
Literacy Leaders

The Newsletter of the Kentucky Reading Association

www.kyreading.org

Fall 2017



KRA President's Message

KRA Mission

The Kentucky Reading Association is a professional organization of educators and individuals actively engaged in the development of literacy throughout the Commonwealth. KRA's mission is to be a voice for literacy. We are committed to encouraging lifelong reading for pleasure and learning, providing information related to literacy, increasing opportunities for professional growth, and promoting research-based instructional practices.

Dear KRA members,

It is hard to believe that another school year is upon us and another relaxing summer has ended. On behalf of the Kentucky Reading Association, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend the upcoming **KRA Annual Conference, October 27-28, 2017, at the Galt House in Louisville.** The theme that conference chair, Ms. Erin Wobbekind, has chosen for this two-day event is **“Open the World of Literacy: Unlock Endless Treasures.”**

As we celebrate reading for enriching our lives through this coming year, we want you to think about a few things. This has been a very unusual time, with many changes including the transforming of the International Reading Association (IRA) into the International Literacy Association (ILA). KRA will be transforming our state and local councils over the next year, and we deeply appreciate your membership and support. *Our collective voices are powerful, and I hope you will consider attending our state conference in the fall. Please plan to attend your local reading council events.*

Check out our website, www.kyreading.org, for more information on all the engaging literacy activities going on throughout Kentucky. Hope to see all of you at the Kentucky Reading Conference this Fall! Ms. Wobbekind and the conference planning committee have worked diligently to ensure that each attendee will have high quality professional development sessions from early childhood through adult education.

Local councils offer so many things to educators—quality programs, contests, grants, scholarships, and a reduced rate for conference. Consider joining the International Literacy Association as well to learn from educators around the world. We hope that you make the most of this two-day experience at our Fall conference, and in the process, make some lifelong friends, as you share stories about how you **“Open the World of Literacy: Uncover Endless Treasures.”**

Angela Ballinger

KRA President 2017-2018



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*There is no such thing as a
child who hates to read;
there are only children
who have not found
the right book.*

~Frank Serafini~



Follow KRA on Social Media!

KRA Website: www.kyreading.org & the new KRA
blog, KRA Updates: www.kyreading.org/updates

Twitter: twitter.com/kyreadingassoc

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KYReading



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KRA Notes: STATE COORDINATOR'S LETTER

from Laura Smith Crafton

Dear KRA Members,

A new school year begins, and many teachers are faced with challenges of balancing the demands on their time: family, school, work, community, and leisure time (what's that?). Foremost in most teachers' minds is their professional responsibilities as educators.

Recently, I was reminded of how far we have come as learners and teachers.

In 2016, I attended International Literacy Association's Conference in Boston. As I stood near the site of Benjamin Franklin's bookstore (now a Chipotle restaurant—time marches on!), it reminded me of Franklin's establishment in 1731 of the Library Company of Philadelphia, the first library in the American colonies. Imagine the effort needed to travel on foot or horseback or buggy to school or to a library in Franklin's day. Today, the challenges we and our students face are adapting to constantly evolving technologies.

When you consider "Literacy in a Digital World," the theme the 2017 International Literacy Day (LINK), with our diverse apps, personal devices, work software, games, movies, etc., we still come back to the essentials of learning to effectively read, write, and communicate. The formats have changed over centuries (over the past few moments, probably!), but some of the fundamentals remain the same, and we are dedicated professionals in teaching the next generation, and the next generation, and so on, to effectively communicate using written and spoken words.

Libraries and classrooms have changed since pre-Revolutionary days and they continue to evolve and be vital to their communities. As do all dedicated educators. We adapt. We innovate. We learn. We teach. We shape the future.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Laura Smith Crafton, KRA State Coordinator



*Kentucky Reading Association
Conference*

October 26-28, 2017

*Galt House
Louisville, KY*



Kentucky Reading Association Conference

Keynote Presenters

(For more bio information, please follow the links for each speaker.)

Nell K. Duke, Ed.D., is a professor in literacy, language, and culture and in the combined program in education and psychology at the University of Michigan. Duke received her Bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and her Masters and Doctoral degrees from Harvard University. Duke's work focuses on early literacy development, particularly among children living in poverty. Her specific areas of expertise include the development of informational reading and writing in young children, comprehension development and instruction in early schooling, and issues of equity in literacy education. She has served as Co-Principal Investigator of projects funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, and the George Lucas Educational Foundation, among other organizations.



Nell Duke

http://www.soe.umich.edu/people/profile/duke_nell/



Peter Johnston

Peter Johnston is Professor Emeritus at the University at Albany. His current research explores links among classroom talk, reading engagement, and children's social, emotional and literate development. Recognition for his work includes the Albert J. Harris Award from the International Literacy Association, and the State University of New York, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research. Most recently, the Literacy Research Association honored him with the P. David Pearson Scholarly Influence Award, citing his book *Choice Words* as having "demonstrably and positively influenced literacy teaching in classrooms and districts nationally." He is a member of the Reading Hall of Fame.

<https://www.stenhouse.com/authors/peter-johnston>

An award-winning author, teacher, and researcher, Ernest Morrell is the Macy Professor of English Education and Director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Ernest is also past-president of the National Council of Teachers of English, a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and an appointed member of International Literacy Association's Literacy Research Panel.

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/reading-summit/ernest-morrell>



Ernest Morrell



Jerry Pallotta

Jerry began writing books in 1986 when he was 32 years old. He got the idea for his first book, *Ocean Alphabet*, while reading to his own children and remembering all the fun he had growing up at the beach on the Massachusetts coast. This self-published title established Jerry's creative process; Jerry hired his own illustrator, designed the book, directed the art, researched, wrote and edited the text, bought paper and rented press time. While successfully selling *Ocean Alphabet*, inspiration for the next title, and the next, took hold. Information researched in the field, complimented with museum and library study grew into a series of 30 nonfiction alphabet titles that includes *Icky Bug Alphabet*, *Airplane Alphabet*, *Flower Alphabet* and *Eyeball Alphabet*. More are in the works!

<http://www.alphabetman.com>

Former Kentucky Poet Laureate, Frank X Walker is a Professor in the department of English and the African American and Africana Studies Program at the University of Kentucky and the founding editor of *Pluck! The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture*. A Cave Canem Fellow and co-founder of the Affrilachian Poets, he is the author of eight collections of poetry including, *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers*, winner of the 2014 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Poetry; and *Buffalo Dance: The Journey of York*, winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award as well as two new collections, *The Affrilachian Sonnets* and *About Flight*.

<http://www.frankxwalker.com/press.htm>



Frank X. Walker

www.kyreading.org

KRA Advocacy Action

*Contributed by Brenda J. Overturf
Chair of the KRA Governmental Relations Committee*



The mission statement for the Kentucky Reading Association (KRA) is “To be a voice for literacy.” Once again, we proved our literacy voices are loud in the Commonwealth by being awarded the International Literacy Association Advocacy Award for 2016-2017. Receiving this award takes planning ahead to *Educate, Organize, and Activate*. This is the fourth time that KRA has won the award in the last ten years.

Our identified issue was Kentucky Senate Bill 1, which is the piece of legislation that brought the Kentucky Academic Standards, a revised assessment system including program reviews, and a new teacher evaluation system. Senate Bill 1 also emphasizes literacy education. The Kentucky Reading Association has been instrumental in helping teachers understand and implement the literacy aspects of Senate Bill 1.

In our Advocacy Award application, we explained that connections and collaboration are extremely important. In Kentucky, school districts, universities, the Department of Education (KDE), and other state organizations work together in educational partnerships on a regular basis. As an example, statewide literacy development is often facilitated by the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD) in conjunction with the Kentucky Reading Association. All the leaders of CCLD are KRA members, and KRA is an official co-sponsor of many state literacy events. In addition, KRA board members represent various state organizations.

We explained that KRA was a state voice for literacy in 2016-2017 in the following ways:

- We maintained an advocacy page on the KRA website, reported on advocacy issues in our KRA newsletter, and developed an advocacy action plan.
- In partnership with the Kentucky Council of Teachers of English, we created and administered a member survey about literacy issues. We developed a white paper about the results, and sent the white paper to Kentucky legislators and professional leaders.
- We hosted a state reception for literacy leaders to discuss the results of the survey and learn about the literacy aspects of the Everyone Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that was passed in December, 2015. Our guest speaker was Dr. Rich Long, former Director of Advocacy for the International Literacy Association.
- We met with the Kentucky Education Commissioner, Stephen Pruitt, to discuss literacy issues, as well as prepared talking points for KRA members to participate in the Commissioner’s Town Hall meetings as KDE prepared for new education policy.
- We represented the need for literacy progress by attending the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Legislative Preview event and participating in Kentucky Chamber Day.

