

SUMMER 2023 IRC BOOK CLUB

By the Illinois Reading Council

Join educators from all over the state in the online **Summer 2023 IRC Book Club**! Choose one, two, or all three books!

Read, reflect on, and respond to **Teaching Fiercely: Spreading Joy and Justice in Our Schools** by Kass Minor and/or **The Final Strife: A Novel** by Saara El-Arifi and/or **Bilingualism and Bilingual Education: Conceptos Fundamentales** by David Schwarzer, Mary Petron, and Clarena Larrotta.

Beginning **June 25**, these seven-week online discussions will revolutionize the way you negotiate the realities of childhood education and/or you can explore the first book of a visionary fantasy YA trilogy that will offer ways to model book clubs with your students as you prepare plans with other books of your choosing. With **Bilingualism and Bilingual Education**, a book with text written in both English and Spanish simultaneously, the underlying understanding is that ALL your language resources are welcome when it comes to discussing your ideas, understandings, and aha moments. We will be encouraging participants to feel comfortable using their best language assets and language as they use their bilingualism on a daily basis in social and academic settings.



Participants who complete all assignments will be eligible to receive **15 PD clock hours** for each book club. Participants will also be able to complete **Teaching Fiercely** and/or **The Final Strife** in the Fall as these books will be repeated. Please note that the **Bilingualism and Bilingual Education** book club will not be repeated in the Fall.

Required for participation:

- **Gmail address** (free at <https://mail.google.com/>). The Book Club uses Google Classroom, which does not work with Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, etc.
- **Texts:** Books can be purchased from the bookseller of your choice.

Register by **June 15, 2023**, to participate in the book club. Registration is **FREE** for IRC Members. The

cost for non-members is \$45, which includes IRC membership for one year. PLEASE NOTE: The cost of book is not included.

Register by June 15th

PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR THE 2024 IRC CONFERENCE

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is excited to share plans for the 2024 IRC Conference,

**PILLARS OF LITERACY:
SKILLS, STRATEGIES, JOY & MAGIC**
March 14-15, 2024
in Springfield, Illinois.



The following speakers will be joining us at the conference:

**Kimberly Bradley
Jan Burkins
Lesia Cline-Ransome
Lynne Dorfmann
J. Richard Gentry
Timothy Rasinski
Pam Muñoz Ryan**

**John Schu
Jennifer Serravallo
Nic Stone
Clare Vanderpool
Becky Anderson Wilkins
Illinois Reads Authors
And More To Come!**

IRC is currently accepting Program Proposals to present at the 2024 IRC Conference. Proposals are due by **September 1, 2023**. Teachers, researchers, librarians, administrators, and others interested in promoting reading and related literacy areas are encouraged to submit program proposals. Please take a moment to review the 2024 Program Proposal format, general information, and criteria for selection that are available online.

The Preliminary Program with the Conference Registration and Housing Forms will be available on the IRC Website by October 1st. We hope to see you at the 2024 IRC Conference!

Submit a Program Proposal by September 1st

IRC ELECTION BALLOT RESULTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

Please join the Illinois Reading Council in welcoming the new state officers to the IRC Board of Directors starting July 1st. Congratulations to:



Cindy Koudelka,
Vice President of IRC,
 who will serve as President-Elect
 in 2024-2025 and President in
 2025-2026.

Diana Wilkie,
Treasurer of IRC,
 who will serve a two-year
 term until July 2025.

Amy Davis,
ILA State Coordinator,
 who will serve a two-year
 term until July 2025.

Special thanks also to the officers that are leaving the board on July 1st. We can't thank them enough for their service. It is greatly appreciated

In 2024-2025, IRC will be electing the next Vice President, Secretary, and Membership Director. If you have been active in a local council, special interest council, or the IRC Board of Directors, you may qualify for one of these state offices. If you are interested in either of these positions, please complete an application form by October 1, 2023. For more information, please email the [IRC Office](#).

CARA AND PARC RECEIVE ILA HONOR COUNCIL AWARD

By the Illinois Reading Council

The International Literacy Association held the ILA Chapter Award Celebration on April 25, 2023 via Zoom. We are excited to share that two of the Illinois Reading Council's local councils were awarded the ILA Honor Award. Congratulations to

- **Chicago Area Reading Association** – Year 27
- **Prairie Area Reading Council** – Year 13



The ILA Honor Award annually recognizes local, student, and special interest chapters that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the chapter members, the community, the state/provincial chapter, and the International Literacy Association.

The Illinois Reading Council is extremely proud of CARA and PARC as well as the incredible literacy work done by all of our local and special interest councils. Keep up the good work!

ILLINOIS READS PROGRAM

By the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council is pleased to share that Alexi Giannoulis, the Illinois Secretary of State and the State Librarian, has agreed to be the Honorary Chair of the Illinois Reads Program. The Illinois Reads Program is a statewide reading program that encourages people to read books by Illinois Authors. Each year, the program offers a new list of books at six different age levels. Illinois Reads kicks off in March at the annual IRC Conference and concludes in November with Family Reading Night, an annual statewide event sponsored by the Illinois State Library.

The Illinois Reading Council would like to encourage everyone to get involved by becoming an Illinois Reads Ambassador, hosting or participating in a Family Reading Night, and/or reading from the rich list

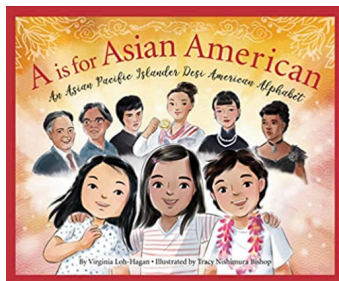


For more information or to order your bookmarks, visit illinoisreads.org.

FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

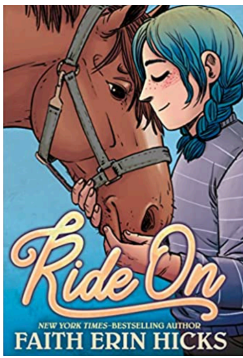
By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

During May, we honor our moms on Mother’s Day, celebrate Cinco de Mayo, Asian Pacific Islander Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, and Mental Health Awareness Month, along with cheering for our favorite horse at the Kentucky Derby. May also reminds us to remember and honor those who have served our country on Memorial Day.

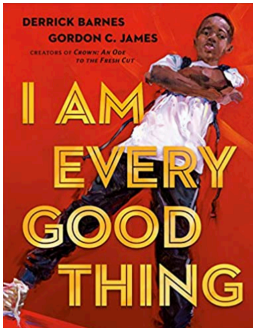


A is for Asian American: An Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Alphabet by Virginia Loh-Hagan introduces the reader to history, culture, and many Asian Pacific Islanders. Using the alphabet format, each letter’s topic is written in poetic verse. The letter topics include celebrations, food, family traditions, historical moments, contributions, discoveries, and achievements made by Asian Americans. Some of the letters also include Asian Americans who became politicians, Olympians, professional sports stars, authors, and creators of Yahoo and YouTube. Each letter page also has a sidebar of text that includes additional information about the illustrated topic. *A is for Asian American* is a great resource that mirrors and provides inspiration for

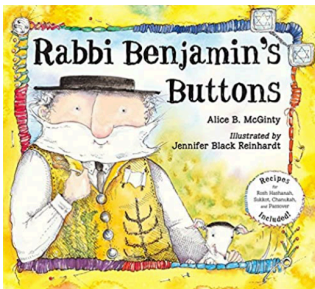
Asian American students as well as offers opportunities for research and discussion and learning more about Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Asian American communities. In the front of the book the author introduces the reader to significant milestones while the back of the book contains a glossary, additional resources, websites, and activities children and families can do to further understand the Asian American people and communities.



The Kentucky Derby is just around the corner. For those who like or own horses, ***Ride On*** by Faith Erin Hicks is a graphic novel you'll enjoy reading. This is the story of Victoria who switches riding stables because she wants to ride horses for pleasure rather than enduring the pressure of training for competitive riding and horse shows. She just wants to have more time to do other things. At the new stables Victoria meets three other middle school kids (Norrie, Hazel, and Sam) who try to befriend her through some common interests but with little success at first. Then one day they discover that they do have a common interest in the TV show, *Beyond the Galaxy*. As Victoria gets to know her new friends she slowly regains her confidence in herself and love for riding horses. The jewel toned settings and character drawings of their emotions, facial expressions, and body language enhance the story. *Ride On* is an easy read that will delight your middle school graphic novel readers.



I Am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes is a timely book that provides inspiration for African American boys and other children of color as well. Told through poetic text, the narrator has plans and dreams. He's also adventurous, creative, smart, funny, and a good friend. Although he is afraid at times and misunderstood by society, he is much more than that. The beautiful illustrations by Gordon C. James enhance the message of the book. *I Am Every Good Thing* lends itself to discussion on timely topics/issues, and the dedication page is devoted to young black boys who lost their life before their 18th birthday. The book also provides many opportunities for writing as well, using the "I Am" format. You can view *I Am Every Good Thing* on YouTube.



May is Jewish American Heritage Month. A delightful book to read is ***Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons*** by Alice B. McGinty. This is a story about a congregation that loves Rabbi Benjamin and presents him with a handmade vest with four shiny buttons. The rabbi was pleased to accept it as the vest fitted him perfectly. Following the Jewish tradition of celebrating their religious holidays and being invited to families' homes for meals, the vest becomes tighter as his tummy gets bigger. Eventually all the buttons fall off. The rabbi does various good deeds over the year and he does lose some weight. He wants to wear his vest for the approaching New Year service. However, without buttons on his vest how will he be able to wear it? To find out how the rabbi solves his

problem, read *Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons*. This story is based upon a Jewish folktale. The watercolor illustrations add to the humor of the story. The back of the book has a glossary of words that are used in the story. There's also a selection of recipes of some traditional Jewish dishes that are prepared and served on Jewish holidays. An educator's guide is also available to download.

Looking Ahead

May is Get Caught Reading Month: Share a magazine, favorite book or audio-book with a friend

May 1: Mother Goose Day – Read a nursery rhyme to a younger student or family member

May 8-12: Teacher Appreciation Week – Hope you receive many expressions of gratitude

May 5: Cinco de Mayo – Enjoy some tacos or have a family dinner with a Spanish menu

May 6: National Nurses Day – Thank the nurses you know

May 6: Kentucky Derby Day – Read *D is for Derby* by Helen Wilbar

May 8: Victory in Europe Day – Celebrated as the day WWII ended with Germany's surrender

May 9: National Teacher's Day – Be sure to thank a teacher for all they do for students every day

May 10: School Nurses Day – Thank your school nurse for all they do to care for students each day

May 14: Mother's Day – Share with your mom and grandmother that you love and appreciate them

May 29: Memorial Day – Thank a Veteran and remember others who gave their life in service for our country

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

Don't forget to take advantage of some upcoming PD opportunities planned throughout Illinois.

- **May 1, 2023: Illinois Reading Council** is accepting Literacy Support Grant and International Grant applications. To find out more, visit *Awards and Grants* under *About IRC* on the [IRC Website](#).
- **May 2, 2023: Lewis and Clark Reading Council** will host a special viewing of the movie, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, from the classic book written by Judy Blume and now a movie with Rachel McAdams and Kathy Bates. The movie starts at 6:45 pm in collaboration with the Morrison Talbott Library and RMC Theater in Waterloo, Illinois.
- **May 3, 2023: IRC Webinar on Trauma 101** with **Josh Carlson** from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **May 12, 2023: Fox Valley Reading Council** will host Wine, Dine, and Collaborate from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at North Winery, 9 N 2nd Street, Geneva, Illinois.
- **May 23, 2023: Western Illinois Reading Council** will host Book Journaling with Bailey Cavanah from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at Knoxville High School, 600 E Main Street, Knoxville, Illinois.
- **June 7, 2023: IRC Webinar on Reading as a Secret Tool** with **Blue Balliett** from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **June 15, 2023: Suburban Council of IRA (SCIRA)** will host the SCIRA Summer Conference with Kass Minor from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Northshore-Skokie, 5300 W. Touhy, Skokie, Illinois.
- **June 15, 2023: Summer 2023 IRC Book Club** registrations are due.
- **June 15, 2023: IRC Prairie State Award** nominations are due.

To view the full **IRC Events Calendar**, please visit the [IRC Website](#).

QUICK LINKS

Visit the IRC Website

Full IRC Events Calendar

Latest on the IRC Conference

Available IRC Awards and Grants

Bring IRC PD to your School District

Learn more about the Illinois Reads Program

Questions? Please feel free to reach out to the Illinois Reading Council by email at irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org or by phone at 309-454-1341.

See what's also happening on our social media sites:

