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Volume 50, Number 2



ISSN #1082-555X

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ILLINOIS READING COUNCIL JOURNAL

Volume 50, Number 2 Spring 2022

Table of Contents

Articles

- 3 In Memoriam: Remembering Children's Book Creators Who Passed in 2021 Betsy Bird
- 7 Missing Pieces and Voices: Steps for Teachers to Engage in Science of Reading Policy and Practice Kathleen S. Howe and Teddy D. Roop
- 15 Well-Versed: Using Poetry Mentor Texts to Increase Writing Motivation Diana M. Wolf
- 27 In Pandemics, Bowling, and Life . . . Roxanne Farwick Owens
- 31 Redefining Community and Teacher Preparation: Online Tutoring Partnerships for Greater Equity in Literacy Instruction Sarah J. Donovan, Alexandra K. Dakessian, and Sumer M. Samano

Columns

- 43 Finding Common Ground: Understanding Ourselves and the World Through Literature: Multiple Perspectives: Learning from Different Worldviews Jung Kim and Deborah Augsburger
- **49 Family Engagement in Literacy: Trauma-Sensitive Family Engagement** Laurie Elish-Piper
- 54 Professional Development: Empowerment in the Time of Covid Sophie Degener, Adelfio Garcia, Ryan McCarty, and Ivy Sitkoski
- **59** Climate Justice Now: Layering Texts About the Urgent Topic of Water Justice Kristine M. Schutz and Rebecca Woodard
- 66 A Warm wELLcome for Language Learners: Techniques! Routines! Interventions! Strategies! Favorite Instructional Strategies to Help English Language Learners in the Classroom Joyce R. Bojko-Jeewek and Heather Eide, Guest Author
- 72 Authors, Books, and Beyond: Everyday Narratives of Kids of Color Christie Angleton
- 81 Calls for Contributions for Future Issues of the Illinois Reading Council Journal

The *Illinois Reading Council Journal (IRCJ)* is published quarterly and is distributed as a service to all members of the Illinois Reading Council. Membership in the Illinois Reading Council can be obtained through local and special interest reading councils in Illinois. For information, contact the Illinois Reading Council at 203 Landmark Drive, Suite B, Normal, IL 61761. IRC staff may also be reached by telephone at (309) 454-1341. Libraries and educational institutions can subscribe to *IRCJ* at an annual rate of \$40.00; address inquiries to the Executive Director at the IRC office. Because the *IRCJ* serves as an open forum, its contents do not necessarily reflect or imply endorsement or advocacy by the Illinois Reading Council, its officers, or its members.

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Publication services for the *IRCJ* are provided by Sandra K. Larimer, Copy Editor, and Shanee J. Plate, Layout/Design. Maxine Freedman and Ryan Ziencina are the graduate assistants to Editor Roxanne Owens and Assistant Editor Erik Parsons.

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Maria Peitzmeier Montalvo is a retired science teacher who has spent a lifetime creating art. All through the years of teaching and taking care of family, she kept her passion alive by taking art courses at universities and participating in workshops across the country. She loves to feature the beauty of ordinary things found in nature, from eggshells to mountains. Her artwork depicts the inspirational objects connected with thoughts of loved ones. To convey her fascination with the world, she uses oil, water-



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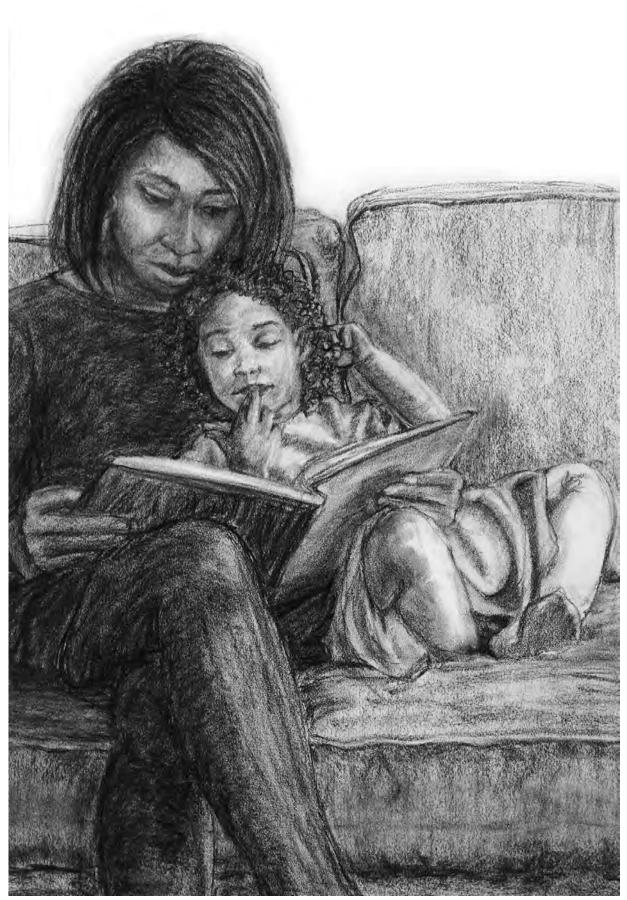
You can find more artwork from Maria and the mediums she used on pages 1, 14, 30, 41, 48, 53, 58, and 65.

Mission

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to educators as they promote and teach lifelong literacy.

Vision

The Illinois Reading Council advocates quality literacy opportunities for all learners and serves as a primary organization that provides educators at all levels access to research, materials, and methodologies to promote and teach lifelong literacy and learning. Support of an active, wellorganized system of local and special interest councils and state committees provides a viable network for communication, exchange of information, and grassroots involvement of a diverse membership. The Illinois Reading Council's publications, special projects, conferences, and workshops stimulate the personal and professional growth of educators.



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