



IMPROVING LITERACY IN OUR STATE!

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHAMPION - AN ADULT WHO WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM, WHO UNDERSTANDS THE POWER OF CONNECTION AND INSISTS THAT THEY BECOME THE BEST THEY CAN POSSIBLY BE.

RITA F. PIERSON

Newsletter

April 2016

Dear MRA Members,

This school year is quickly coming to an end. The Mississippi Reading Association has had a very busy 2015-2016 service year. Dr. Sherry Shepard hosted an excellent conference this past December. If you missed out, join us this December for the 2016 Mississippi Reading Association Conference! Contact Stephanie Peets at sopeets@yahoo.com if you would like to help. We are always in need of volunteers.



We also have a new website. If you have not seen it, check it out at msreading.org. You can now register for our conference and submit program proposals online.

As the school year comes to a close, I want to encourage you to think about what you, your students, and your colleagues will be reading this summer. Plan ahead! Hopefully, your school or district has summer reading options. If not, come up with some great ideas and share them with your students' families. The Reading Rockets and Scholastic websites have some great suggestions:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/summer-reading-tips-students-and-parents>

When you are finished planning for your students, take time to think about yourself. If you are like me and have spent most of the school year reading using the efferent stance, now is a great time to think about aesthetic reading. What do you read for enjoyment? Choose a book or two and plan to read it during the summer just for fun! Plan location, candle, and/or tea options for relaxing while you read. Change up your typical routine. Make it fun!

Then, think about your colleagues. Summer is a great time to have a low-key book club that can either focus on aesthetic reading or professional development. Either way, spending quality time with your colleagues is a great way to recharge your spirit for the new school year.

Now, I'm off to plan my summer reading list!

Best wishes,

LeAnn Carter

MRA President



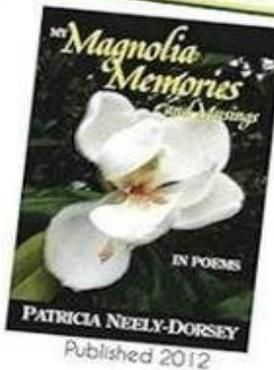
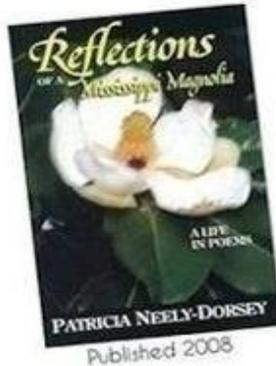
Author Spotlight:

Patricia Neely-Dorsey



Mississippi Magnolia

*Home is where the heart is,
That's what they always say;
Well, my heart is Mississippi's
In the most profoundest way:
It's who I am,
It's what I like,
It's everything to me;
A Mississippi Magnolia girl
Is all I'll ever be.*



There are so many negatives associated with Mississippi and the South in general. Through my poetry, I attempt to give a positive glimpse into the Southern way of life.

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Patricia Neely-Dorsey



MEET MY MISSISSIPPI

Faulkner's Sanctuary
Eudora's home state
Elvis' birthplace
The bulk of the Trace;
Sprawling beaches
Along the Gulf Coast shore
One blues man's crossroads
And inspiration for more;
An abundance of history
Tradition and folklore
Warm front porch welcomes
With a wide open door;
A ride down the mighty river
On the American Queen
And some of the most
Beautiful countryside
That you've ever seen
She's music and melodies
And the mockingbird's songs,
By valor and arms
And faith ever strong;
She's magnolias blooming
Around Jackson's capitol dome
And the sweet scent of honeysuckle
That forever says "home"
She's My Mississippi
She's the "Hospitality State"
"Go Mississippi"
You're a true State of Grace

Patricia Neely-Dorsey

@2013





Teacher's Gifts

By: Jo Prather



As Teacher Appreciation Week nears, students are preparing to shower their teachers with tokens of gratitude. I often think of the gifts teachers give to their students. Sometimes these gifts are the ones no one seems to notice or even know about. It turns out that they may be the best gifts of all.

Kind Words Sometimes it is hard to remember that we must say "it" one more time for a student to understand, follow directions or hear what was said. Kind words are a gift.

Smile! Everyone loves receiving this gift and usually returns one to the giver.

Welcome Every student every morning. Some come to school without hearing anything positive before they arrive. Those who do have a happy departure from home also like to know they are respected and the teacher is glad they are in school.

Sunshine A classroom that is a safe place to work and play has bits of sunshine sprinkled all around. This is a happy place for all.

Humor Laughs with the students, not at them, not allowing laughs of others to ruin the confidence of the student.

Plan The gift of good planning is a special gift from teachers. They provide the right materials to meet the needs of each student.

Listen Teachers learn so much from their students when they listen to them. Will Rogers once said, "If we were meant to talk more than we listen, we would have two mouths and one ear!"

Learn Teachers who continue to study and do research on the best teaching methods continue to grow. Think back to the things you did as a first year teacher. It was the best we knew at the time, but with study we developed more techniques, found more answers and did a better job.

READ! Read for yourself and for others. Read aloud to your students every day, in every level of learning. Find good poetry, great stories, and beautiful songs. Give them copies of the poetry and the songs. Read to them and with them. It is a great way to teach anything. Everyone likes hearing good writing. Don't forget to read to friends

