



# QUERY

The Saskatchewan Reading Council



## In This Issue

- Steps 4 Literacy
- Critical Reading
- Book Circle: Professional Development for Teachers
- Book Reviews:
  - Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Your Happiness in the Classroom*
  - If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur*
  - Lost in the Backyard*
  - Young Man with Camera*
- Saskatchewan Reading Council 48th Annual Conference: Literacy in a Digital Age

2016-2017  
Provincial Executive:

President  
Tana Arnott

Vice President  
Lisa Kowalyshyn

Past President  
Sherri Sieffert

Secretary  
Jennifer Lundsten

Treasurer  
Pam Foy

Membership Director  
Gisele Carlson

Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator  
Lori Burton

Read to Me Coordinator  
Joan Bue

Conference Co-Chairs  
Gisele Carlson and Tana Arnott

*Query* Editor  
Magi McFadden

International Literacy Association Coordinator  
Shelly Galloway

Communications Coordinator  
Sharon Funk

**Deadline for Submissions**  
April 30  
October 31

*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* Volume 46, Number 1 and subsequent issues, no longer issued in print format, are available to Saskatchewan Reading Council members online at [www.saskreading.com](http://www.saskreading.com). *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 Professional Growth Network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation  
A Council of the International Reading Association

# CONTENTS

QUERY | VOLUME 46 | NUMBER 1 | FALL/WINTER 2016-17

## REPORTS

Editor's Message . . . . .	1
Membership Director's Report . . . . .	2
President's Report . . . . .	3
<i>Young Saskatchewan Writers</i> Coordinator's Report . . . . .	3
International Literacy Association Coordinator's Report . . . . .	4
Communication Coordinator's Report . . . . .	4
Local Council Reports . . . . .	5
What's Happening Around Saskatchewan? . . . . .	12

## ARTICLES

International Literacy Day: Steps 4 Literacy By Magi McFadden . . . . .	9
Critical Reading By Lori Jamison . . . . .	11
Book Circle: Professional Development for Teachers By Magi McFadden . . . . .	13

## BOOK REVIEWS

<i>Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Your Happiness in the Classroom</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden . . . . .	16
<i>If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden . . . . .	16
<i>Lost in the Backyard</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden . . . . .	17
<i>Young Man with Camera</i> Reviewed by Magi McFadden . . . . .	17

## CONFERENCE

Albert E. Peacock Collegiate, Moose Jaw Saskatchewan Reading Conference: Literacy in a Digital Age, March 24-25, 2017 Conference Poster . . . . .	18
Albert E. Peacock Collegiate, Moose Jaw Saskatchewan Reading Conference: Literacy in a Digital Age, March 24-25, 2017 Call for Presenters . . . . .	19

## INTEREST

Saskatchewan Reading Council Membership Application . . . . .	20
School Reading Liaison Form . . . . .	21
Wanted: Student Writing for the <i>Young Saskatchewan Writers Journal</i> K-12 . . . . .	22

## AWARDS

Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice – The Willow Awards . . . .	24
Prairie Lily Award . . . . .	24
International Literacy Association Application Deadlines for Awards and Programs . . . . .	25
Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form . . . . .	26
Administrator’s Award Nomination Form . . . . .	28
Exemplary Reading Program Award Nomination Form . . . . .	30
Local Community Service Award Nomination Form . . . . .	31

<b>Past Presidents of the Saskatchewan Reading Council</b> . . . . .	32
--	----

# Be Connected!

Visit the Saskatchewan Reading Council online at:

[www.saskreading.com](http://www.saskreading.com)

# 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](mailto:saskatchewanreadingcouncil@gmail.com)

# Editor's Message

## Magi McFadden



The Saskatchewan Reading Council's (SRC) mission is to promote the development of literacy and the maintenance of quality literacy instruction. *Query*, the official publication of the SRC, invites you to become an active participant in literacy! Articles in this issue focus on active participation in literacy at

home and school, for work and play, for health and personal growth. The Fall/Winter issue of *Query* begins with Steps4Literacy, an article describing one high school's implementation of selected activities in the 2016 "Service Project Kit: Make Your Steps Count" from the International Literacy Association ([www.literacyworldwide.org](http://www.literacyworldwide.org)). Asking students to metaphorically put themselves in the shoes of students in developing nations who walk many kilometres just to get school each day, the importance of literacy was celebrated September 8, International Literacy Day, during the Steps4Literacy activity challenge. Students counted the number of steps they walked/ran/jogged for the entire day and posted their tallies on classroom doors and on social media using #steps4literacy. Book prizes were awarded to girls and boys in each classroom with the highest tallies of total step counts. With a mission of empowering youth to lead healthy lives, and create successful and prosperous communities this active celebration of International Literacy Day encouraged students to broaden their worldview, raise awareness of the importance of reading and writing and advance literacy.

The necessity of teaching students to read critically is emphasized in the next article, written by internationally renowned author, consultant and speaker, Lori Jamison. In *Critical Reading*, Lori declares the importance of shifting power from writer to reader during reading instruction. Lori lists methods of teaching students to read critically and provides prompts for guiding students to read critically. Implementation of these prompts ensures that students examine authors' biases and purposes in addition to the techniques authors use to achieve their goals.

Professional learning that encourages teachers to experience professional development not as passive consumers of literature but as engaged learners inquiring into and reflecting on literacy goals, forms the focus of the next article, *Book Circles: Professional Development for Teachers*. In this article, book circles are described as excellent learning opportunities for: deep thought;

supportive, risk free learning; professional dialogue; sharing perspectives; expressing personal and professional reflections, insights and goals; and networking. According to teachers participating in book circle, book circles empower teachers to develop and understand their personal profiles as readers, to rediscover the excitement of being a reader and to grow professionally. Connecting the impact of book circle for teacher professional development to teaching in the classroom, a clear message emerges: For students to become critical readers, they too need guided flexibility, and opportunity to share and reflect with like-minded individuals.

Do you love to read books and enjoy talking about the books you have read with your teacher colleagues? If so, you'll want to add Jennifer Scoggins latest book, *Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Your Happiness in the Classroom*, to your "must read list". In this research-based, classroom-tested and peer-reviewed book published by the International Literacy Association, Jennifer aims to help literacy teachers do their jobs better and become the effective reading teachers they want to become. With teacher empowerment at the heart of this book, Jennifer Scoggins's goal is to provide elementary teachers with ways to improve their sense of joy and efficacy as literacy educators in the classroom. With this mission, Jennifer combines personal stories from the classroom with research on best literacy practices to offer numerous tips on how teachers can nurture their personal and professional reading life to provide the best possible literacy instruction to students all the while achieving and sustaining personal happiness.

Looking for good reads for young children? Look no further than, *If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur* written by skilled and humorous author, Linda Bailey. In this delightful 2017 Shining Willow Award nominated picture book, Linda Bailey invites you to wonder what you would do if you happen to have a dinosaur hanging around your house and then helps you to imagine ways in which you can weave dinosaurs into your daily life. This book will spark a lot of fun for classroom read alouds but beware – it may require multiple readings because it is soooooo much fun! This book calls upon readers to think outside the box. Each page is packed with funny illustrations deftly drawn by Colin Jack that adults will enjoy as well. This witty, hilarious tale is a storytime crowd pleaser. The 2017 Diamond

*continued on page 2*

Willow Award nominated book by Allison Hughes, *Lost in the Backyard*, will have young adolescents riveted to their seats during read aloud. This suspense-filled adventure novel written in the first-person perspective tells the tale of a young man's personal growth through peril and hardship. Young Flynn hates the outdoors but when he gets lost in the wilderness behind his parents' friends' off the grid house during a family outing, he is surprised at what he has learned about wilderness survival techniques—insulate your clothes with leaves, eat snow to stay hydrated, build a shelter, eat lichen. Peppered with adolescent sarcasm, the story provides a unique take on wilderness survival that will capture the attention of middle school readers, including those reluctant to read.

The 2017 Snow Willow Award nominated book, *Young Man with Camera*, by author Emil Sher and photographer David Wyman will surely capture and sustain the interest of older adolescents. With a unique black and white photographic format, the brutal portrayal of bullying of a teenage boy named simply T- unfolds revealing a gut-wrenching story of darkness and despair. T- is used to being bullied by a threesome of bullies he calls "Joined at the Hip", whose cruelty has left T- so battered he fears even his whole name could be used

against him. T-'s mother worries about him constantly. But T- has strength in the photographs he captures with his camera, which aptly display T-'s idiosyncratic worldview. His photos connect him to Ms. Karamath, the beloved school librarian; his age-mate Sean, whose passion is his pet dog, Watson; and most of all to Lucy, a homeless woman who shares T-'s love of photography. When Lucy is assaulted by "Joined at the Hip", T- captures the attack on film. But those images lead him into even deeper trouble with the bullies, who threaten to maim Sean if T- squeals. Gut-wrenching! Dark! This is a bold novel abruptly addressing the pressing social issue of bullying. This is a story told in an original voice, truly a unique read!

Mark your calendar for the 2017 Saskatchewan Reading Council's 48th annual conference, *Literacy in a Digital Age*. The conference will be held at Albert E. Peacock Collegiate in Moose Jaw March 24-25, 2017. Be sure to join us for this professional growth and networking opportunity!

**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.**

## Membership Director's Report

### Gisèle Carlson



Welcome to another year of membership in the SRC! We have some exciting changes this year. The executive has decided to offer membership in the SRC for **free**. In addition, membership will be ongoing from year to year until the Membership Director is notified of cancellation.

The benefits of membership include:

- *Query* Publications (Fall and Winter)
- Membership in your local council and participation in literacy programs in your area

- Optional membership in the International Literacy Association and opportunities to network with literacy experts at the international level
- Meet other educators with similar interests
- Opportunities to participate in professional development activities in literacy
- Your support in promoting the development of literacy in Saskatchewan

You can fill out the form at <http://saskreading.com/membership/> to quickly and easily take advantage of these benefits and many others.

The Membership Director has a new email address. Please email [saskliteracymember@gmail.com](mailto:saskliteracymember@gmail.com) with any questions about membership in the SRC. I look forward to hearing from you!

# President's Report

## Tana Arnott



I am looking forward to another year on the executive of the Saskatchewan Reading Council as Council President. It is wonderful to network with a group of educators with a common passion of literacy.

On September 24, I attended the Professional Growth Network Day in Saskatoon with Lisa Kowalyshyn, Vice President, and Pam Foy, Treasurer. Gisele Carlson, Membership, also attended. Many of the other Professional Growth Networks were there and it was interesting to hear that many of them were having the same challenges regarding membership and conference attendance that our council is having. It will be a goal of our council to continue to work on membership and increasing the number of teachers that we can network with throughout the year. There are many benefits to being involved with a Professional Network, and there are many teachers in our Province who are doing wonderful things in their classrooms.

As Education continues to change in our Province, the goals and visions of our council will have to adapt. It is important that as our teaching lives get busier and busier, we find the time to grow professionally. We need to reach out to the other teachers in our province and promote literacy and instill the love of learning within them, as well. We need to work with divisions in order to provide the necessary professional development for their teachers. We need to keep students at the forefront in our efforts and be sure to promote literacy and the love of reading within all of them.

It will be an exciting year of change for our council as we embrace learning and literacy. We are excited about our Annual Conference that will be held in March 2017 in Moose Jaw.

I am looking forward to working with the 2016-2017 executive as we continue to promote our own passion for literacy.

# Young Saskatchewan Writers Coordinator's Report

## Lori Burton



This past spring saw our latest version of the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* publication. With 95 submissions chosen and published from grades pre-Kindergarten to twelve, I think we have some excellent examples of student writing from many areas of our province! Thank you to all our

teachers who read, chose and submitted some pieces of writing, and who nurtured our young literacy learners. After all, as Stephen King says, "If you want to be a writer, you MUST do two things ABOVE all others: READ a lot and WRITE a lot." Teachers: it is because of you that our students read a lot and write a lot – and do it well!

Perhaps you are a teacher of writing... perhaps you don't teach writing and maybe you are just an adult interested in a child's life. If you know of a young person whose writing is worth sharing, please contact me at [lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca) and I can help you get the piece published. As we ended our SRC fall executive meeting in October, we did some planning for our spring conference, to be held in Moose Jaw on March 24 and 25. The focus will be reading in the digital age. How are our young writers affected by their digital lives? Time will tell!

Let's all work to find the best and brightest of our young Saskatchewan writers! As Tobias Wolff said, "A true piece of writing is a dangerous thing, it can change your life." Thank you to all our writers who have changed their lives and our worlds!

# International Literacy Coordinator's Report

## Shelly Galloway



Highlights of the initiatives of the Saskatchewan Reading Council that contributed to earning the Award of Excellence include:

- **Young Saskatchewan Authors** – The *Young Saskatchewan Writers* program provides an opportunity for young authors to have their work published in an anthology of writing published by the Saskatchewan Reading Council. Writing submissions are received by the coordinator of the project. SRC members read, edit, send in the writing, and then organize a selection process for the final publication. Local reading councils host a special authors' night for the young authors to come and read their published works in front of an audience.
- **Scholarships** – Two scholarships from the SRC are offered – one at the University of Saskatchewan and one at the University of Regina.
- **Read to Me** – The Read to Me project raises awareness of the importance of reading to children in the home and to provide parents of Kindergarten children with a book and pamphlets full of information concerning the benefits of reading to their children from an early age. The children receive Read to Me bags with a book, a letter to the parents, a bookmark about reading, and a booklet about the importance of reading from the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

- **Saskatchewan Reading Conference** – The 47th Annual Reading Conference: Writing is Learning will be held in Regina, Saskatchewan on May 13,14, 2016. Keynote speakers will be Lori Jamison, Sarah Ellis and Sue Jackson as well as Sask. Authors presenting at the author evening.

### Major Initiatives I plan to continue

Encourage members to remain active in the ILA. Offer books clubs from current authors that the ILA sponsors and or publishes. Continue to promote above activities. Send information from the ILA to all members. 2017 SRC Reading Conference. External partnerships: We work with the **Saskatchewan Literacy Network** – continue to partner with this organization to promote Literacy in Saskatchewan. We work with the **Willow Awards** – this promotes reading of Canadian books by children across the province – continue to partner with. We work with the **STF** – Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation – a professional growth network promotes the SRC Reading Conference and our councils continue to attend the meetings and continue with the partnership.

Continue with School Liaisons by offering free membership to those members who promote literacy in their schools.

The ILA could send information on topics for our leadership workshop in the Fall.

# Communications Coordinator's Report

## Sharon Funk



This past year has been exciting in the communications area. The Facebook page for Saskatchewan Reading Council has grown in membership. Twitter has also been growing in interest and followers. I enjoy looking for interesting articles and memes to encourage thinking or maybe bring a smile to someone!

If you come across any interesting articles, literacy events in your school etc., please share them on our Facebook page or on Twitter. Great things are happening in our field.

# Local Council Reports

## Kewetin Nene Reading Council

**Deborah Gibson-Dingwall, President**



KNRC continues to promote a variety of literacy initiatives across Northern Saskatchewan and it is a pleasure to serve as president of the Kewetin Nene Reading Council for another year. This is a special year for us as we are celebrating our thirtieth year as a local council.

Our KNRC members engaged in promotional activities at the Northern Area Teachers' Association Conference held in Prince Albert in October by setting up a KNRC membership and information booth as well as providing books for door prizes and new members. Our local council AGM on October 12 was held during the teachers' convention and our new executive was chosen. We also wish a fond farewell and happy retirement to our long time member and membership director, Barb Traxel.

Our new officers are:

President . . . . . Deborah Gibson-Dingwall  
Secretary Treasurer . . . . . Harriet Roy  
Membership . . . . . Melva Herman  
Vice President . . . . . Magi McFadden  
*Young Saskatchewan Writers* . . . . . Lynda Renaud  
Read to Me . . . . . Kim Stewart  
Communications . . . . . Marlee Waldron  
Member at Large . . . . . Reid Dingwall  
Member at Large . . . . . Bill Ryan

KNRC continues its commitment to seeking membership from all northern communities by sharing information with First Nations operated schools and sponsoring membership of students from the Northern Teacher Education Program as well as our provincial schools. We expect our membership will continue to increase with our new Communications Director, Marlee Waldron who has set up a Facebook page for KNRC along with our new Membership Director, Melva Herman.

This year two hundred SRC Read to Me books were distributed by our former Read to Me Coordinator, Dawn Kuppenbender. Forty SRC books went to Pinehouse, twenty-five went to NORTEP, ten went to Sandy Bay, twenty-three went to Beauval AHS (home

visits) and one hundred and two went to Kids First North in the following communities of Stony Rapids, Buffalo Narrows, Ile-a-la-Crosse, La Loche, Cumberland House, Creighton, La Ronge, and Sandy Bay (Breaking Trails Family Place). The NORTEP students distribute their books in their home communities for the SRC Read to Me program in both the fall and the spring of each year. This year the books went to eleven communities. Our new Read to Me Coordinator is Kim Stewart.

KNRC increased our number of submissions to the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* publication this year. There were twenty-one entries received this year. Entries were received from NLSD 113 schools located in Pinehouse, La Ronge, Cumberland House, Air Ronge and two band schools – Clearwater Dene and Sally Ross in Hall Lake. Kewetin Nene had nine pages allocated to them for this edition. Lynda Renaud will continue as our *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Coordinator for 2016-17.

Some of our other activities include council members participating in a variety of Family Literacy Day activities in their schools in January, along with ongoing family literacy initiatives such as "Read Together" evenings, family literacy games night, book draws, literacy fairs and Elder's storytelling. Our Vice-president, Magi McFadden coordinated some special events in Minahik Waskahigan High School in Pinehouse Lake. The high school in Pinehouse Lake did Steps 4 Literacy September 8 International Literacy day logging 69,000 steps. The Steps 4 Literacy is an ILA service project kit student activity. The Willow Awards were launched



KNRC Membership Drive Display Table

in the elementary school and in the high school in Pinehouse Lake this year. The elementary school in Pinehouse Lake is also initiating the Dr. Nadine Mort's School-wide Blitzes.

KNRC contributes to the Pahkisimon Nuyeq'ah Library System's SaskPower Northern Reading Program which is coordinated by our Secretary Treasurer, Harriet Roy. This program includes a reading challenge to schools to become the "Readingest Community in Northern Saskatchewan." This year's theme is "On your Mark... Get Set...Read!" and will incorporate physical literacy into each day of the challenge.

For our international project KNRC continues to donate to the Malala Foundation to promote literacy and advocacy for compulsory schooling for all children world-wide [www.malalafund.org](http://www.malalafund.org). Our professional development activity in March of this year was KNRC members participating in a reading circle and reading the book, *Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Happiness in Your Classroom*. We are planning a member and executive professional development event in a central location in March 2017.

Thank you to all our local council members for their continued commitment to northern literacy. Your work in promoting literacy for children is appreciated.



## East Central Reading Council

### Tammie Latimer, President

The East Central Reading Council is quietly supporting literacy in the East Central region through the following programs this year. This fall we distributed over 200 books to the students in the Pre-K programs in the Christ the Teacher and Good Spirit School Divisions. We are also planning to host a "Reading Strategies" workshop based on the book, *The Reading Strategies Book*, by Jenifer Serravallo later this fall. In January we will be offering the Family Literacy Trivia Contest for Family Literacy Day and we will be collecting submissions for the Young Writers publication. In March we are looking forward to a book sharing night and supporting the provincial reading conference. Finally we will close the year with Read to Me and our Young Writer's Tea.

We would like to thank our dedicated local executive members for their many years of service in promoting the love of reading!



## South East Reading Council

### Joan Bue, President

Welcome to another year of literacy and learning!

Pam and I were able to meet during the summer and we talked about having an author tour in October during Education Week. Pam suggested Maureen Ulrich a playwright and author from the Lampman area of Saskatchewan. Her play "The Snowbirds" was featured at the 2015 Fringe Festival in Saskatoon. She also has a trilogy of young adult novels – the main character is a young girl who plays hockey.

Pam got to work right away and set things up for Maureen to visit schools in Carlyle, Manor, Moosomin, Wapella, Wawota and Maryfield. Maureen was doing author readings for students in Grades 3-12 as well as a few writing workshops for Grade 5-7 students as well as some high school classes.

Pam always does such a good job setting things up with schools and making arrangements for lunch and accommodations! Thanks Pam!

We also decided that it was time to change our postcards, so we did! Pam has distributed the postcards.

We will continue to do Young Writers – we always have a great turn out for our Young Writers Celebration each year.

As well, we are planning another author tour for the spring for younger children. Judith Silverthorne has a new book "Honouring the Buffalo" and we hope to get her out to our area for a tour.

We really need to increase our membership, so Pam and I will put our heads together and maybe plan a supper meeting and see what happens!

## Saskatoon and District Reading Council

### Lee Jacobson and Barbara Alberton, Co-Presidents

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 an expanding executive this year and looking forward to branching out and creating new projects to promote literacy around the city and area. Our AGM was September 20.

This year we have decided to continue with projects such as Read to Me and Young Writers of Saskatchewan. The SDRC continues to support the province wide Read to Me initiative, the donation of books and literacy information to Ronald McDonald house, Crisis Nursery, Egads and it has put out to the reading reps to forward any other agencies or programs who would benefit from a donation of books. This project usually takes place in May.

The *Young Saskatchewan Writers* program promotes writing from all grade levels in and around the city. A committee of executive, members at large and school liaisons meet to choose 16-18 pieces to publish in the *Young Saskatchewan Writers* publication, which comes out in June. The SDRC will then hold a young author's night to celebrate our author's success. This year, due to the large number of attendees of various ages, we hope to offer the young writers the opportunity to have a writer's workshop with a known local author for their own age group K-3 and Grade 4-8.

This year we will offer professional development to our liaison members in form of a book club. The book chosen is *No More Independent Reading without Support* by Debbie Miller. We will meet three times a year to discuss and elaborate how this book could impact the teaching practice in their classroom.

We have also promoted Global Reading Aloud with a small presentation. At current, we have a few members who are participating.

We made post cards illustrating our goals, accomplishments, and information on how to join SDRC. These postcards were sent out to the Beginning Teachers' Orientation and to schools in and around the city. We are planning on looking into different forms of advertising and promoting our PD sessions throughout the year.

Our current executive council this year includes:

- Co-President: Lee Jacobson and Barbara Alberton
- Treasurer: Najla Akl
- Secretary: Nikki Welder
- Membership Directors: Paula Klein, Heather Robertson, Marge Roszell
- Member at Large: Shella Gonzales

We look forward to a new year with creative and new ideas.

## South Saskatchewan Reading Council

### Lisa Kowalyshyn, President



The SSRC serves teachers in school divisions in and around Regina. I'm pleased to report that we have another full executive and exciting program this year. Our program for this coming year includes a Christmas meeting and Social, Young Writers submissions and Young Authors Night, a professional book club discussion, Read to Me, and many others. One of our projects is the Get Well Soon Literacy Kits. We offer these kits to students who need to stay at home from school for extended periods of time because of illness. Teachers can request a kit for a deserving student, and parents really appreciate the support when they have a sick child.

For more information on our council, please email me at [southsaskreadingcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:southsaskreadingcouncil@gmail.com), visit our website <http://saskreading.com/local-councils/south-saskatchewan/>, or follow us on Facebook at South Saskatchewan Reading Council or on Twitter @SSRC\_



## Southwest Reading Council

**Jennifer Lundsten, President**

The South West Reading Council is ready to welcome a new year and a new journey in literacy. We are continuing to focus on our goal of putting as many books into the hands of young readers as possible.

We started in September, with our local council making a donation to a program that organized the purchase and distribution of books for students in Fort McMurray after the fires that destroyed their community. We were able to make this donation in the fall as the school year began and families focused on getting back on track.

In addition, we are planning the following activities and programs in 2016-17:

- To participate in the Read to Me program by providing books to Pre-K students in Sun West School Division, Chinook School Division and our local area schools within Holy Trinity Catholic School Division.
- To participate in the *Young Saskatchewan Writers'* contest and publication.
- To donate more books to early learning centres in our local council area. This is the third year for this program and each year we have chosen different facilities to receive the books.
- To organize reading readiness book bags for Hutterian children as they prepare to enter kindergarten. This program gives us the opportunity to work with school divisions and Chinook Regional Libraries to spread knowledge about literacy development.
- To help schools in our local council area provide their students with literacy events or celebrations.

We are hoping to reach more children this year, provide more books and give teachers and parents the tools to promote literacy at home and school.

## Moose Jaw and District Reading Council

**Tana Arnott, President**



The Moose Jaw and District Reading Council continues to stay strong as we work towards building our numbers. We continue to keep the programs alive in our schools and community that benefit the literacy of our children. We will be continuing our Read to Me program – all babies born in the Moose Jaw F.H. Wigmore hospital will receive a package

with a new book and information about the importance of literacy and reading to children. We have partnered with Moose Jaw Literacy in order to bring literacy to the new children in our communities.

We are going to host a city-wide paperback book exchange this year. We have gone away from this event as schools started incorporating one into their own schools, but we will try this event again this year expanding into the high schools. The love of reading does not stop when you enter the hallways of high school.

We will also host a Professional Development Workshop for increasing interest in reading for pleasure for our students. We have partnered with the Moose Jaw Public Library in the past, and I am hoping we can do that again this year. They have done so much for literacy in our community. 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.

We look forward to an exciting year!

# International Literacy Day: Steps 4 Literacy

## Magi McFadden

*Magi McFadden is a resource teacher at Minahik Waskahigan High School in Pinehouse Lake Saskatchewan with Northern Lights School Division 113 and vice president of Kewetin Nene local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC). Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council which is a professional growth network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and affiliate of the International Literacy Association (ILA). The importance of literacy at Minahik Waskahigan High School in Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan was celebrated International Literacy Day, September 8, 2016 through school, classroom and individual participation in Steps 4 Literacy. Inspiring students to put themselves in the shoes of students in developing nations who walk many kilometers just to get to school each day, students in Grades 6-12 counted the number of steps they walked/ran/jogged for the entire day and posted their tallies outside their classroom doors and on social media using #steps4literacy. Book prizes were awarded to students with the highest tallies of total step counts. With a mission of empowering young people to lead healthy lives, create successful communities and prosperous economies this active celebration of International Literacy Day provided students an opportunity to participate in the transformative power of literacy to drive sustainable change worldwide. Through school-wide implementation of selected activities in the "Service Project Kit: Make Your Steps Count!" from the International Literacy Association ([www.literacyworldwide.org](http://www.literacyworldwide.org)), students welcomed encouragement to broaden their worldview, raise awareness of the importance of reading and writing, and advance literacy.*

### International Literacy Day

In an effort to focus attention on worldwide literacy needs, September 8 was proclaimed **International Literacy Day** by UNESCO on November 17, 1965. The needs inspiring a focus on literacy are still prevalent today as nearly 800 million people, two-thirds of whom are women including 126 million of the world's youth, do not know how to read or write. According to UNESCO, a clear connection exists between illiteracy and countries in severe poverty, and between illiteracy and prejudice against women (Wiki, 2016).

The aim of International Literacy Day is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy globally. Celebrations take place around the world and have included themes focusing on literacy and health, literacy and peace, and literacy and empowerment (Wiki, 2016).

### International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers and experts in more than 70 countries. Believing in the transformative power of literacy to create more successful societies, healthy communities and prosperous economies, the ILA works to advance literacy through research, advocacy efforts, volunteerism and professional development activities for educators (International Literacy Association, 2016a). To learn more about ILA, visit [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).

As the champion of a vibrant literacy community, the ILA recognizes the importance of working together to raise public awareness of the extraordinary value of the written word and of the necessity to promote a literate society. This year the ILA's theme, Steps to Advance Literacy, aims to inspire students to put themselves in the shoes of students in developing nations who may

have to walk many kilometers to get to school each day. On September 8, 2016 International Literacy Day, students are encouraged to broaden their worldview, raise awareness of the importance of reading and writing, and advance literacy through participation in activities and projects that involve physically tracking and counting steps taken (International Literacy Association, 2016a).

### Celebrating International Literacy Day - Steps 4 Literacy

Through school-wide implementation of selected activities in the *Service Project Kit: Make Your Steps Count!* from the ILA ([www.literacyworldwide.org](http://www.literacyworldwide.org)), students at Minahik Waskahigan High School welcomed the opportunity to broaden their worldview and go the distance to raise awareness of the importance of reading and writing, and advance literacy (International Literacy Association, 2016b). Teaming up with colleagues, teachers partnered with another class for brisk walks or connected with the gym teacher to share their mission of tracking steps to advance literacy. Walk breaks were integrated into daily lesson plans. Students strolled through school hallways or were supervised in the schoolyard during time set aside for outdoor walks. Setting goals such as taking 784 steps by the end of the school day – International Literacy Day, students in Grade 6-12 worked toward the aim of advancing literacy together. Tracking steps schoolwide was facilitated by individual and classroom step count tallies. Results were shared in posters displaying tallies on the exteriors of classroom doors and on social media using #steps4literacy (International Literacy Association, 2016b). Of course all this activity led to initiation of a contest for the most steps taken. Student tallies revealed a school total of nearly 69,000 steps taken for literacy and a range of 523 to 6,000 steps taken for literacy on International Literacy Day at Minahik Waskahigan High School. Tying walk/run/jog activities into the greater mission of enhancing literacy for students, book prizes

were awarded to special needs students and to a girl and a boy in each participating classroom for the most steps taken. During a day of celebration, students at Minahik Waskahigan High School were empowered to deepen their understanding of global concerns regarding literacy and share reasons for tracking their steps to advance literacy, letting their progress inspire family and friends to get actively involved.

### References

- International Literacy Association (2016a). *Activity kit: Steps to advance literacy*. Retrieved September 2, 2016 from <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/>
- International Literacy Association (2016b). *Service project kit: Make our steps count!* Retrieved September 2, 2016 from <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/>
- Wiki (2016). *International literacy day*. Retrieved from Wikipedia September 1, 2016 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Literacy\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Literacy_Day))



Steps 4 Literacy Student Book Prizes

# Critical Reading

## Lori Jamison

*Lori Jamison is an internationally recognized teacher, author, consultant and speaker. Lori has served on the Board of Directors of the International Literacy Association and volunteered with the Language to Literacy Program in Belize. She is currently the Education Director for High Interest Publishing and creator of the weekly HIP TIPs (www.hip-books.com). The author of many professional resources for teachers, Lori has consulted with schools and districts across North America. A popular speaker at conferences and professional development events from Nova Scotia to New Zealand, Lori presented to delegates of the 47th annual Saskatchewan Reading Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan May 13-14, 2016. In this article, Lori declares the importance of shifting power from writer to reader during reading instruction. Lori lists methods of teaching students to read critically and provides prompts for guiding students to read critically. Implementation of these prompts ensures that students examine authors' biases and purposes in addition to the techniques authors use to achieve their goals.*

### Critical Reading: Shifting Power from the Writer to the Reader

Critical reading takes readers beyond *what* the text says to *how* and *why* it is said. It requires readers to examine authors' biases and purposes – and the techniques authors use to achieve their goals (Jamison, 2016). In fictional text, the biases and opinions of the narrator are not necessarily those of the author; however, they can still challenge the beliefs and biases of the reader.

There are several ways that readers read critically:

- By identifying the theme or message of the text
- By analyzing what response the writer is trying to elicit from the reader
- By noting the words and techniques the author has used to try to elicit that response
- By connecting to their own personal experience and the wider world
- By comparing their own experiences and beliefs to those of the author
- By challenging the author's beliefs and perspectives and how they are conveyed

### Ten Prompts for Guiding Students to Read Critically:

- 1. What lesson or theme or message do you think the writer is trying to convey?**  
What are some key supporting details or events from the story that support that message? What information might be missing or confusing?
- 2. What can you infer about the biases or beliefs of the author/narrator?**  
In what ways are these biases/beliefs similar to your own beliefs? In what ways do they conflict with your own beliefs or thinking?
- 3. What kind of reaction do you think the author is trying to get from readers?**  
In what ways does the author/narrator try to make a connection with the reader? What techniques does the writer use to try to generate the desired reaction?
- 4. What is the overall voice or style of the piece – humorous, scary, friendly, persuasive, etc.?**  
What details, words, and writer's techniques support that tone?
- 5. From whose point of view is the story told?**  
Is this an appropriate choice for the story? Is the narrator's voice the voice of "power" in this piece?

6. Whose voice might be missing in this piece?

How might the story be different if told from another point of view?

7. What messages or ideas might the author be implying or suggesting rather than stating outright?

What evidence from the text supports your thinking?

8. What real-life issues are discussed in this novel?

How do you think the author or narrator feels about these issues? What has the author done to make you think the same way about the issues as he/she does?

9. In what ways do you as a reader connect with the issues and themes in the novel?

Does (or doesn't) this reading help you relate to the larger world? Why or why not?

10. Did the reading succeed in generating its intended response from you?

Why or why not?

## References

Jamison, L. (2016). *HIP Books: Teacher Tips – Critical Reading*, Retrieved May 12, 2016 from [www.hip-books.com](http://www.hip-books.com)

## What's Happening Around Saskatchewan

### September 2016

- 8 International Literacy Day
- 24 Professional Growth Networks Day

### October 2016

- 15 Deadline for SRC Local Council Grants
- 21-22 Executive Leadership Meeting in Moose Jaw
- 31 Deadline for *Query* Submissions/All Local Council reports will be in this issue

### November 2016

- 30 Deadline for SRC Lifetime Achievement Nomination<sup>14</sup>

### December 2016

- 3 Conference Call 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 15 Honour Council Application Form Due

### January 2017

- 4 Honour Council Achievement Award
- 7 Conference Call 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 15 Deadline for SRC Administrators Award Nomination
- 27 Family Literacy Day

### February 2017

- 1 Young Saskatchewan Writer's Deadline

### March 2017

- 4 Conference Call 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 15 SRC Annual Reports Due
- 24-25 Annual Conference in Moose Jaw
- 25 Annual General Meeting

### April 2017

- 30 Deadline for Spring Issue of *Query* – all local council president's reports and executive members must submit

### June 2017

- 1 Submit Current Membership list to STF
- 30 Change of officers

# Book Circle: Professional Development for Teachers

## Magi McFadden

*Magi McFadden is a resource teacher at Minahik Waskahigan High School in Pinehouse Lake Saskatchewan with Northern Lights School Division 113 and vice president of Kewetin Nene local council of the Saskatchewan Reading Council (SRC). Magi is editor of Query, the official publication of the Saskatchewan Reading Council which is a professional growth network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation and affiliate of the International Literacy Association (ILA). Kewetin Nene Reading Council brought together local council members for innovative professional development through implementation of a book circle. Through creation of a culture of sharing and professional dialogue, Kewetin Nene Reading Council's (KNRC) Book Circle, provided volunteer participants with an opportunity to read, discuss and reflect on classroom practice; enhance their professional knowledge; engage in professional learning in a supportive, risk-free learning environment; share perspectives; and network for professional growth. Through active engagement in KNRC Book Circle, participating Kewetin Nene Reading Council members were facilitated to learn about literacy, develop and understand themselves as readers, rediscover the excitement of being a reader, network with other council members and grow professionally.*

### Creating a Culture of Professional Dialogue

Creating a culture of sharing and professional dialogue is an essential element for school success (Boes, 2015). Teachers who read, discuss, and implement current educational research are more engaged and ready to meet the daily challenges in their classrooms. But the reality is that teachers lead busy lives, making it difficult to find time for these valuable discussions. Book circles create a venue for sharing ideas that can invigorate teachers and encourage professional reading and conversations (Delisio, 2010). Kewetin Nene Reading Council (KNRC) is committed to providing professional development for its members in a variety of forms. Teachers are best able to determine what professional development they need to pursue as life-long learners and book circles are designed for voluntary participation of interested members. Professional book circles provide an excellent opportunity for members to reflect on their classroom practice, enhance their professional knowledge, and engage in the professional learning that best meets their needs and the needs of their students. Book circles are shared learning experiences that give educators an opportunity for professional networking and reflection through an in-depth examination of ideas, concepts, research and strategies presented in a professional resource (ETFO, 2015). The main goals of KNRC Book Circle are: to enhance the professional knowledge and professional practice of our members; to foster leadership at the local reading council level; to reflect on current teaching practices; and to promote literacy

and literacy instruction. When professional book circle experiences are linked to the real world of teaching and to authentic situations within their classrooms, teachers have a deeper understanding of their impact on classroom practice and student learning.

### Facilitating Book Circles

Book circles are adult equivalents of student literature circles but with emphasis on networking for professional growth according to collaboratively developed expectations. The aim is to encourage thoughtful discussion and share a love of reading with like-minded individuals. There is no one way to do book circles. Book circles, otherwise known as book clubs look different in every application; they change from book to book and participate to participant. Book circles have no recipe, they are not a specific "program", and they never look the same from year to year or even from day to day. The reason? True engagement with literature within a community of readers can't possibly be prescribed, it can only be described. The true goal of a book circle is "to facilitate focused discussion." Having this goal KNRC Book Circle 2015-2016 focuses on shared engagement and focused discussion of a 2014 publication by Jennifer Scoggin entitled, *Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Your Happiness in the Classroom*.

Professional book circles provide an excellent opportunity for our members to enhance their professional knowledge and practice. Book circle

participants attended a local council executive meeting, and participated in e-mail and text-message telephone communications and a follow-up teleconference sharing session. During the initial book circle meeting, a facilitator was named and a book title was chosen for professional growth and development. The book was among those listed in the International Literacy Association's website in the featured professional book list and selected on the basis of popular vote by KNRC members at a local council meeting (ILA, 2015). Subsequent digital communications and teleconference discussion comprising KNRC Book Circle focused on content of specific chapters of the selected resource and highlighted literacy strategies that teachers can use in their classroom. Personal responses and personal connections to the text also emerged during participant reflection and sharing within the local council professional growth network.

The book circle facilitator organizes the session, oversees administrative communications and conducts meetings guiding the group of participants through an interactive analysis of the selected title during teleconference discussions. Group members can expect the facilitator to use open-ended questions, wait time, and paraphrasing to encourage participation. The facilitator also emphasizes the importance of keeping the discussion on track, focusing on one topic at a time. The person in the role of facilitator is not an expert and remains neutral allowing group members to share different perspectives. All group members are valued and encouraged to participate in their own way. A strategy that KNRC Book Circle participants found helpful during teleconference discussion is 'Round-Robin Reflection' (ETFO, 2015). In this process the person in the role of facilitator guides discussion, allowing participants time to share different perspectives in round robin fashion. Collaboration during round robin discussion is an excellent inclusion activity for book circles in that it serves several purposes including: establishing a norm for respectful listening; allowing people to connect with one another; and allowing for expression of reflections, insights and personal goals. A facilitator establishes a supportive, risk free learning environment emphasizing the importance of professional dialogue. The facilitator is also given the responsibility to collect, aggregate and disseminate evaluative information. The Kewetin Nene Reading Council Book Circle Feedback Form (Figure 1) completed by participating local council members, provided an opportunity for sharing culminating comments about KNRC Book Circle for summative reflection.

### Learning about Literacy through Book Circles

Teacher book circles help members learn more about literacy (Goldberg & Pesko, 2000). They encourage teachers to experience professional development not

as passive consumers of literature but as engaged learners inquiring into and reflecting on literacy goals. Further, they give teachers opportunities to engage in deep conversations, to connect personal experiences with literacy learning and to probe instructional issues from shared perspectives. During the teleconference teacher book circle meeting, we celebrated our journey together as readers, teachers, learners and professional growth network members. Some members thrived on independent reading, others on discussion, and others listened; some read the selected resource in one sitting, others finished overtime. The overall impression of book circle was excellent in that it provided participating local council members an opportunity for: deep thought; supportive, risk free learning; professional dialogue; sharing perspectives; and expressing personal and professional reflections, insights and goals. While book circle was viewed as valuable for professional growth and literacy learning, participants reported that the most useful feature of book circle was networking. Professional development through teacher book circle led local council participants to fully develop and understand their personal profiles as readers, to rediscover the excitement of being a reader and to grow professionally. The message was clear: For students to become readers, they too need guided flexibility, and opportunity to share and reflect with like-minded individuals.

### References

- Boes, C. J. (2015). *Online Teacher Book Club: Culture of Professional Development*. Retrieved October 22, 2015 from <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/teacher-book-clubs-promoting-professional-development-cheryl-boes>.
- Delisio, E. R. (2010). *Education World: Staff Book Clubs Enhance Professional Development*. Retrieved October 21, 2015 from [www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com)
- Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario - ETFO (2015). *ETFO Book Clubs*. Retrieved October 22, 2015 from [www.etfo.ca/professionaldevelopment/etfosbookclubs](http://www.etfo.ca/professionaldevelopment/etfosbookclubs)
- International Literacy Association – ILA (2015). *ILA - Get Resources - Books*. Scoggin, J. (2014). *Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Your Happiness in the Classroom*. Newark: DE. International Reading Association. Retrieved October 11, 2015 from [www.literacyworldwide.org](http://www.literacyworldwide.org)
- Goldberg, S. M. & Pesko, E. (2000). Keeping teaching fresh: The teacher book club. *Educational Leadership*, 57:8, pp. 39-41. Retrieved October 22, 2015 from [www.etfo.ca/professionaldevelopment/etfosbookclubs](http://www.etfo.ca/professionaldevelopment/etfosbookclubs)

# Figure 1. Book Circle

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Kewatin Nene Reading Council Book Circle Feedback Form

### KNRC Book Circle

My overall impression of the Kewatin Teacher Book Circle was:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Please explain:

---

---

---

### KNRC Book Circle

The Kewatin Nene Book Circle provided an opportunity for:

- Supportive, risk free learning
- Expression of personal and professional reflections, insights and goals
- Professional dialogue
- Sharing perspectives

Please explain:

---

---

---

### KNRC Book Circle

The most useful feature of the Kewatin Nene Book Circle was:

- Professional growth
- Literacy learning
- Networking

Please explain:

---

---

---

## *Be Fabulous: The Reading Teacher's Guide to Reclaiming Your Happiness in the Classroom*

**Reviewed by Magi McFadden**

Author: Jennifer Scoggins

Format: Paperback

Publisher: International Literacy Association

Publisher Location: Newark, DE, USA

Publication Date: 2014

ISBN-13: 978-087207367

This research-based, classroom-tested and peer-reviewed book, published by the International Reading Association, aims to help literacy teachers do their jobs better and become the effective reading teachers they want to become. With teacher empowerment at the heart of this book, Jennifer Scoggins' goal is to provide elementary teachers with ways to improve their sense of joy and efficacy as literacy educators in the classroom. Targeting teachers in the primary grades, this author aims to highlight the role of the elementary teacher as a central factor in future student success. With this mission, Jennifer Scoggins combines personal stories from the classroom with research on best literacy practices to offer numerous tips on how teachers can nurture their personal and professional reading life to provide the best possible literacy instruction to students. The message is find the gratitude in teaching, the wonderful career chosen because you love to teach. Allow yourself to be happy, to be fabulous and to celebrate learning every day!

## *If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur*

**Reviewed by Magi McFadden**

Author: Linda Bailey

Illustrator: Colin Jack

Format: Hardcover

Publisher: Tundra Books

Publisher Location: Toronto, ON, Canada

Publication Date: 2014

ISBN-13: 978-1770495685

This 2017 Shining Willow Award nominated picture book is a delight to read and ponder. Skilled and humorous author, Linda Bailey invites you to wonder what you would do if you happen to have a dinosaur hanging around your house and then helps you to imagine ways in which you can weave dinosaurs into your daily life. For instance, they make the perfect can opener, or baby sitter, or nut grinder, or burglar alarm. They can mow your lawn, or be your snowplow or act as a slide at the pool. The possibilities of things that dinosaurs can do are endless and they can certainly make your life easier and a lot more fun. Illustrator, Colin Jack, meets the challenge of illustrating this very funny list of the various functional uses of a dinosaur with colourful cartoon drawings.

This book will spark a lot of fun for classroom read alouds but beware – it may require multiple readings because it is soooooo much fun! This book calls upon readers to think outside the box. Each page is packed with funny illustrations that adults will enjoy as well, such as the teacher's motivational "Hang in There" poster featuring a dinosaur dangling from a tree limb. This witty, hilarious tale is a storytime crowd pleaser.

## *Lost in the Backyard*

### **Reviewed by Magi McFadden**

Author: Alison Hughes

Format: Paperback

Publisher: Orca Books

Publisher Location: Victoria, BC, Canada

Publication Date: 2015

ISBN-13: 978-1459807945

In this suspense-filled adventure novel, 2017 Diamond Willow Award nominated author Allison Hughes, writes in the first-person perspective to tell the tale of a young man's personal growth through peril and hardship. Young Flynn hates the outdoors but when he gets lost in the wilderness behind his parents' friends' off the grid house during a family outing, he is surprised at what he has learned about wilderness survival techniques—insulate your clothes with leaves, eat snow to stay hydrated, build a shelter, eat lichen. Peppered with adolescent sarcasm, the story provides a unique take on wilderness survival that will capture the attention of middle school readers, including those reluctant to read.

## *Young Man with Camera*

### **Reviewed by Magi McFadden**

Author: Emil Sher

Photographer: David Wyman

Format: Hardcover

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books

Publisher Location: Toronto, ON, Canada

Publication Date: 2015

ISBN-13: 978-0545541312

A picture is worth a thousand words and with a unique black and white photographic format, 2017 Snow Willow Award nominated author Emil Sher and photographer David Wyman collaborate to tell this brutal portrayal of bullying of a teenage boy named simply T-. T- is used to being bullied by a threesome of bullies he calls "Joined at the Hip", whose cruelty has left T- so battered he fears even his whole name could be used against him. T-'s mother worries about him constantly. But T- has strength in the photographs he captures with his camera, which aptly display T-'s idiosyncratic worldview. His photos connect him to Ms. Karamath, the beloved school librarian; his age-mate Sean, whose passion is his pet dog, Watson; and most of all to Lucy, a homeless woman who shares T-'s love of photography. When Lucy is assaulted by "Joined at the Hip", T- captures the attack on film. But those images lead him into even deeper trouble with the bullies, who threaten to maim Sean if T- squeals. This is a gut wrenching story of darkness, of despair, of bullying - told in an original voice, truly a unique read!



# LITERACY IN A DIGITAL AGE

Friday, March 24 – 6:00-9:00 p.m.

**Author's Night**

Saturday, March 25 – 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Keynotes and Breakout Sessions**

A.E. Peacock Collegiate

145 Ross Street East

Moose Jaw, SK

For more information email [saskreadingconference@gmail.com](mailto:saskreadingconference@gmail.com)

Visit our website and click on the conference link for more information  
and to register [www.saskreading.com](http://www.saskreading.com)

# Saskatchewan Reading Conference: Literacy in a Digital Age

March 24-25, 2017

A.E. Peacock Collegiate, Moose Jaw

## Call for Presenters

Are you interested in presenting at the annual Saskatchewan Reading Conference? Please fill out the information below. You will receive your conference registration (meals included) and membership for our council (for up to two presenters). We are looking for 1-hour breakout sessions focused on literacy and lifelong reading skills.

Note: The conference starts at 6:00 pm on Friday, March 24 with registration, dessert and presentations from Saskatchewan authors. All other presentations will take place on Saturday, March 25. Presentations will be one hour in length.

Deadline for submissions is January 15, 2017 by website submission or through email.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Target Audience (check all that apply)

- Teacher Education
- Elementary Literacy
- Secondary Literacy
- Aboriginal Education
- Curriculum
- Research
- Methodology
- Technology
- Multicultural Education
- Assessment/Evaluation
- EAL/ESL Literacy
- General
- Other:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Presentation (check one) \*

- Paper: discusses current research and its application in language teaching
- Demonstration: shows a technique for teaching or assessment, and includes a brief statement of the theoretical background of the technique
- Panel: allows several presenters to contribute to a variety of views on a topic
- Poster: gives a presenter the opportunity to explain an exhibit representing a program, a teaching approach, an idea, an innovation, a trend, etc.
- Exhibitor: demonstrates the use of products to enhance the teaching and learning process
- Workshop: features a leader or leaders working with a group to help them solve a problem or develop a specific teaching or research technique

### AV Requirements

Please indicate what equipment you will need.

### Presentation Title

Maximum 7 words

### Presentation Abstract

As you want it to appear in the program (maximum 100 words)

### Biographical Statement(s)

Written in 3rd person (maximum 30 words per presenter)

### Important Information

All presenters are required to submit an article to our *Query* Publication  
All proposal applications will be contacted regarding their proposal  
This form can be found on [www.saskreading.com](http://www.saskreading.com)  
Please email completed copy to [saskreadingconference@gmail.com](mailto:saskreadingconference@gmail.com)

# Membership Application

## Saskatchewan Reading Council

Invites you to renew before March 1 (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 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 Membership

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

School Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Council (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:  Regular \$25.00  Student \$10.00  Institution \$20.00 Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

SRC Membership  
c/o Gisele Carlson  
gisele.carlson@gmail.com

# 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 school year. This teacher will become the School Liaison for the SRC and local council.



## Forms must be received by the SRC Membership Director by October 30

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 Yearly 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

School Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Council (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  Regular  Student

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

SRC Membership  
c/o Gisele Carlson  
gisele.carlson@gmail.com

Short  
Stories

Poetry

Plays

**WANTED!**

## Student Writing

- Select your best!
  - Grades K-12!
  - Any language!
- Info: [lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca)
- Deadline February 1!

Essays

Letters

Personal  
Narratives

# Saskatchewan Reading Council Young Saskatchewan Authors Criteria

1. The Saskatchewan Reading Council accepts writing in any language, from **Pre-K to Grade 12 students**. Genres include **poetry, short stories, plays, essays, letters and personal narratives**. **Not all writing submitted will be published.**
2. All selections must be **proofread** and **typed** when submitted. (Arial font size 12, single spaced).
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 (**Pre-K-12**) and select accordingly. Graphic violence or swearing will not be published. Longer pieces must include an excerpt. (Please keep the excerpt to one page or less.)
4. Please email student writing to: [lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca](mailto:lori.burton@rbe.sk.ca) (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 centre 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.**
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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 SK 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. Please submit this form to the SRC President by March 1.



Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirements:

- Promotion of membership: (minimum of 3)
  - Postcard/brochure
  - Posters
  - Conference promotion
  - School liaisons
  - Social Media
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fulfill Conference Committee responsibilities
- Provide representation at a minimum of 50% of SRC meetings/conference calls
- Participate in the Read to Me Program
- Contribution of local council news in *Query*

### AND at least five 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# International Literacy 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](http://www.reading.org) for further information.

*Advocacy Award	October 15	IRA Presidential Award for Reading & Technology	November 15
Albert J. Harris Award	September 15	Jeanne S.Chall Research Fellowship	January 15
Arbuthnot Award	October 15	Leen Bennett Hopkins Promising Poet Award	December 1
*Award of Excellence	March 1	Local Council Community Service Award	October 31
Broadcast Media Awards for Television	January 7	Nila Banton Smith Award	November 15
Constance McCullough Award	October 1	Nila Banton Smith Research Dissemination Support Grant	January 15
Developing Country Literacy Project Support Fund Grant	October 1	Officer Report Form for Councils	April 15
Dina Feitelson Research Award	September 15	Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award	October 1
Eleanor M. Johnson Award	November 15	Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award	October 15
Elva Knight Research Grant	January 15	Paul A. Witty Short Story Award	December 1
*Exemplary Reading Program Award	November 15	Print Media Award	January 15
*Exemplary Reading Program Intent to Participate Form	June 1	Reading/Literacy Research Fellowship	January 15
Gertrude Whipple Professional Development Program	Open	Regie Routman Teacher Recognition Award	November 1
Helen M. Robinson Grant	January 15	Special Institutes, Seminars and Conference Proposals	Open
Honor Council Award	March 1	Special Service Award	October 15
Honor Council Intent to Participate Form	October 15	Teacher as Researcher Grant	January 15
International Citation of Merit Award	October 15	William S. Gray Citation of Merit	October 15
IRA Children's Book Awards	November 1		
IRA John Chorlton Manning Public Service Award	December 15		

**\*Provincial Council Only**

# Saskatchewan Reading Council

## Lifetime Achievement Award

**Purpose:** The purpose of this award is to honour 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 Lifetime Achievement 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:

Sherri Sieffert  
ts.sieffert@sasktel.net

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.com](http://www.saskreading.com)).

# 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:

Sherry Sieffert  
ts.sieffert@sasktel.net

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.com](http://www.saskreading.com)).

# 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 LITERACY ASSOCIATION honors 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 LITERACY 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	1993	Marilyn Keerak
1970	David Lockerbie	1994	Connie Tenaski
1971	Karen Holm	1995	Ramona Stillar
1972	Sr. Juliana Heisler	1996	Connie Watson
1973	Marie B. Spate	1997	Dianne McLeod
1974	Howard Klein	1998	Gloria Antifaiff
1975	Carol Caswell	1999	Leslie Widdifield-Konkin
1976	Ron Gruending	2000	Adele Oway
1977	Joan Ball	2001	Kim Stewart
1978	Dennis Strauss	2002	Donna Humbert
1979	Bill Prentice	2003	Andrea Hnatiuk
1980	Ken Holliday	2004	Karen Lind
1981	Lee Warkentin	2005	Pat Selvig
1982	Lynn Taylor	2006	Pam Foy
1983	Louisa Kozey	2007	Sharon Conner
1984	Shirley Magdalin	2008	Tammie Latimer
1985	Joanne McCabe	2009	Shelly Galloway
1986	Agnes Rolheiser	2010	Nicole Lefebvre
1987	Eleanor Vogeli	2011	Lynda Gellner
1988	Neville Hosking	2012	Gisèle Carlson
1990	Amber McLeod	2013	Gisèle Carlson
1991	Norm Waters	2014	Karen Koroluk
1992	Leona Burkhart	2015	Sherri Sieffert

## SRC Provincial Executive 2016-2017

Pam Foy – Treasurer  
Tana Arnott – President  
Lisa Kowalyshyn – Vice President  
Sherri Sieffert – Past President  
Jennifer Lundsten – Secretary  
Gisele Carlson – Membership Director  
Magi McFadden – *Query* Editor  
Shelly Galloway – International Literacy Association Coordinator  
Joan Bue – Read to Me Coordinator  
Gisele Carlson and Tana Arnott – Conference Co-Chairs  
Lori Burton – *Young Saskatchewan Writers* Coordinator  
Sharon Funk – Communications Coordinator



# Saskatchewan Reading Council

# 2016-2017 Provincial Executive



**Tana Arnott**  
President &  
Conference  
Co-Chair



**Sherri Sieffert**  
Past-President



**Lisa  
Kowalyshyn**  
Vice President



**Jennifer  
Lundsten**  
Secretary



**Pam Foy**  
Treasurer



**Gisele Carlson**  
Membership  
Director &  
Conference  
Co-Chair



**Sharon Funk**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Lori Saigeon**  
Young  
Saskatchewan  
Writers  
Coordinator



**Joan Bue**  
Read to Me  
Coordinator



**Shelly Galloway**  
ILA Coordinator



**Magi  
McFadden**  
Query Editor

Please visit [www.saskreading.com](http://www.saskreading.com)  
for more information about the Saskatchewan Reading Council.  
A Professional Growth Network of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.  
A Council of the International Literacy Association.