



A SHOUT OUT TO SHORT BURSTS OF SHARED READING

By Maria Walther

Picture books are brimming with teaching possibilities. The carefully-crafted text and illustrations offer abundant opportunities to practice skillful reading. As children actively listen to a read-aloud, they are expanding their content knowledge, building vocabulary, strengthening listening comprehension, and much more. Did you know that you can dip back into the same picture book students enjoyed during read-aloud for a short burst of shared reading? Try it out! In this article, you'll find a quick step-by-step plan for connecting read-aloud and shared reading using the book *One Tiny Treefrog: A Countdown to Survival* by Tony Piedra and Mackenzie Joy (2023):

Step 1: Determine the focus of your read-aloud experience.

When I studied *One Tiny Treefrog*, a book that uses a countdown structure to trace the perilous lifecycle of one red-eyed frog, I decided it would be ideal for zooming in on craft and structure by noticing how authors share facts in creative ways.

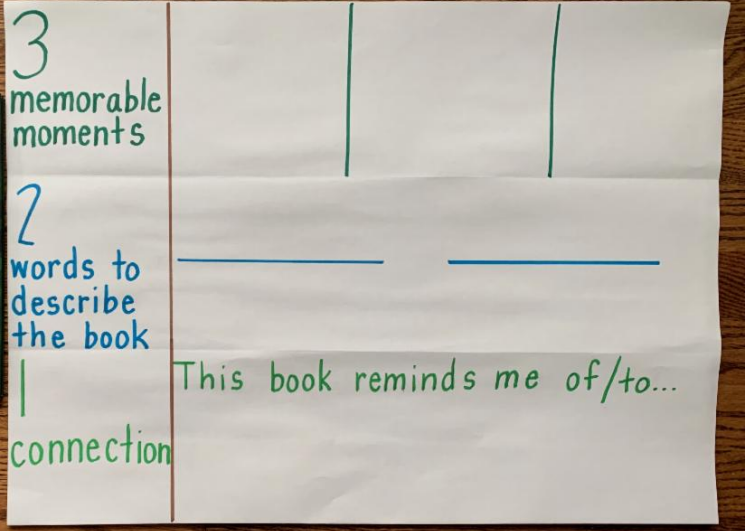
Step 2: Engage in an interactive read-aloud experience.

Before reading, invite students into the experience by discussing the cover illustration. Then, set the purpose in a conversational, kid-friendly manner. During reading, to invite conversation around this particular focus, pose questions and prompts like these:

- What do you notice about the structure or way this book is set up?
- Why do you suppose the creators chose a countdown pattern?
- Did the structure help you to better understand the main idea of this text?
- Share an interesting detail you remember.
- Did that detail appear in the words or in the illustrations?

To extend the experience, give students a blank sheet of paper divided into thirds. Show them how to record their own countdown that includes:

- Three memorable moments (key details)
- Two words to describe the book (they can write two separate words or put them together as a phrase)
- One way this book connects to their knowledge about animals or the environment



Step 3: Plan a short burst of shared reading.

After the read-aloud experience, ask yourself, "Is there something happening in either the text or illustrations that would advance students' reading knowledge?" The answer to this question can easily turn into a short burst of shared reading. A short burst of shared reading has the following characteristics:

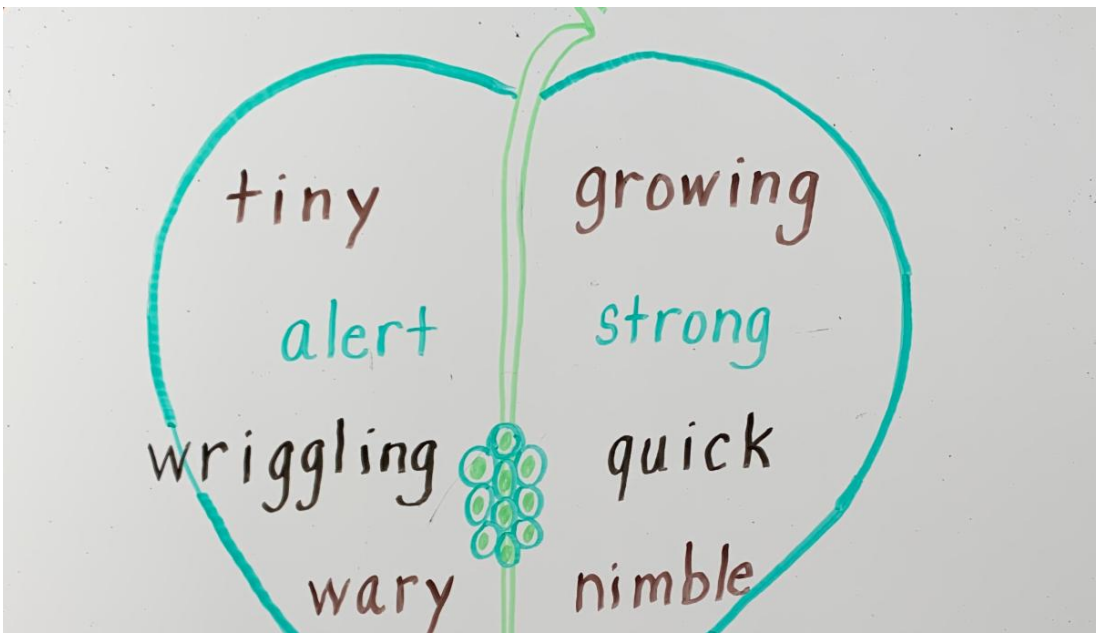
- Connects to a read-aloud experience
- Spotlights a clearly identified learning target
- Focuses on key pages or sections that illustrate the target skill or strategy
- Invites students to collaboratively reread and study key pages with teacher support
- Encourages investigation and conversation aimed at bringing a transferable skill to light

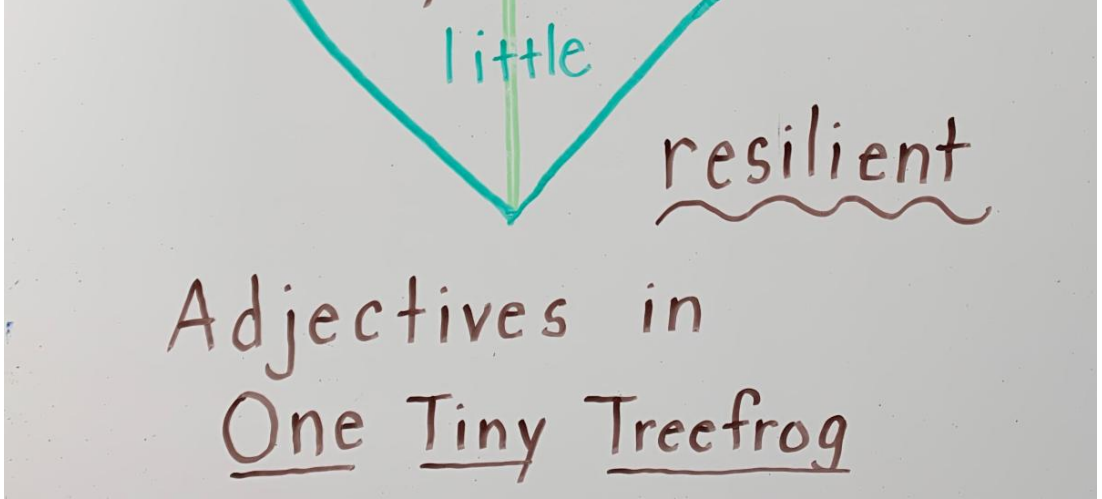
Step 4: Gather students for a short burst of shared reading.

During the short burst of shared reading, project the book so that students can see and join in on rereading and strategic problem solving. Here are two examples from *One Tiny Treefrog*.

Short Burst 1: Wonder About Words: Effective Use of Adjectives

Invite students to join in as you reread the entire book. Highlight and discuss the adjective on each page. Record them on a whiteboard for further study. Discuss how each adjective helps the reader to grasp the key details that are occurring on that particular page.





Short Burst 2: Reread to Boost Comprehension—Study the Backmatter

Later in the week, if time and interest permit, display the *Red-Eyed Tree Frog Life Cycle* image on the second page of backmatter. Compare this diagram to the sequence of events that took place in the text. Discuss how a diagram can help summarize key details in a text. As an added bonus, words in the diagram like *hatched*, *hatching*, *froglet*, and *tadpole* offer an opportunity to demonstrate and practice applying knowledge of syllables and word parts to chunk and decode words.

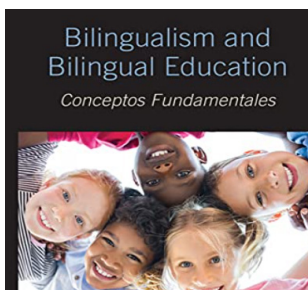
Step 5: Reflect.

Ask yourself, “What did I notice about my learners’ reactions, questions, understandings, or misunderstandings that might inform my future book experiences?” Jot these reflections in a place where you’ll remember them for next time.

When we combine the power of interactive read-aloud with short bursts of shared reading, we give our students the strategic actions they need to be successful readers. I would love to hear how you’ve linked read-aloud and shared reading in your learning context and, of course, any book titles that have connected with your students. Reach out via Instagram or Twitter @mariapwalther. If you are looking for more ideas like this one, check out [Shake Up Shared Reading](#).

IRC BILINGUAL BOOK CLUB OFFERED THIS SUMMER

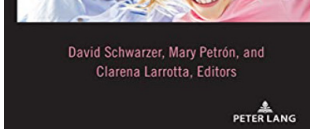
By Pat Braun and Adelfio Garcia



This summer, the Illinois Reading Council will be offering a book club for bilingual teachers who want to continue developing their biliteracy skills.

The first text we will discuss is ***Bilingualism and Bilingual Education: Conceptos Fundamentales***, written in English and Spanish, by editors, Mary Petró, Clarena Larrotta, David Schwarzer.

The book club leader will be Adelfio García. His experience in bilingual education will support the efforts of all teachers who work with bilingual students.



Starting a book club with a text written in both English and Spanish simultaneously exemplifies the underlying understanding that ALL your language resources are welcome when discussing ideas, understandings, and aha moments. This first reading in the IRC Spanish Book Club levels the participants' understanding of Bilingualism and

Bilingual Education in today's world. We are 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.

Empezando un club de lectura con un texto escrito simultáneamente en Inglés y Español, entendemos que todos los recursos lingüísticos de personas bilingües son bienvenidos, especialmente cuando compartimos nuestras ideas, entendimientos y momentos de reflexión. Esta primera lectura nivelará el conocimiento y entendimiento del bilingüismo y la educación bilingüe en estos días. Pedimos a los participantes que se sientan cómodos usando sus mejores recursos lingüísticos bilingües, así como los hacen socialmente y académicamente.

Please watch your email and the IRC website for more information and registration to open soon.

CARA READS ALOUD THIS SPRING

By Laura St. John, CARA President

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, the Chicago Area Reading Association will present *CARA Reads Aloud* – a literacy social where teachers can share best practices about their favorite books to read aloud, join breakout sessions about the read-aloud, and hear from instructional leader, Marquette McClinton. The event will occur from 5:00–7:30 p.m. at Beethoven Elementary School at 25 W. 47th St. Chicago, IL 60609.

One of my favorite parts of working in Chicago classrooms is when I get to read a new story aloud to my students. I love it when a room gasps in surprise or cheers for a favorite character. When that happens, I know that my class has transcended reading only for the sake of academic achievement and we have moved into reading for pleasure and entertainment.

The read-aloud can be a beacon that guides students into a text. There will be moments when the audience is scared. There will be moments when they laugh. There will be moments when they wonder what happens next. There will be moments when they just don't want you to stop reading.

One of the topics I'll explore at *CARA Reads Aloud* is how to incorporate elements of performance into your read-aloud, including simple techniques for incorporating physical gesture and movement, as well as clear character voices. I will also share an activity to get your students performing lines from the text.

If you'd like to explore reading stories aloud with other educators, I hope you'll consider registering for *CARA Reads Aloud* this spring. A registration link is below.

[Register Today!](#)

IRC AWARDS AND GRANTS AT THE 2023 IRC CONFERENCE

By the Illinois Reading Council

Barack Obama Literacy Fund Award

Rachel Heckman

This award is a classroom library, valued at \$1000, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the IRC from (then) Senator Obama. This collection comprises carefully selected literature that is "culturally relevant" for African-American readers and targets students in the middle-school (5th-8th) grade

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Children's Writing

Steven L. Layne – 2023

Joelle Charbonneau – 2022

Blue Balliett – 2021

This award recognizes an Illinois Children's or YA author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and

range. The next award due date is November 1st.

Family Literacy Award

Wendy Streit

This award recognizes an IRC member who promotes and supports parent involvement in children's reading. The next award due date is November 1st.

IRC Hall of Fame Award

Kathleen Sweeney

IRC has designed the Hall of Fame to recognize significant contributions to reading or reading education. The next award due date is November 1st.

IRC Service Award

Stephanie Benson

The IRC Service Award will be awarded to the most deserving individuals for their service to IRC. The next award due date is November 1st.

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award

Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley

This award recognizes an outstanding teacher who makes contributions in promoting literacy among students, colleagues, and school communities. The next award due date is November 1st.

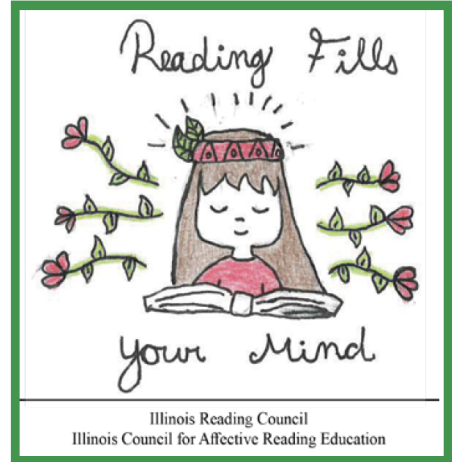
embraces an important part of the mission of the Illinois Reading Council—to promote lifelong literacy. The next award due date is June 15th.

Static Sticker Decal Contest

Ana-Elisa Scheick,

Leland Elementary School

Students in grade 4, 5, or 6 are encouraged to create an original design promoting reading. The winning design is printed on static stick decals. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 15.



The Illinois Reading Council is also accepting grant applications for the following programs:

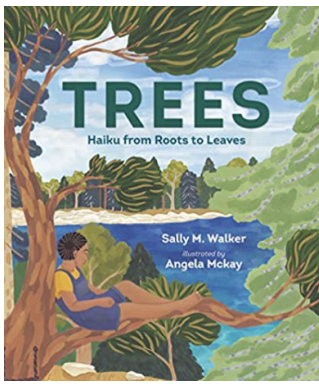
- **International Grant:** The International Committee of the Illinois Reading Council has created a grant to promote literacy projects internationally. Studies indicate that poverty levels and literacy rates are inversely proportional. By supporting our international community in the areas of literacy, it in turn improves our universal society. The IRC wants to support these efforts. The [Grant Application and Guidelines](#) are available online. The maximum amount per grant is \$500. The application deadline is May 1. Grants will be awarded for the next fiscal year from July to June. Awards will be announced by July 15.
- **Literacy Support Grant:** The Illinois Reading Council will award financial grants to local and special interest councils and individual council members for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the school and community, and/or providing professional development opportunities related to the improvement of reading and writing instruction. If fulfilling one of the above stated purposes requires a joint effort with another school, district, or other agency, letters stating their intended involvement are required from these agencies. The [Guidelines and Application Forms](#) are available online. There is no specific amount per grant. The amount awarded for each grant may be less than the amount requested. Application deadline is May 1. Grants will be awarded for the next fiscal year from July to June. Awards will be announced by July 15.

Visit the Awards and Grants Webpage to find out more!

FAMILY LITERACY BOOKSHELF

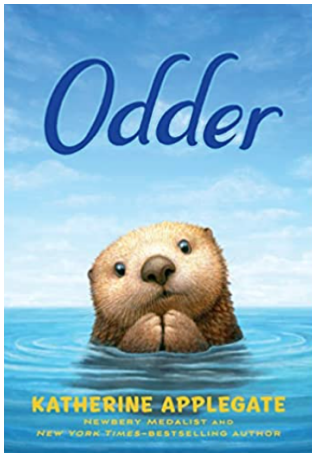
By Barb Ashton, IRC Family Literacy Committee Chair

April is heading our way with warmer weather and bright sunny days. During April we celebrate Easter, [National Library Week](#), and [National Poetry Month](#). April is also Autism Awareness Month, Sexual Assault Month, Humor Month, and the return of the baseball season.



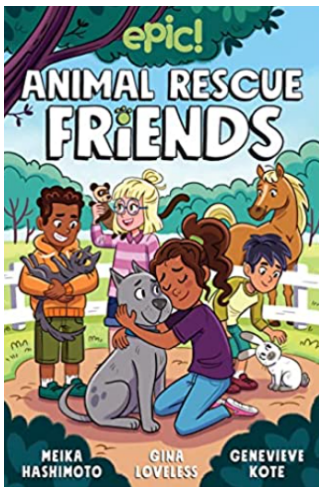
During April we celebrate poetry and its various types and forms. We also celebrate Arbor Day. **Trees: Haiku From Roots to Leaves** by Sally M. Walker, an Illinois Reads Author, uses the Haiku format to explore the structure of trees and the vital role they play within our planet. Each of the poems helps/guides the reader to learn about trees, how they change during the seasons, their growth/life cycle, how xylem tubes bring water up through the roots, trunks, branches, and even describing trees from ancient times to our present day urban forests. Some of the poems are simple with basic information about trees while others are more detailed with scientific information about trees. The watercolor illustrations by Angela McKay, bright, colorful, and bold, connect the reader to the information being presented. **Trees: Haiku From Roots to Leaves** can be enjoyed by all ages and is a great addition to your science or poetry books as it affords many opportunities

for discussion, writing, and simple research. The back of the book contains a timeline, an author's note, glossary, websites, and a wealth of information about trees.



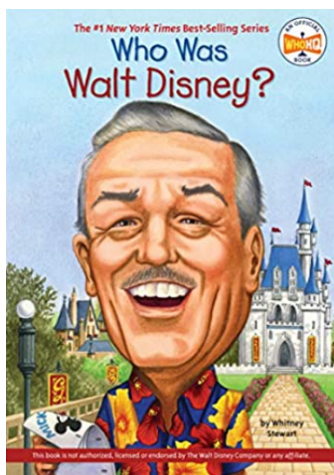
Odder by Katherine Applegate is a delightful story told in free verse about Odder, an otter pup, who is separated from her mom during a fierce sea storm and is eventually washed up on the beach. Tired, battered, and scared, Odder is rescued by workers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Odder is restored to health and eventually is returned to the wild. She makes new friends, has fun, and is somewhat of a daredevil. Moving further out to sea with her friend Kaira, Odder continues to hunt for food and practice her underwater acrobatics and deep diving skills she learned at the aquarium. Ignoring the dangers of the deep sea, Odder and Kaira are attacked by a great white shark. Badly injured, Odder and Kaira are rescued and taken to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. **Odder** makes for a great read-aloud for younger students, and for older students it provides opportunities for discussion and research on endangered animals, conservation, ecosystems, etc. The back of the book includes a glossary, author's note, bibliography, websites, and resources for young readers. Be sure to check out Monterey Bay Aquarium's website for additional information

www.montereybayaquarium.org.



April is humor month. To add a bit of humor to our lives read **Animal Rescue Friends** by Gina Loveless and Meika Hashimoto. This is a new graphic novel series that contains five stories (chapters) with four different kids who each get their own story. There is Maddie who bonds with a lost dog with no name or collar at the park. Due to a "No Dogs Allowed" policy at her apartment complex Maddie and her mom take the dog she named Boyd to the Animal Rescue Friends shelter. Maddie learns about being a volunteer and signs up so she can visit Boyd. There is Bell who already volunteers at the shelter and is somewhat bossy and mean to Maddie. However, Bell is fond of a ferret named Kiki and her kits. When the ferrets get loose, Bell learns to ask for help and returns the lost kit to Kiki. Mikey, who's shy and stutters, is excited about Adoption Day at the shelter. He comes across an injured bunny who teaches him courage to stand up to bullies, especially after a group of boys let the rescued bunnies loose to run free among the crowd of people at the adoption event. Then there's Noah who becomes attached to an ornery, stray cat that he names Pepper. Through Pepper's actions Noah begins to think about his actions and starts to realize how he could

do things differently. Even Jimmy, the biggest bully of all, learns a few things as well in order to become a better friend and person. In the last chapter Maddie has a tough decision to make as Boyd's owner finally comes forth. To learn how Maddie's final day with Boyd turns out, read **Animal Rescue Friends**. Colorful illustrations enhance this easy read graphic novel for all middle grade students. The back of the book section titled "We Make Comics" shows and explains the process the authors use to write and produce a graphic novel.