All KRA members can be voices for literacy across the state in every classroom, culture, and community. Any time you stand up for student literacy, you, too, are an advocate in the Commonwealth. 



KRA Participates in Feed the Mind Program

Contributed by Keith Lyons

Immediate Past President/Parliamentarian of KRA

The Kentucky Reading Association (KRA) and the Kentucky Council of Teachers of English/Language Arts (KCTE/LA) partnered once again to support the 4th annual Feed the Mind-Kentucky. The local Arby's franchise group from central and southern Kentucky, the Arby's Foundation, and the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development have

hosted 4th grade students from various school districts for a unique literacy celebration at Rupp Arena for several years. The previous three events included students, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, volunteers, and organizers that totaled more than 13,000 in attendance. The 2017 iteration was slated to be the largest yet. However, the minimized snow events during the 2016-2017 winter months resulted in schools having shortened calendars. This posed a scheduling issue, as the Feed the Mind event ended up falling during state testing windows, considerably reducing the participant schools' registrations. The organizers decided to cancel the April event at Rupp Arena so as not to interfere with school testing preparation and schedules.

A few schools did register for the event early on, and the Feed the Mind planning team decided to honor them. The decision was made to provide the schools who registered with the books and some supplemental resources the 4th grade students and educators would have received. KRA and KCTE/LA stepped up to take on this endeavor in appreciation of the schools'



willingness to participate and for the Feed the Mind-Kentucky/Arby's/Arby's Foundation commitment to literacy for 4th grade learners. Both professional literacy organizations contributed the funds to fully sponsor the book procurement and dissemination to the registered schools. Nearly 1,200 books were distributed to the 19 schools that initially registered for the 2017 Feed

the Mind event. (A few schools will receive their books at the beginning of this upcoming academic year, as they had already dismissed for summer break prior to the delivery schedule being established.)

In response to the KRA/KCTE book dissemination partnership, the Arby's local franchise cooperative has decided to honor the registered schools as well. During the KRA fall conference, checks will be presented to each of the schools to be used for their libraries. The superintendents and library media specialists from each school will be invited to join the conference where they will be recognized during a general session on Friday. This year's conference will be held October 26th-28th in Louisville with the theme of "Open the World of Literacy: Uncover Endless Treasures." (For more conference information, please visit: <https://www.kyreading.org/events/conference>.)

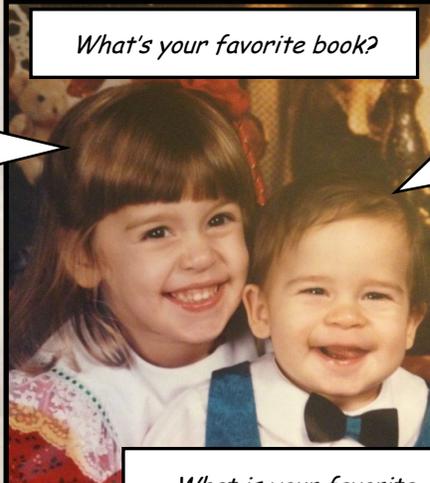
KRA and KCTE/LA share their appreciation for being a part of the Feed the Mind events, promoting literacy for learners, families, and educators. We strive to continue sharing our voices for literacy. 📖

KRA Up Close: Brother & Sister Act: Starring Kristyn Presnell & Kevin Presnell

What's your favorite book?

I am always on the hunt to find great math and science picture books that I can incorporate into my classroom.

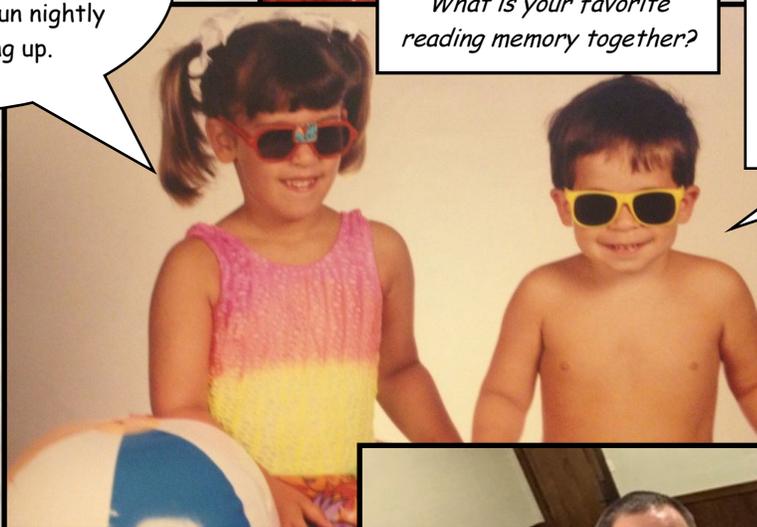
I am a sucker for a picture book....As for what I read during my free time, I really get into teen fiction, specifically the *Hunger Games* trilogy.



When my mom used to sit with us and read *The Littles* on the couch every night. It was a fun nightly ritual growing up.

What is your favorite reading memory together?

When we were on vacation one time Mom sat down to read *Huckleberry Finn*. We got to a part that was funny and we all just caught a case of the giggles and couldn't finish the chapter because of our uncontrollable laughter. Mom wasn't the happiest.



What advice would you give new teachers that will be in the same spot as you next year?

Don't get caught up with trying to make sure that everything is perfect. It will never all be perfect so you have to take things with a grain of salt and really make sure that you are teaching to the student and not the content.

ASK a lot of questions, and LISTEN to sound advice. I have been able to work with some very experienced teachers that I trust. My mentor teacher, and the other teachers in my department, are ones that I truly trust to help guide me. You can't go in and act like you know everything. You need to listen to the people that know what they're doing.



Kristyn Presnell teaches math and science at Clark Moores Middle School, and Kevin Presnell teaches social studies at Madison Central High School. Sister and brother are members of the KRA Board.

KRA Mini-Grants Awarded 2016-17

June 2016 Round

Classroom Library Grants: (\$500 each)

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Bryan Wilson, Model Lab High School (Richmond, KY)
Target Grades 9-12

Brief project description: The project is designed as an integration into a new Current Events and World Cultures class for any students in grades 9-12. The focus will concentrate on refugees and the developing strains geographically based on refugee migrations and connectivity of cultures across the world.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Taylor Patrick, Cassidy Elementary (Lexington, KY)

Target Grade: 3

Brief project description: The project is designed to create short term book clubs for 3rd grade students. Each book club will be based on specific student interests and formed around multicultural chapter books, trade books, informational texts, and magazines. The focus will be on increasing students' analytical thinking, creating more opportunities to explore genres beyond fiction to foster a love for reading, and increasing family involvement in reading.

College or University Research Grant Application 2016-17 (\$1,000)

Melissa Pendleton, Ph.D., NBCT, Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green, KY)

Abstract: The purpose of this qualitative student is to investigate what happens when a middle school social studies teacher makes intentional pedagogical decisions to incorporate literacy strategies into a course designed to explore topics related to the 2016 Presidential Election. Qualitative and design-based research methods will allow the researcher and the teacher to work together to improve implementation of content and disciplinary literacy strategies within the context of the social studies curriculum. This study is significant it informs stakeholders about 1) the coaching relationship between university faculty and a middle school teacher and 2) integration of literacy strategies into social studies curriculum.

October 2016 Round

Early Childhood Literature Grant: (\$500)

Lori Zastow, Berea Independent School (Berea, KY)

Brief project description: The project design is to create a classroom lending library to provide pre-school students books, from a variety of genres, about diverse topics, cultures, and time periods, to be read at home by their families for enjoyment and support students' cognitive and social/emotional development.

Classroom Library Grant: (K-5) (\$500)

Stephanie Jones, Lowes Elementary School (Hickory, KY)

Brief project description: The project is designed to increase the number of multicultural texts available to students in the teacher's classroom library. The ultimate goal is close the achievement gap and increase the reading level of the students served by the teacher.

Classroom Library Grant: (6-8) (\$500)

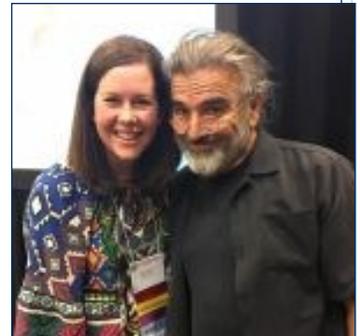
Carol Franks, Bondurant Middle School (Frankfort, KY)

Brief project description: The project is designed to build a resource library of picture books to be used as mentor texts and literacy lessons. The books and a list of the literacy/craft lesson each can support will be shared with teachers.

New Teacher Grant 2016-17: (\$500)

Alicia Wittmer, Rockfield Elementary School (Bowling Green)

This fall I was selected to receive the KRA New Teacher Mini-Grant. This grant was for any new teacher (1-3 years) that holds a teaching certificate at any level. This opportunity allowed me to attend the Kentucky Reading Association Conference in October of 2016. It was an honor to be selected. Because of this grant, I was able to take new skills and knowledge back to my school to use in my classroom, as well as, share with my colleagues. One of the best times was learning from Brod Bagert, a poet who has followed his life-goal of creating science poems for all science standards K-12. His use of poetry to learn, as well as, use as bibliotherapy was so much fun to observe! I came back home with many new ideas and new connections. I am thankful for KRA and the mini-grant to allow me to learn so much and improve myself as a reading teacher.



Alicia Wittmer with poet Brod Bagert

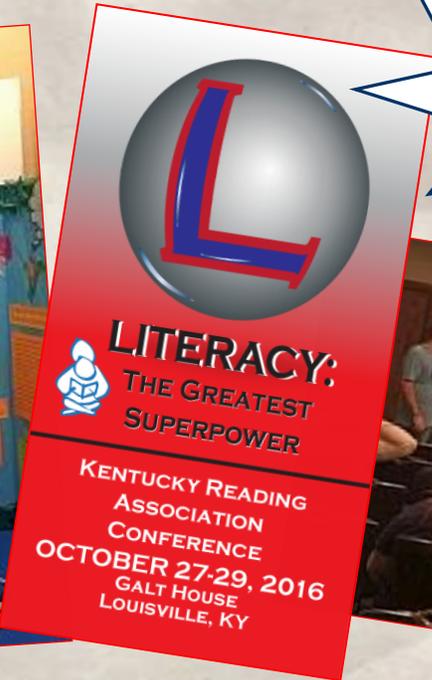
Summer Slide Grant 2016-17: (\$1,000)

Audrey Harper, Warren County School District (Bowling Green)

Abstract: Student choice and fostering a love of reading is at the heart of our program. We will create easy to use resources aligned to the KAS that parents/guardians can use to support their students in reading during the summer months while offering an incentivized reading challenge to our students. All students who participate at any level in the Summer Reading Challenge will be celebrated by having their name posted during our back to school open house. ☺

Highlights from the 2016 KRA Annual Conference: Literacy: The Greatest Superpower!

Full steam ahead, super-heroes! Showcasing literacy in STEM subjects.



Literacy Superheroes!



Literacy Power!

Some members of the hardworking 2016 KRA Conference Committee. Back row, from left: Keith Lyons, president; Angela Ballinger, president-elect and conference chair; Thelma Hawkins, membership co-chair; Zac Combs, webmaster; Roxanne Spencer, newsletter editor. Front row, from left: Bobbie Barrier, secretary; Laura Crafton, state coordinator; Peggy Stirman, immediate past president; Erin Wobbekind, membership co-chair and vice president.



2016 KRA Annual Conference Highlights (cont'd)

Ooof!!!!
THIS CART .IS. HEAVY . . .!!!

Super-heroine & KRA immediate past president Peggy Stirnsman hauls KRA conference bags to the conference registration desk.



Super-poet Brod Bagert with superheroine & KRA 2017-2018 president, Angela Ballinger



Bonnie Lash Freeman & KRA president 2016-17, Keith Lyons, share true grit and perseverance for advancing literacy education!



George and Gretchen Niva were recognized for their wonderful support over many years of KRA and to the overall field of literacy.



The Kentucky Reading Journal: Call for Manuscripts

The Kentucky Reading Journal welcomes articles that are both scholarly and practitioner-focused as well as other original contributions addressing literacy and/or literature across all grades and content areas. Classroom teachers, reading specialists, and other reading professionals are encouraged to submit manuscripts according to the guidelines indicated below.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS: Submissions may fall under the following categories:

- **Feature articles** should be approximately 10-15 pages (2500-3500 words), including references, and may include original research in literacy and/or literature, reflect the current research interests of Kentucky educators, or review best practices for multiple literacies (i.e., visual, digital, textual, or technological).
- **Teaching Tips** for engaging readers and writers should be approximately 3-5 pages and may include practical ideas for teaching literacy and/or literature. These also may include teaching vignettes that describe especially poignant or humorous classroom moments. While not required, such submissions are strengthened by the inclusion of digital components that demonstrate students' success and engagement with the teaching tips.
- **Kids' Korner** submissions may be much shorter. These submissions come from things that students have written, created, or reviewed. Audio submissions of kids reviewing literature or promoting technology tools are ideas to consider.

GUIDELINES FOR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION : Submissions must apply the following:

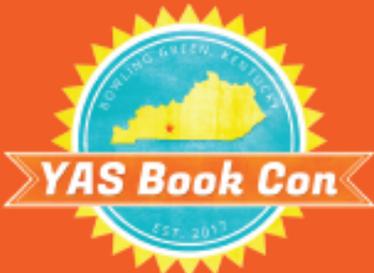
- Submit the manuscript/video electronically. Please use separate email attachments for text and each digital, audio, or video file.
- Include a cover page with the following information: the title of the article; the author's full name, position, school/library affiliation, phone number, fax number, e-mail address, complete mailing address; and a 50-100 word abstract for the article. Please include the title on the first page of the manuscript text; however, the author's name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript to insure impartial review.
- Use Microsoft Word and double space in 12 point font with 1" margins.
- Include charts, graphs, bulleted points, and/or figures wherever possible to vary the format and enhance the content of the article.
- Prepare reference lists and text citations according to the style specified in the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.
- Submit digital images as separate email attachments in .jpg format. Notations should appear in the text for proper placement of digital images (e.g., "insert photo 1 here"). Include captions or bylines for each image.
- Submit audio/video files with captions or bylines and include a written summary of the audio/video. Audio/video files should be no longer than 5 minutes but may be as brief as 1-2 minutes.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW: Manuscripts are evaluated on the basis of content, interest, organization, clarity, and style. If accepted, revisions may be requested. Manuscripts must be original works, should not have been previously published, and should not be undergoing simultaneous review for another journal. Preference is given to Kentucky authors. If an article is accepted, the editor reserves the right to make appropriate stylistic editorial changes. Authors wishing to use substantive portions of their articles accepted for publication in KRJ must give credit to KRJ for original publication.

Submit all manuscripts by July 31, 2018, to:

KRJ co-editors: Stacey Korson and Tammie Sherry

Contact and submission will be to: kentuckyreadingjournal@yahoo.com



Young Adult Southern Book Con

October 20-21, 2017
yasbookcon.org

Friday & Saturday • 9 am-2pm • FREE & open to the public

Presented by Jim Johnson Nissan



featuring Jay Asher

bestselling author of
13 Reasons Why

along with
30+ authors
of Young Adult and
Middle Grade books!

Food • Games • BookTubers • Yoga • Crafts • Author Hop



Plus: Illustration workshop with Pulitzer Prize-winning illustrator Joel Pett (Friday only! Register on site!)

School day is Friday at SKyPAC! All students welcome!

- Writing workshops
- Presentations & author panels
- Book signings
- Harry Potter trivia game, food vendors, & more!

To register and see Saturday's Author Hop Schedule:
yasbookcon.org



SOKY Book Fest

BYRS • BKPL • WKU • WKUCL

Brought to you by

- Jim Johnson Nissan
- Dollar General
- Graves Gilbert Clinic
- SKyPAC
- Friends of WKU Libraries
- Holiday Inn University Plaza
- Friends of Warren Co. Public Library

For more information, see
<https://yasbookcon.org/>



Join us
for the nation's
premier K-6 literacy
conference

Improve student reading outcomes

4
days

of outstanding professional
learning & interaction with
more than 2,000 educators

100
sessions

on classroom teaching &
literacy intervention, leadership,
coaching, & children's literature

130
speakers

to deepen your knowledge
with proven strategies you can
implement immediately

60+
exhibitors

showcasing the latest
books & products from leading
educational companies

Learn with these and other outstanding speakers



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Ellin Keene

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Tanny McGregor

Douglas Reeves

Elizabeth Kaye

Connie Briggs

Salli Forbes

Sue Duncan

Lea McGee

James Schug

Maryann McBride

Lisa Patrick

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

2018 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Literacy Conference February 17-20 in Columbus, Ohio

Register online at rrcna.org/conferences

Call 614-310-7340
for more information



Reading Recovery[®] Council
of North America

