movies: The Lion King (Roger Allers & Rob Minkoff, Animated, 2003), Shrek DVD (Dreamworks Animated, 2001)</p>
<p>The Penderwicks</p> <p>Author: Jeanne Birdsall Format: Paperback Publisher: Knopf Publisher Location: New York Publication Date: 2005 ISBN: 9780375831430</p>	<p>You won't stop smiling while reading this witty nostalgic novel by Jeanne Birdsall. This story, penned in a manner as carefree as a summer day, is about the Penderwick sisters who are pleasantly surprised by their enjoyment of a summer vacation on the grounds of a majestic estate called Arundel. They "live" the summertime magic of Arundel's mansion surrounded by lavish gardens, treasure-filled attic, pet rabbits and the cook who bakes the tastiest gingerbread in the community. A budding friendship with Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, quickly proves to be a blessing as Jeffrey becomes the perfect companion for their adventures. This is a story that will warm your heart and keep you giggling all the while.</p>	<p>MWS Book Club Rating 5 stars out of 5 stars Terrific! I loved it! The book stimulated great conversation! Controversial opinions were expressed about the book.</p>	<p>Booktalk: Reader reviews (www.jeannebirdsall.com/awards/mouette.html) Discussion Theme: Joyfulness, Enthusiasm (www.virtuesproject.com) Seminar: Cross country fitness run-walk, Vacation destinations (Family Travel Guide, www.orbitz.com), Landscape photography (Google images keyword "landscape photography")</p>

Book Title and Publication Information	Book Club Review	Book Club Rating	Booktalk, Discussion Theme & Seminar
<p>Allie Finke's Rules for Girls #5: The Glitter Girls and the Great Fake Out</p> <p>Author: Meg Cabot Format: Paperback Publisher: Scholastic Publisher Location: New York Publication Date: 2010 ISBN: 9780545040501</p>	<p>Eleven year old, Allie Finkle develops "rules to live by" as she deliberates attending a routine twirling competition with her best friends or a glamorous birthday party for a mere acquaintance. Allie develops restrictive rules, such as "Never eat anything red." and less restrictive rules like, "It's OK to lie if no one finds out you're lying, and the lie doesn't hurt anyone, and it isn't that big of a lie, and it's partially based on something true, sort of." Developing the following rule to live by: "Always be true to your friends, just as you are to yourself.", Allie eventually realizes that having her true friends by her side is what's most important to her.</p>	<p>MWS Book Club Rating 4 stars out of 5 stars Almost terrific! I really liked this book for many reasons and it came close to receiving a top rating of 5. The book stimulated good conversation that exhausted main points of discussion offered by the book</p>	<p>Booktalk: Author Blog (www.megcabot.com/alliefinkle/alliefinkle5.php) Discussion Theme: Friendliness, Honesty (www.virtuesproject.com) Seminar: Hobbies - Easter cupcake decorating (Google images keyword search "Easter theme cupcakes"): Basic crochet stiches (<i>Basic Crochet Lessons</i>, www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVBnFHGbeK4), Book Club crochet placemat project, Wii Dance Party DVD (Ubisoft, 2011)</p>
<p>Anne of Avonlea</p> <p>Author: L. M. Montgomery Format: Paperback Publisher: Scholastic Publisher Location: New York Publication Date: 2002 ISBN: 9780439436496</p>	<p>At sixteen, Anne of Green Gables has transformed from student to teacher. A sequel to <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>, the book covers the second chapter in the life of Anne Shirley. <i>Anne of Avonlea</i> follows Anne from the age of sixteen to eighteen, during the two years that she teaches at Avonlea School. It includes many of the characters from <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>, as well new ones like Mr. Harrison, Miss Lavendar Lewis, Paul Irving, and the twins Dora and Davy. The story illustrates an interesting aspect of early-twentieth-century life, a time when there were few career opportunities for young women. Teaching was one avenue that allowed a young woman to earn a living. But teaching was not without its problems and its victories. The story tells of the blessings and travails of living and teaching in a small town as they are experienced by the feisty red-head, Anne Shirley.</p>	<p>MWS Book Club Rating 4 stars out of 5 stars Almost terrific! I really liked this book for many reasons and it came close to receiving a top rating of 5. The book stimulated great conversation! Controversial opinions were expressed about the book.</p>	<p>Booktalk: Free eBook (www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/47, www.kobobooks.com); Editorial review, Reader reviews (www.jandysbooks.com/children/anneavle.html); Top 10 reasons to become a teacher (www.squidoo.com/becoming-a-teacher) Discussion Theme: Diligence, Excellence (www.virtuesproject.com) Seminar: On-line dress-up, room decorating and cooking games for kids (www.dressupgirl.net/dressup/3461/Milady-Dress-Up.html), Birthday cake decorating (www.girlsgogames.com/game_worlds)</p>
<p>Mustang Mountain #8: Swift Horse</p> <p>Author: Sharon Siamon Format: Paperback Publisher: Scholastic Publisher Location: New York Publication Date: 2005 ISBN: 978311659</p>	<p>Swift Horse is a story of self-discovery. Sixteen year old, Alison has her sights set on getting a new horse - Skipper. But everything gets in her way. First, her mother vetoes the idea of another horse. Next and the horse's owner, Kristy Jones, refuses to sell Skipper to Alison. The McClintock cousins, Chuck and Craig, cause continual distraction. Alison finds both boys interesting but cannot decide who she really "takes a fancy to". When Alison decides to take matters into her own hands, she gets Skipper and herself into serious trouble at a barrel race. After the barrel race catastrophe, Alison needs all of her strength to heal and to make things right!</p>	<p>MWS Book Club Rating 5 stars out of 5 stars Terrific! I loved it! The book stimulated great conversation! Controversial opinions were expressed about the book.</p>	<p>Booktalk: Author/Book Series blog (www.sharonsiamon.com/books.htm) Discussion Theme: Purposefulness, Compassion (www.virtuesproject.com) Seminar: Fitness Walk; Basic Horse Care (www.horses-and-horse-information.com); <i>Howrse</i> on-line game (ca.howrse.com)</p>

References

- Bloom, B. S., Engelhart, M. D., Furst, E. J., Hill, W. H., & Krathwohl, D. R. (1956). *Taxonomy of educational objectives: the classification of educational goals; Handbook I: Cognitive Domain*. New York: Longmans Green.
- Book-Clubs-Resource. (2012). *A guide to book clubs and reading groups: discussion questions for fiction*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Book-Clubs-Resource, <http://www.book-clubsresource.com/running/discussion-questions.php.html>
- Book-Club-Queen. (2012a). *Book club discussion questions for nonfiction reading*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Book-Club-Queen, <http://www.book-club-queen.com/book-club-discussion-questions.html>
- Book-Club-Queen. (2012b). *Book club discussion rating scale*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Book-Club-Queen, <http://www.book-clubqueen.com/book-club-discussion-questions.html>
- Book-Club-Queen. (2012c). *Book rating scale*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Book-Club-Queen, <http://www.book-club-queen.com/book-rating.html>
- Wikipedia. (2012). *Booktalk: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_talk.html
- Eaton, G. (2002). *How to do a booktalk*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Massachusetts School Library Media Association Annual Conference October 28, 2002, <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/Isc/Faculty/geaton/MSLMAtalk/.html>
- Multnomah County Library. (2012). *Universal questions – Talk it up! Book Discussion Groups for Kids*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Multnomah County Library, <http://www.multcolib.org/talk/universalquestions.html>
- Keuffer, L. (2002). *Fiction Discussion Questions. Reading group guides*. Retrieved January 17, 2012 from Reading Group Guides, http://www.readinggroupguides.com/no_guide/guide_fiction.asp.html

Be Connected!

Visit the Saskatchewan Reading Council online at:
www.stf.sk.ca/profgrowth/ssc/src/index.htm

Visit the International Reading Association online at:
www.reading.org

Comprehension Going Forward: Where We Are/What's Next

Reviewed by Lynda Gellner

Editor: Harvey "Smokey" Daniels
 Format: Paperback & Kindle Edition
 Publisher: Heinemann
 Publisher Location: Portsmouth, NH
 Publication Date: 2011
 ISBN – 978-0325041636

"The real genius of this book is that it is written by teachers, for teachers. All of the authors in this book know what classrooms are like. This means that authenticity and integrity pervade every chapter in the book. Teachers will immediately sense this authenticity on their way to realizing that the book offers an endless supply of useful suggestions."

-From the Coda by P. David Pearson

If you are like me you have what seems like a gazillion books on your shelf about reading instruction. But I need to tell you, this is a must read for all teachers. This book brings together sixteen distinguished authors the "who's who" in reading instruction to show what comprehension looks like when it is done right. They are often "rethinking their thinking" modifying models and forging ahead. The book balanced between educational research and lesson ideas. It is the type of book you are going to read and then go back to over and over again.

Ellin Oliver Keene and Susan Zimmerman speak to "Monitoring our Comprehension" and throughout their chapters you will find comments made by the other authors of the book. You can almost imagine yourself sitting in Ellin's or Susan's living room and listening in on the conversation happening between them and Shephanie Harvey, Debbie Miller or Chryse Hutchins.

"Teaching Thinking" is discussed by Debbie Miller, Samantha Bennett, Leslie Blauman and Chryse Hutchins. Sephanie Harvey, Anne Goudvis, Brad Buhrow, Gina Cervetti and Marjorie Larner write about "Building Knowledge". "Seeking Equity", and "Synthesizing" is the topic for Cris Tovani, Nancy Commins, Anne Upczak Garcia and Tanny McGregor and "Synthesizing" is examined by David Pearson.

Keep this book on your radar – not only is it a great book for you to read but could be used as a book study professional development resource.

Linger

Reviewed by Shelly Galloway

Author: Marny Duncan-Cary
 Illustrator: Megan Mansbridge
 Format: Soft cover
 Publisher: Nickel's Worth Publishing
 Publisher Location: Regina
 Publication Date: 2009
 ISBN – 978-1-894431-10-1

Do you have a child entering school for the first time? What a wonderful book to read to your child or class on the first day of school. A CD with the song accompanies the book. It will bring you to tears for sure and help melt away any fears that children may have. Based on a song by award-winning singer/songwriter Marny Duncan-Cary, this beautifully illustrated book set in the picturesque Qu'Appelle Valley of Saskatchewan shares a mother's feelings of loss and pride on her child's first day. "Let me linger a little longer...I never thought you'd grow up so fast." A must read!

Picture a Tree

Reviewed by Magi McFadden

Author/Illustrator: Barbara Reid
 Format: Soft cover
 Publisher: Scholastic Canada
 Publisher Location: Toronto
 Publication Date: 2011
 ISBN – 978-1-44310-761-7

Picture a tree - what do YOU see? 2012 Willow Award nominee, Barbara Reid, brings her vision, her craft, and her artwork to the subject of trees in this new picture book. Each page is a celebration of trees! In this wonderfully delightful children's book, trees are illustrated during every season and from every angle. These wondrous creations in nature provide shade and shelter. They protect us from elements and they add beauty to any landscape. Their colours both calm and excite. Their shapes can stimulate young imaginations to conjure up a pirate ship, a bear cave, a clubhouse, a friend, an ocean, a tunnel and a home sweet home. Their majestic presence evokes feelings associated with family, growth, change, endings and new beginnings. While reading this book you will picture a tree and ask yourself "What do I see?" and eventually realize the possibilities are endless.

WANTED!

Student Writing For the Young Saskatchewan Writers Publication K-12

Short Stories ✎ Plays ✎ Essays
✎ Poetry ✎ Personal Narratives

Criteria for 2012-2013

1. The Saskatchewan Reading Council accepts writing **in any language**, from Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. Genres include **poetry, short stories, plays, essays and personal narratives**. (Writing from February 2012-February 2013 may be submitted) **Not all writing submitted will be published.**
2. All selections must be **proofread and typed** when submitted. (Arial font/size 12/single space)
3. **Whole classroom submissions of the same title will not be accepted.** Please select the **best** writing selections to be considered. Please consider the audience to which the book will be going out to (K-12) and select accordingly. Longer pieces may be excerpted (please try to keep writing to one page or less)
4. Please email student writing to: (*Insert contact information for your council here*). (word documents only please) Make sure to include the information at the bottom of this poster.
5. **Illustrations** may accompany written selections but should be placed on a separate sheet (8 ½ x 11). A **Photograph** of the writer may be added to the writing (scanned or inserted onto the piece of writing)
6. Each **published author** and his/her resource center will receive a complimentary copy of the Young Saskatchewan Writers publication.
7. Each piece of writing **must be submitted to your local council by February 1, 2013.**
8. Please identify each piece of writing with the following information:

Student Name: _____

Title of Writing: _____

Grade: _____ School: _____

School Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Teacher: _____ Phone/Fax: _____

What's Happening Around Saskatchewan

Calendar of Events 2012-13

September 2012

- September 6 – International Literacy Day, Saskatchewan Literacy Day
- September 15 – Special Subject Council Meeting at the STF Building in Saskatoon
- September 14-15 – SRC Leadership and Fall Meeting
- September 27-28 – Beginning Teachers Conference in Saskatoon
- September 30 – Deadline for Canadian Children's Book Week Applications (For information regarding author visits in Saskatchewan see www.bookweek.ca)
- September 30 – SRC membership expire – time for renewal of SRC membership

October 2012

- October 1 – Deadline for Local Council Grant Information – send to treasurer Pam Foy
- October 15 – Deadline for Honor Council Intent Applications – NO longer a requirement
- October 25-26 – Beginning Teachers Conference, Regina Inn, Regina
- October 31 – Deadline for submissions to Fall/Winter issue of *Query*
- October 31 – Deadline for Advocacy Award and Local Council Community Service Award Applications

November 2012

- November 11-17 – Canadian Children's Book Week
- November 15 – Deadline for Exemplary Reading Program Award Application
- November 30 – Deadline for SRC Lifetime Achievement Nomination

January 2013

- January 15 – Deadline for Nomination of Administrator's Award
- January 23 – Family Literacy Day
- January 25-26 – SRC Provincial Executive Meeting

March 2013

- March 1 – Deadline for Award of Excellence Application
- March 1 – Deadline for Honor Council Application Forms to be Submitted
- March 1 – Deadline for Prairie Lily Award Application
- March 1 – Deadline for submissions to Young Saskatchewan Writers
- March 30 – Deadline for Annual Reports from Executive and Local Council Presidents for the IRA

April 2013

- April 25-26 – SRC Annual Conference at Mosaic Place in Moose Jaw – "Reading Together"
- April 26 – SRC Annual General Meeting and Executive Meeting at Mosaic Place in Moose Jaw
- April 22-24 – IRA Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, USA, Literacy and Social Responsibility
- April 30 – Deadline for submissions to Spring/Summer issue of *Query* including Local Council President and Provincial Executive member reports

July 2013

- July 1 – Change of SRC Executive Officers



DID YOU KNOW?

The Saskatchewan Reading Council has a professional library available to its members.

Check out our selection at our website:
www.saskreading.org

To borrow materials contact:
Heather Hobbs at
hobbs.heather@prairiesouth.ca

Membership Application

Saskatchewan Reading Council

Invites you to renew before October 1, 2013 (To receive a full year of benefits!)

Benefits of SRC membership includes:

- Professional journal *Query*, featuring many literacy articles and bonuses
- Opportunities for Professional Development
- *Young Saskatchewan Writers'* publication of K-12 writings
- Literacy programs such as "Read to Me" and other local programs
- Informative speakers and exciting author visits
- Additional savings in SRC conference fees



Please check your choice

- Regular \$25.00
- Student \$10.00
- Institution \$20.00

Send Your Membership Application/Renewal Form Today

The following information is required to register as a member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out journals or newsletters and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information. The information will be kept on file for a period of two years past expiration date.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____ First Time Member Renewal

If renewal, any information changes (eg. address): _____

School Division: _____ Local Council (if known): _____

Membership: Regular Student Institution Amount Paid: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) Please return your form along with payment to:

SRC Membership
c/o Sherri Sieffert
Box 682
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

School Reading Liaison Form

The SRC invites each school to select one enthusiastic literacy teacher on staff to receive a **FREE** Saskatchewan Reading Council membership for the 2013/14 year. This teacher will become the School Liaison for the SRC and local council.



Forms must be received by October 30, 2013.

The SRC is an awesome professional growth opportunity for teachers interested in the areas of language arts, reading instruction, and the promotion of effective literacy in schools. Become a member today!

Your 2013/14 Membership Benefits include:

Professional journal *Query* featuring many literacy articles and bonuses Opportunities for Professional Development *Young Saskatchewan Writers' Publication* of K-12 writings Literacy programs such as "Read to Me" and other local programs Informative speakers and exciting author visits as well as additional savings in SRC conference fees.

We ask that the teacher who receives this membership be a literacy leader in your school by displaying local council promotional posters and literacy information.

The following information is required to register as a member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council. The information will be used to contact members for renewal and membership drive purposes, to send out journals or newsletters and to forward conference and professional development opportunities information. This information will be kept on file for a period of two years past expiration date.

School Name and Principal: **(REQUIRED!)** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teacher's Certificate #: _____ First Time Member Renewal

If renewal, any information changes (e.g., address): _____

School Division: _____ Local Council (if known): _____

Membership: Regular Student Institution Amount Paid: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make cheques payable to: Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC) Please return your form along with payment to:

SRC Membership
c/o Sherri Sieffert
Box 682
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards

Support SYRCA with your membership
donation. Choose your level of support!



Make cheques payable to:

SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc

Mail to: 2832 WASCANA ST., REGINA, S4S 2G8

Please indicate amount enclosed. A tax receipt will be issued.

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 other: \$_____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone (h.): _____ Phone (w.): _____

Email Address: _____

SRC Prairie Lily Award

The Prairie Lily Award will be presented annually to local councils who choose to participate, and fulfill all requirements of the award prior to the Annual General Meeting.

A certificate and a monetary award, to be determined by the yearly budget, will be presented to all eligible councils at the year-end meeting or the Fall Leadership meeting.

Requirements:

- Maintain 60% of membership or increase membership by 20%.
- Fulfill Conference Committee responsibilities
- Provide representation at all Executive Meetings
- Participate in the Read to Me Program
- Contribution of local council news in *Query**
- Report of local council officers to the IRA Coordinator by AGM*

AND at least 5 of the following:

- A professional development event
- A community service event
- A special event for students
- Participation in an International Project
- An Image Brochure (please attach)
- Honor Council participation
- International Literacy Day Project
- Submit contributions to *Young Saskatchewan Writers' Publication*
- Other:

**Please note that these are now a requirement of the Prairie Lily Award*

Submit this form to the SRC President before the Annual General Meeting – deadline May 1 –
Presentation at Fall Meeting.

International Reading Association

Application Deadlines for Awards & Programs

Information about these awards is carried each year in an issue of *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, *Lectura y vida*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher*, and/or *Reading Today*. Also, see the IRA website at www.reading.org for further information.

*Advocacy Award	October 15
Albert J. Harris Award	September 15
Arbuthnot Award	October 15
*Award of Excellence	March 1
Broadcast Media Awards for Television	January 7
Constance McCullough Award	October 1
Developing Country Literacy Project Support Fund Grant	October 1
Dina Feitelson Research Award	September 15
Eleanor M. Johnson Award	November 15
Elva Knight Research Grant	January 15
*Exemplary Reading Program Award	November 15
*Exemplary Reading Program Intent to Participate Form	June 1
Gertrude Whipple Professional Development Program	Open
Helen M. Robinson Grant	January 15
Honour Council Award	March 1
Honour Council Intent to Participate Form	October 15
International Citation of Merit Award	October 15
IRA Children's Book Awards	November 1
IRA John Chorlton Manning Public Service Award	December 15

IRA Presidential Award for Reading & Technology	November 15
Jeanne S.Chall Research Fellowship	January 15
Leen Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award	December 1
Local Council Community Service Award	October 31
Nila Banton Smith Award	November 15
Nila Banton Smith Research Dissemination Support Grant	January 15
Officer Report Form for Councils	April 15
Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award	October 1
Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award	October 15
Paul A. Witty Short Story Award	December 1
Print Media Award	January 15
Reading/Literacy Research Fellowship	January 15
Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Award	November 1
Special Institutes, Seminars and Conference Proposals	Open
Special Service Award	October 15
Teacher as Researcher Grant	January 15
William S. Gray Citation of Merit	October 15

**Provincial Council Only*

Saskatchewan Reading Council Lifetime Achievement Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.

1. Qualifications

- Nominee must have been an active member of the Saskatchewan Reading Council.
- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the growth and development of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and/or literacy development in Saskatchewan and/or Canada through active participation or innovative ideas and/or directive organization.

2. Nominations

- Nominations will be received until November 30.
- Nominations from local councils or the provincial executive will be accepted.
- Two Saskatchewan Reading Council members must support nominations.
- A concise written presentation about the nominee will accompany the nomination form.
- A committee, chaired by the past president, will be formed to examine the nominations.
- Nominations will be brought before the provincial executive at the January meeting and be voted on only by the provincial executive board.

3. Presentation of Award

- The recipient of the lifetime achievement award will publicly receive a plaque and corsage as well as a free lifetime membership to the SRC. All arrangements are to be made by the past president.
- The award will be presented at the annual reading conference at a time and place to be decided upon by the conference chairperson and past president.
- The recipient's family will be invited to attend.

4. Follow-Up

- The name of the recipient, picture and a short biography will be published in *Query*, the *Saskatchewan Bulletin* and the SRC website.
- The past president will confirm with the membership director that the STF maintains an up-to-date membership list of lifetime achievement award recipients.

5. General Considerations

- The entire management and presentation of the award will be the responsibility of the past president.
- There is no obligation to present the award each year.
- The past president will invite lifetime members to the conference each year. They will receive a free conference registration.

Saskatchewan Reading Council Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

Name of Nominee:	_____
Address of Nominee:	_____ _____ _____
Phone Number of Nominee:	_____
Fax Number of Nominee:	_____

Please provide a written rationale as to why the above stated person should be considered for the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Administrator's Award. Rationale should not exceed one page in length.

Name of Nominators:	1) _____	2) _____
Address of Nominators:	_____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____
Phone Number of Nominators:	_____	_____
Fax Number of Nominators:	_____	_____

Applications must be received on or before November 30 and should be sent to:

Nicole Lefebvre
SRC Past President
5210 27 Street
Lloydminster, AB T9V 2L2

The above information will only be used for the stated purposes of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and will follow the guidelines of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Privacy Policy as stated on our website (www.saskreading.org).

Saskatchewan Reading Council Administrator's Award

Purpose: The purpose of this award is to recognize and foster school based, professional and academic literacy support given by a Saskatchewan educational administrator.

1. Qualifications

- Nominee must have made a significant contribution to the growth, support and development of school-based literacy in Saskatchewan through active participation or innovative ideas and/or directive organization in an administrative role.

2. Nominations

- Nominations will be received until January 15.
- Two nominators must be current SRC members and the nomination must be supported by the local reading council.
- A concise written presentation about the nominee will accompany the nomination form.
- Nominations will be brought before the provincial executive at the January meeting and be voted on only by the provincial executive board.
- A nomination form will be displayed in *Query*, and will be available on the SRC website. Forms are also available by contacting a Local Council President or an Executive Member of the SRC.
- All those nominated will receive recognition of their nomination.

3. Presentation of Award

- The recipient of the Administrator's Award will be awarded a plaque at the annual SRC conference. They will also receive a free conference registration and one year SRC membership.

4. Follow-Up

- The name of the recipient, a picture and a short biography will be published in *Query*, the *Saskatchewan Bulletin* and the SRC website.

5. General Considerations

- The entire management and presentation of the award will be the responsibility of the president.
- The Award recipient will be notified by the President of the SRC.
- There is no obligation to present the award each year.

Saskatchewan Reading Council Administrator's Award Nomination Form

The purpose of this award is to recognize and foster school based, professional and academic literacy support given by a Saskatchewan educational administrator.

Name of Nominee: _____

Academic Institution Information

Name of Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Please provide a written rationale as to why the above stated person should be considered for the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Administrator's Award. Rationale should not exceed one page in length.

Nominator Information (2 persons)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Applications must be received on or before January 15 and should be sent to:

Lynda Gellner
1316 Smishek Drive N
Regina, Saskatchewan S4X 4M3
lynda.gellner@rbe.sk.ca

The above information will only be used for the stated purposes of the Saskatchewan Reading Council and will follow the guidelines of the Saskatchewan Reading Council's Privacy Policy as stated on our website (www.saskreading.org).

Does Your School Receive the Recognition It Deserves?

Do These Statements Describe Your School
and Its Reading/Language Arts Program?

Exemplary Reading Program Award

- The reading program is consistent with sound theory, research, and practice
- The reading program facilitates student learning.
- Students have access to a wide variety of reading materials.
- Students demonstrate success in reading.
- Comprehension strategies are taught and applied across the curriculum.
- Listening, speaking, viewing, and writing are being integrated into the reading program.
- Administrators provide leadership and vision for the building and/or district reading program.
- The school and/or district offers support services to the program.
- Literacy activities occur outside of school.
- The community is involved in the reading program.

Through its Exemplary Reading Program Award, in cooperation with state/provincial councils, the INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION honours schools for outstanding service to reading and literacy education.

Call 302-731-1600, extension 236,
for more information.

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Have you applied for the Local Council Community Service Award?

You should if you can say “yes” to these questions about your community service project.

Local Council Community Service Award

- Is it unique and creative?
- Does it have impact on your community?
- Are your council members involved?
- Could it be replicated by others?

Help Your Council Receive the Recognition It Deserves

The INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION, through its Local Council Community Service Award program, will honour councils for outstanding service to their communities and to literacy. Monetary prizes are sponsored by SCHOLASTIC, INC.

Call 302-731-1600, extension 236, for more information.

Recognizing Excellence in Education

Past Presidents of the Saskatchewan Reading Council

1969	R.E. Stephenson	1991	Norm Waters
1970	David Lockerbie	1992	Leona Burkhart
1971	Karen Holm	1993	Marilyn Keerak
1972	Sr. Juliana Heisler	1994	Connie Tenaski
1973	Marie B. Spate	1995	Ramona Stillar
1974	Howard Klein	1996	Connie Watson
1975	Carol Caswell	1997	Dianne McLeod
1976	Ron Gruending	1998	Gloria Antifaiff
1977	Joan Ball	1999	Leslie Widdifield-Konkin
1978	Dennis Strauss	2000	Adele Oway
1979	Bill Prentice	2001	Kim Stewart
1980	Ken Holliday	2002	Donna Humbert
1981	Lee Warkentin	2003	Andrea Hnatiuk
1982	Lynn Taylor	2004	Karen Lind
1983	Louisa Kozey	2005	Pat Selvig
1984	Shirley Magdalin	2006	Pam Foy
1985	Joanne McCabe	2007	Sharon Conner
1986	Agnes Rolheiser	2008	Tammie Latimer
1987	Eleanor Vogeli	2009	Shelly Galloway
1988	Neville Hosking	2010	Nicole Lefebvre
1990	Amber McLeod	2011	Lynda Gellner

SRC Provincial Executive 2012-2013

Pam Foy – Treasurer

Gisele Carlson – President

Angela Hutton – Vice President

Lynda Gellner – Past President

Heather Hobbs – Secretary

Sherri Sieffert – Membership Director

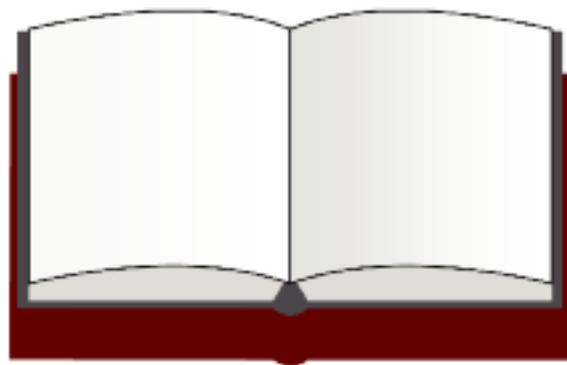
Magi McFadden – *Query* Editor

Gloria Antifaiff – International Reading Association Coordinator

Joan Bue – *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Coordinator

Tammie Latimer – Communications Director

SRC Annual Conference Coordinators – Tana Arnott and Amanda Hassen



Reading Together

Saskatchewan Reading Conference 2013

**Mosaic Place
Moose Jaw, SK**

**April 25/26,
2013**

**The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council
is please to be hosting the Saskatchewan
Reading Council's
44th Annual Reading Conference.**

**For more information, please contact:
Tana Arnott: arnott.tana@prairiesouth.ca
Amanda Hassen: amanda.hassen@htcsd.ca**

**For more information please visit
<http://readingtogether2013.webs.com>.**