This year marks the 100th Anniversary of Disney. So who is the man behind the magic and creator of the “Happiest Place on Earth”? ***Who Was Walt Disney?*** by Whitney Stewart gives the reader an inside look at his life and his unique ability to make people laugh. From an early age, Walt loved to draw and entertain people, which sometimes led to him getting into trouble at school or at home. When Walt was bored at school he'd draw pictures at the top corners of the pages of his books and flip the pages quickly – the beginning of his love of animation. Walt got a job in Kansas City where he learned more about animation at the Kansas City Slide Company. He moved to Hollywood where the movie industry was becoming big business. He joined his brother Roy to form Disney Brothers Studio. Walt did the creative work and Roy did the financial business. As the business continued to grow, they changed the name to Walt Disney Studios. Walt created a new cartoon character named Mickey, leading to Disney success with *Steamboat Willie*, the movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and cartoon characters such as Minnie, Donald Duck, Pluto, Goofy and various

other animated movies. He began to think about an amusement park where families could come and have fun together. Thus the idea for Disneyland. Realizing this would cost millions, Walt turned to television as it was becoming the new entertainment venue. The Disney shows and *Mickey Mouse Club* became instant hits. The money from these shows and the movie *Davy Crockett* helped pay for Disneyland which opened on July 17, 1955. Always thinking of new ideas, Walt began to envision EPCOT and Disney World, to be located in Florida. Walt didn't live long enough to see Disney World and EPCOT become a reality. However, Walt's dreams continue today through books, toys, movies, and amusement parks throughout the world. *Who Was Walt Disney?* is an enjoyable book to read by children of all ages.

Looking Ahead

March 22-April 20: Ramadan

April 1: April Fool's Day – Find a funny joke and share it with someone today

April 2: International Children's Book Day – Theme is Reading Shapes the Minds of the Future

April 4: School Librarian Day – Be sure to thank your school librarian

April 9: Easter – Read a *Peter Rabbit* book

April 15-21: Money Smart Week – Visit www.moneysmartweek.org for some financial literacy ideas

April 16: National Librarian Day – Be sure to thank your local librarian

April 22: Earth Day – Theme is Invest In Our Planet

April 23-29: National Library Week – Theme is There Is More To The Story

April 26: National Pretzel Day – Grab some pretzels and read a good book

April 28: Arbor Day – Visit www.arborday.org for activities on Trees Are Terrific in All Shapes and Sizes

April 30: Dia Children's Book Day – Go to www.dia.ala.org or www.patmora.com for ideas

UPCOMING PD EVENTS

By the Illinois Reading Council

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

- **April 4, 2023: MID-State Reading Council** will host The High Five Habit Book Study from 4:30 to 5:30 pm at Gill Street Bar & Restaurant, 3002B Gill Street, Bloomington, Illinois.
- **April 5, 2023: IRC Webinar on The Impact of Anxiety on Children's Literacy: Practical Strategies That Support Children** with Beverley Holden Johns from 7:00 to 8:00 pm via Zoom Webinar.
- **April 13, 2023: Central Illinois Reading Council (CIRC)** will host Literacy as a Tool for Healing from Trauma with Julie Hoffman from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at Bella Milano, 4525 Wabash Avenue, Springfield, Illinois.
- **April 17, 2023: Prairie Area Reading Council** will host Painting with STEM & Literature with Laura Riley from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Westmont Community Center, 75 East Richmond Street, Westmont, Illinois.

- **April 19, 2023: Sauk Valley Reading Council** will host the Spring Book Study Presentation: The Adventures of Andrew Dunbar with Eric Ferguson, Author, and John Taylor, illustrator, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at Dixon Park District Facility Community Room, 1312 Washington Avenue, Dixon, Illinois.
- **April 19, 2023: Secondary Reading League (SRL)** will host the Spring Book Talk & Dinner with Lorelai Savaryn from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Javier's Sabor Mexicano, 8 W Miner Street, Arlington Heights.
- **April 20, 2023: Chicago Area Reading Association (CARA)** will host the CARA Reads Aloud with Marquette McClinton from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at Beethoven Elementary School, 25 W. 47th Street, Chicago, Illinois.
- **April 20, 2023: Southern Illinois Reading Council** will host a Spring Celebration and Short Story Contest Awards Night from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S Illinois Street, Carbondale, Illinois.
- **April 26, 2023: Starved Rock Reading Council** will host the Young Authors Celebration with Candace Fleming and Jasmine Warga from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Grand Bear Resort, 2643 IL-178, North Utica, Illinois.
- **April 27, 2023: East Central-EIU Reading Council** will host End of the Year Celebration from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Eastern Illinois University Buzzard Hall, 1920 9th Street, Charleston, Illinois.

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:

