

Mississippi Reading Association

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From the Desk of the President

Time and tide wait for no man. (Chaucer) Time is what we want most, but what we use worst. (William Penn) Lost time is never found again. (Ben Franklin) Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend. (Theophrastus)

How do you manage your time with students? I confess that time management is one part of teaching that I have struggled to improve. I think I am better today than I was. So, you ask, what helped?

A few years ago a teacher friend told me about a book called The Daily 5. She was using ideas from the book to help her first graders spend more time reading independently. First graders? Independent readers? I had to read this book!

I LOVED this book. The two sisters, Gail Boushey and Joan Moser, had written about a flexible system based on reading research that included independent reading, writing, word work, and read-alouds.

Even though I teach English as a Second Language in a pull-out program, I decided that I could use some components of their plan. I began with letting my students choose books for their zip bags. We discussed what made a good fit when choosing books. Then each child chose 5-7 books and stored them in a gallon zip bag. Each group's zip bags were placed

in a plastic basket.

Most of my groups come to me daily for 45 minutes or less. Part of that time was spent on a focused language lesson. Whatever time was left the students used independently reading the books in their zip bags. About once a week they exchanged the books in their bags.

Once I had that system in place, I read their next book, The CAFÉ Book. This book explained how to teach the big reading skills that every successful reader uses. I began using the lessons in this book as my focus lessons. The book has lots of additional features that are useful to reading teachers and anyone who works with small reading groups.

Now, if you haven't read these two books, you may want to find them online or at your local bookstore and buy a copy for yourself. If you are attending the Mississippi Reading Association Conference, December 3-5 at the Beau Rivage, you will be able to hear Gail and Joan in the general session Thursday morning. Get there early. Their session is the first thing that day.

Hope to see you in December!

Janice Cate, NBCT

MRA President

IMPORTANT DATES AHEAD:

- Registration is still open for the MRA State Conference. Make sure to register for the December 3rd-5th conference at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS @ www.msreading.org.

CALLING ALL PAST MRA PRESIDENTS

LUNCHEON IN YOUR HONOR AT THE MRA STATE CONFERENCE DECEMBER 3-5 BEAU RIVAGE BILOXI, MS

CONTACT LEANN CARTER lcarter@bmc.edu



Zoom in on IRA

IRA
TEACHER
PICKS

Did you know the benefits of being a member of MRA and IRA?

Here are just a few reasons to join IRA:

All - new exclusive member resource - **IRA Bridges: Instructional Units for the Engaging Classroom** features cross-curricular units designed to support successful Common Core implementation. Each unit is created by a team of at least one classroom teacher and one researcher and promotes highly engaging, research-based classroom practices and rich student learning. Units are published quarterly and available exclusively to IRA members.

New **IRA E-ssentials** articles with up-to-the-minute, practical teaching techniques from top literacy experts such as Diane Lapp, Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, Valerie Ellery, and many more.

The current issue of your **Reading Today** member magazine, IRA's bimonthly print and digital member magazine filled with must-know news on reading education and Association events.

IRA members are part of a worldwide organization that provides evidence-based professional development and supports excellent teaching, critical research, and promotion of the lifetime reading habit.

At our Annual Conference you'll be welcomed into the global community of professionals who share your commitment to literacy. As a member, you receive substantial discounts on

registration rates.

And you can take advantage of exclusive access to content in our Members-Only web area, including links to free IRA publication content, videos, and podcasts.

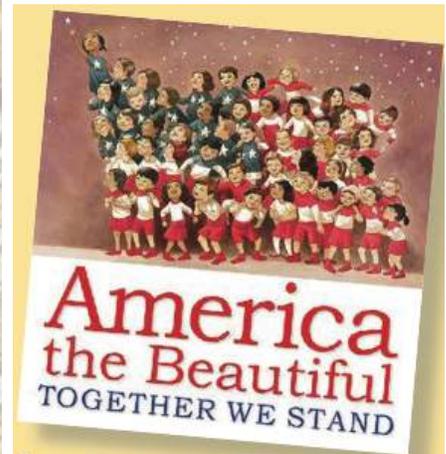
Then every month you'll receive creative, classroom-ready ideas in our quick-read, members-only e-newsletter, *IRA Inspire*.

IRA journals are the first choice of literacy educators at all levels. Are you looking for proven, practical teaching techniques for your classroom? Do you need the latest on hot topics or a deeper understanding of the essentials? IRA journals have something for you. An example of one of the many journals is: *The Reading Teacher*. If you work with children up to age 12, in *The Reading Teacher* you will find practical, evidence-based teaching ideas to meet the needs of all learners

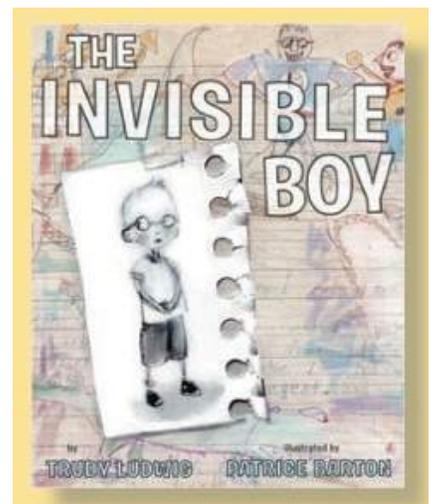
The Reading Teacher is published online and in print eight times a year: monthly from September to May, with a combined December/January issue.

As an IRA Member you may take advantage of a 20% Member Discount and choose from more than 200 IRA books, e-books, videos, and other professional development materials.

Jo Prather,
IRA State Coordinator



From America the Beautiful: Together We Stand by Katharine Lee Bates. Ill. Various. Orchard.



From The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig. Ill. Patrice Barton. Knopf.



From the editor... "What Makes an Amazing Teacher?"

What makes an amazing teacher? This depends on the caliber of students and your ability. I have met some teachers that can make the most uninteresting information golden (and vice versa, some that make interesting information very "Blah"). Of course, most of this has to do with the charismatic personality of the teacher and the mastery of content by the teacher.

A teacher's pedagogy is limited to his/her knowledge and application of best teaching practices. These best practices could span from class goal-setting, instructional delivery, and lending an ear to student inquiry.

The most effective pedagogy begins in planning. Now you may be a Grant Wiggins' Backwards Planner, or you may sit down for hours on end browsing the Internet for every lesson plan of every content area you teach, but that teacher must have a goal that he/she want their children to achieve. We must set that goal before we lay eyes on our children each day. I know I spend at least 5 to 6 hours a week just planning my instruction for the next week. In the new days

of Common Core, planning has gone from day-to-day or week-to-week to interdisciplinary units.

When you arrive in the classroom, you must be able to apply a variety of different methods of teaching to differentiate instruction for your students. In order to reach higher levels of learning and develop rigor, the child needs to meet your expectations; your students must be challenged to think deeper than they have ever thought. This means teachers need to be able to create a conducive learning environment for this to occur. We must plan effectively to create a student-centered environment as well. So teachers, KEEP CALM AND PLAN HARD!

Stay tuned for next month's, "What Makes an Amazing Teacher?"

Murray Collum

MRA Newsletter Editor

MRA CONFERENCE IN THE LIMELIGHT

Dear MRA members,

I look forward to delivering the closing keynote address at the annual reading conference in Biloxi. For those of you not familiar with me, I'm a musical, bilingual, children's author / storyteller who has a passion for getting school communities EXCITED about reading. (Some of my well-known books include *The Jazz Fly*; *Gobble, Quack, Moon*; *Cool Melons—Turn to Frogs!*; *The Moon Was at a Fiesta*, etc.)

I appreciate MRA Conference Chair LeAnn Carter's helping in sending out this special offer to schools.

Although time is short, since I'll be in the area, I can still fit in a couple of school visits before or after the MRA conference. My travel expenses from California are taken care of, **so if you would like to piggyback DYNAMIC, memorable language arts assemblies in early December, I can offer my services at affordable rates.** Here are the dates I have available as of now: Dec. 2nd, 3rd, 8th, and 9th. If interested, please drop me a line at mg@matthewgollub.com for details. Lots more about yours truly at www.matthewgollub.com.

I look forward to seeing you at MRA!
ZA-BA-ZEE, and keep jazzin',
Matthew



LOCAL COUNCIL
SPOTLIGHT

Jackson Area Reading Council

“Sweet Tea & Salsa” is the phrase this year for Jackson Area Reading Council. We are trying something different. On October 9th about 15 educators, parents, and one college student met to share lesson ideas, good books for kids, and fellowship at a local Mexican restaurant. The relaxing atmosphere aided us as we focused on the great things going on in our classrooms.

Jackson Area Reading Council has been around for a long time. Our purpose is to provide a time for teachers and other interested adults to share ideas about good books, pedagogy, and literacy research.

We usually meet four times a year on a Thursday afternoon from 4:00-5:00 pm. We have met in many different places including a book store, college of education classroom, public library, and area schools. Our membership includes public and private school teachers, college professors, administrators, and parents.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 6, 2014, at 4:00 pm. We will preview some sessions that our members are presenting at the reading conference in December at the Beau. Check the Mississippi Reading Association Facebook page for the location. If you are in the area, we would love to have you join us.

Janice Gate
MRA President

Literacy Construction Zone: Building, Scaffolding, and Landscaping Knowledge



44th Annual Conference
Mississippi Reading Association

December 3-5, 2014

Beau Rivage Resort
Biloxi, MS

www.msreading.org

Are you in the zone?



Mississippi Reading Association



@MSReadingOrg



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EMAIL YOUR ARTICLES TO: MHCOLUM@YAHOO.COM

60th Anniversary



TRANSFORMING
LIVES
THROUGH
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Annual Conference & Exhibits
July 18-20
Institute Day
July 17

