



**Turning the Page**

*Issue 1. May 13th, 2025.* Thanks for taking the time to read "Turning the Page," the Chicago Area Reading Association's quarterly newsletter. **We are currently recruiting new members. Join us! Want more information? Reach out to [cara@carareads.org](mailto:cara@carareads.org).**

Help us shape our content for the year ahead by taking this short survey:

CARA SURVEY

## A message from CARA President, Dr. LaVerne Wright

Welcome back, CARA community!

We are thrilled to reconnect and re-engage with all of you—our passionate educators, parents, teacher leaders, administrators, and advocates who share a commitment to advancing literacy for every learner. As we return to the fold, we do so with renewed energy and purpose, ready to amplify our voice and take a firm stance on what matters most: equity, access, and the given right of every individual to be literate.

CARA has always been a hub for meaningful dialogue, rich resources, and impactful professional learning. This year, we are especially excited to elevate conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion—because literacy is not just a skill; it is a vehicle for liberation, representation, and empowerment.

You can look forward to a dynamic year filled with engaging articles, practical strategies, and opportunities to learn and grow together. Whether you're a parent supporting literacy at home, a teacher sparking a love for reading in your classroom, or a leader shaping schoolwide literacy practices—CARA is here for you.

Let's make this a year of impact, inspiration, and intentionality.

In partnership,  
LaVerne E. Coke Wright EdD & Becky Mc Tague, EdD  
CARA Co-Presidents





## **AI in the Classroom**

*by Elaine J. Roberts, Ph.D.*

*Educator | Leadership/Instructional/AI Coach*

It is impossible to access any educational journal or site without there being at least one article about artificial intelligence (AI). As AI continues to convulse work places and education, there are plenty of individuals who claim to be experts to help teachers and administrators implement AI successfully and intentionally. Buyer beware.

It is also nearly impossible to talk with an educator at any level who hasn't had a negative experience with students and AI; however, there are plenty of educators who sing the praises of AI because of the way it can save them time. What's the real story? The end of the AI story has yet to be written, there is no way to know the "real" story but there are ways to try to sort through the chaff and nonsensical claims.

Let's start, though, with a basic question: Does it make sense to try to incorporate AI in every classroom? The short answer is "yes." The reasons are many.

There is a lot of finger-pointing about who or what is to blame (not worth discussing at this point) for students not wanting to read or being able to read, and then questions about using AI to teach and/or tutor students in reading and other content areas.

Let me offer some tips:

- Understanding the reasons for your enthusiasm or your reticence.
- Find others in your building or at your grade level with whom to explore the benefits and concerns of you and/or your students using AI in the classroom.
- Do some more research and know that AI continues to evolve at an eye-



## **The Solution Bi-literaria**

*by Adelfio J. Garcia, Ed.D*

*Language and Literacy Consultant*

We are thrilled to introduce this column, where we share "solutions, answers, and guidance" to your bi-literacy, bilingual, and bicultural instructional and linguistic needs. We base our comments, answers, and guidance on current and relevant evidence and research-based articles to support efforts to evolve and robustly strengthen the area of Bi-literacy continuously. We want to hear from our readers, so please share your thoughts, comments, suggestions, and questions related to bi-literacy and bilingualism. Feel free to communicate with us in Spanish or using your entire linguistic repertoire.

This column will be published in Spanish, English, or translanguaging format. Our instructional and linguistic intentions are to support educators in continuing to evolve their bi-linguistic and bi-literacy knowledge.

We can't wait to read you and create a larger community of learners, predominantly bilingual and multilingual educators.

We invite all educators to participate in the quarterly Book Reading on Bilingualism topics. The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) grants 15 CPDU hours for reading and commenting at your own pace. This is an excellent opportunity for all educators to earn CPDUs, gain knowledge, and interact with educators across Illinois.

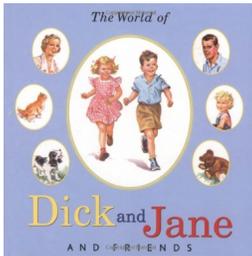
Hasta luego for now.

Remember that we would love to hear from you. Share your pedagogical needs with us, and we will look for answers to support your instructional delivery for bilingual learners.

[contact@bilitercysolutions.org/](mailto:contact@bilitercysolutions.org/)

watering pace. You can start your research here.

- Find someone who can be your guide and/or coach to help you think through those benefits and concerns, and be a sounding board for you and your colleagues.



### **A Brief History of CARA**

The Chicago Area Reading Association was founded in 1957 by William S. Gray, an American educator and literacy advocate, who was commonly referred to as "The father of Reading." Gray served as director of Research in Reading at the Graduate School of Education, at the University of Chicago and became the first president of the International Reading Association. In 1929, he began his affiliation with publisher Scott Foresman and went on to collaborate in the development of the famous early readers, *Dick and Jane*. The characters "Dick" and "Jane" made their debut in 1930, reached the height of their popularity in the 1950s, and continued to appear in subsequent primers until the series was retired in 1965. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, after teaching millions of Americans how to read, the Dick and Jane readers were replaced with other reading texts and gradually disappeared from use in schools. Three years before his death in 1960, William S. Gray founded the Chicago Area Reading Association.

### **Become a member**

Would you like to be a part of the important conversations regarding literacy in Chicago? Become a member through the Illinois Reading Council. We look forward to connecting with you!



**Join Now**



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