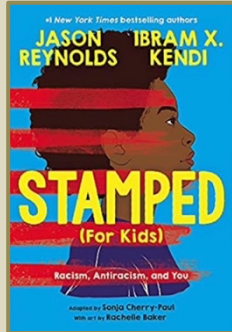




MRA 52nd Annual Conference Thursday, April 27, 2023



Welcome and Opening Keynote 8:15 AM – 9:30 AM



DR. SONJA CHERRY-PAUL

Founder, Red Clay Educators

Reading For Truth and Affirmation

Who writes a story matters. Texts are not neutral. The racial identities of creators impact the stories they create. Dr. Cherry-Paul describes two essential factors that guided her writing in *Stamped (For Kids)* and how they are critical for young readers. She addresses the importance of young people having access to books where they're able to read for truth -- both the painful and celebratory history of the United States. And she provides insights on the importance of young people accessing books in which young readers are able to read for affirmation -- where the humanity of people, specifically those who have been oppressed, is affirmed.

Sixty Minute Sessions 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Anne Irza-Leggat, Educational Marketing Manager, Candlewick Press; **Lizzy Mason**, Director of Marketing and Publicity, Page Street Kids; **Donna Spurlock**, Director of Marketing, Charlesbridge Publishing

Local Publishers Present Their Best New Books for the Classroom

Representatives from three local Boston publishers will present their best new books for the classroom for students from Kindergarten to grade 12. Connect with these local resources, learn more about upcoming books and the authors behind them, and bring your questions about the sort of books you are looking for. (K-12)

Suzanne Carroll, Elementary RTI Coordinator; **Lorraine Leddy**, Elementary Literacy Ambassador; **Annie Ward**, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, all at Mamaroneck NY Public Schools

Read More, Read Better: Voluminous Independent Reading Grows

Confident and Capable Readers

Traditional reading instruction builds students' capabilities by targeting discrete skills and strategies. In this session, learn how paying relentless attention to students' reading volume--how much high-success reading they actually do--broadens and enlivens our approach and fuels reading development. (K-12)



Deborah French, Director, T.O.H.P. Burnham Public Library; **April Wanner**, Youth Services Librarian, T.O.H.P. Burnham Public Library; **Jean Woodbury**, Retired Academic Dean, Self-employed/Author

Librarians Ignite Community Passion for Literacy and Art

Learn how Cape Ann's four libraries and community partners created a joint literacy project known as Cape Ann Reads. It included workshops, exhibits, and a contest to publish a locally conceived picture book. The grand prize? A first edition publication worth \$10,000! (K-6)

Adam Brieske-Ulenski, Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Chair of Reading Education, Bridgewater State University

The Clinical Literacy Coaching Framework: Maximizing Your Coaching Impact

This interactive session will explore the six components of the Clinical Literacy Coaching Framework. Participants will explore the ILA standards (2018) for coaching and the Literacy Coach Self-Efficacy Survey to understand their beliefs about performing those coaching components. Participants will ask questions, engage in video analysis, and reflect on the CLCF in action. (K-12)

Sixty Minute Sessions 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Continued



Janet Costa Bates
and
Timothy Basil Ering
Reading Strong



Building Resilience and Perseverance Through Picture Books

Perseverance and resilience are necessary traits in today's world. Fortunately, books can help children understand and incorporate these traits into their lives. This session will cover picture books, particularly newer ones, that can help even young children thrive in the face of adversity. (K-6) *Candlewick Press and Lee and Low Books*

Do You Believe in Yourself?

What happens when you fearlessly act on a burning desire? We all have fears, and doubts. But, when we believe in ourselves, even the darkest moments become so brightly lit with confidence that magical things happen. Especially when love is on your side! (K-12) *Candlewick Press*

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**Therese Keegan**, Classroom Teacher, Plymouth Public Schools

### ***All About #CBAD (Classroom Book a Day) and Growing Student Engagement***

Come learn about CBAD and try one way to use technology to support student access and engagement with the visual data board of #CBAD (Classroom Book a Day). Take it to the next level, give the children ownership of #CBAD data and empower them to manipulate the data board in a way that is meaningful. (K-5)

*\*\*Lois Cook Technology Session\*\**

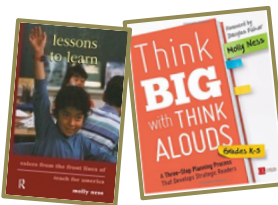
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Sixty Minute Sessions 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Molly Ness, Ph.D., VP Academic Learning, Learning Ally

Building Comprehension in Readers with Think Alouds

Think alouds are a highly effective way to build reading comprehension for K-5 students. If you aren't sure how and when to think aloud, don't know where to begin, or could brush up on your skills, join this session to learn an easy-to-implement three-step planning process. Build your confidence and ability to think aloud across text genre, content area, and grade level to improve students' comprehension. (K-8)



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**Jackie Abrams**, PreK-5 Coordinator, Canton Public Schools; **Richard Elliott**, Vice President of Sales, Sundance Newbridge Publishing; **Debbie Rooney**, Director of Teaching & Learning, Canton Public Schools

### ***Better Together! Using Decodables and Leveled Readers Together in Ways that Serve Students Best***

This presentation will support teachers' understanding of how to engage children as they are learning to read by strategically using decodable texts and leveled readers to practice and apply vital phonics and reading comprehension skills. (K-2)

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Mollie Cura, Literacy Consultant, Cura Literacy Consulting

Decodables, Leveled Text, Authentic Literature: The Necessity of Text Variety

Our classrooms are filled with various types of texts: decodables, leveled texts and trade books. Figuring out how and when to use these texts can be challenging. Do we abandon one type in favor of another? Or is there a way to meet our readers' needs using a variety? (K-5)

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**Nanci King Shepardson**, Director of Accessibility and Assistive Technology Solutions, Wilson Language Training

### ***Assistive Technologies to Facilitate Reading and Writing Skills***

Text to Speech, Speech to Text, and Word Prediction are powerful tools that facilitate the reading and writing process. Discover how to activate these tools and teach your students how to leverage them to facilitate work completion. (1-12)

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## Sixty Minute Sessions 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Continued

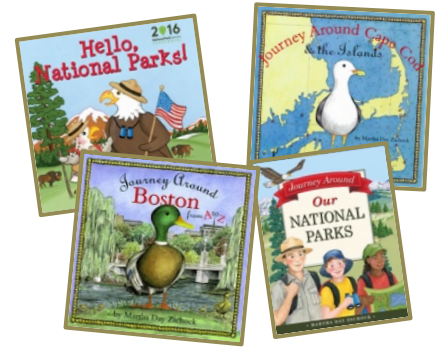
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**Martha Day Zschock**, Author and Illustrator, Arcadia Publishing,  
Conference Logo Designer

### ***The Journey of Writing and Illustrating Children's Books***

Author/Illustrator Martha Zschock will share her journey of writing/illustrating children's books. She will discuss how strategies used by "real" authors/illustrators can be mirrored in the classroom. How technology has changed the writing/illustrating process and how this opens opportunities in the world of publishing will also be discussed. (1-5)



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Maria Walther, Traveling Teacher, Author, Literacy Consultant

Short Bursts of Shared Reading = Big Gains in Foundational Skills

What's a short burst of shared reading? Join Maria to find out! Learn a predictable instructional sequence for designing effective shared reading interactions. Discover how engaging in shared book experiences boosts learners' print knowledge, promotes oral language development, and supports comprehension. Leave with a list of books and actionable ideas. (K-2)

Sylvia D. Brown Luncheon 12:45 PM – 2:30 PM

\$35



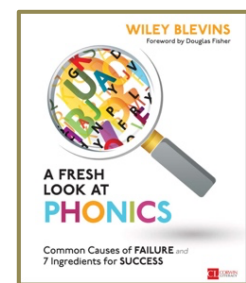
Wiley Blevins

Author and Consultant, Benchmark Education

The Science of Reading: An Update

This session will update participants on the latest national conversation around the Science of Reading and how to transfer that information to high-impact instruction.

Sponsored by Benchmark Education



Seventy-five Minute Sessions 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Kimberly Hollock, Educational Consultant/Adjunct Professor, Foundations for Futures/Bridgewater State University

The Power of Literacy Partnerships: Connecting Schools and Families

Creating powerful and lasting literacy partnerships between home and school is essential in today's world. This session will engage participants in realistic and attainable strategies that shines a light on fostering family-school literacy connections. Learn about achieving literacy partnership goals and breaking down barriers while experiencing a combination of collaboration and communication, plus an element of fun! (K-8)



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**Rebecca Ward**, Project Manager & Senior Staff Developer, Teaching & Learning Alliance, Inc.; **Jennifer Yaeger**, Director of Elementary School Partnerships, Teaching & Learning Alliance, Inc.

### ***Different Strokes: Differentiating Coaching Based on What's in the Way***

Supporting teachers is a challenge for coaches and reading specialists because teachers' content knowledge, instructional skills, motivations and dispositions are very diverse. This interactive workshop will provide a framework for understanding these differences, and a practical toolkit for matching the support we offer each adult learner. (K-6)

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Donna Mastrovito, National Literacy Consultant/Trainer, Keys to Literacy

Spotlight on Strengthening Sentence Sense

The ability to understand at the sentence level is, in many ways, the foundation for being able to comprehend text and is also important for students to compose text. This session will provide instructional suggestions for teaching sentence basics and syntactic awareness that will support the reading-writing connection. (K-5)

Seventy-five Minute Sessions 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM Continued



**Heidi Larson Hurley
and
Melissa Stewart**

Reading Nonfiction



Author and Illustrator Collaboration: Cape Cod Fun

Author Eileen and Illustrator Heidi worked together as a team to create the book, *Cape Cod Fun*. Through open dialogue and discussion, Heidi will share the ups and downs, laughs and fun in creating a children's book. (1-8) *Mascot Books*

Tips and Tools for Nonfiction Read Alouds

Many students prefer nonfiction, and yet, educators often hesitate to read it aloud. To help change that, this session provides tips and tools for (1) locating appropriate nonfiction titles, (2) reading nonfiction in a way that engages students, and (3) encouraging and facilitating student responses to nonfiction texts. (K-8)

Kathy Renfrew, Science Education Specialist, Coach, Curriculum Writer, and Reviewer, Wade Institute for Science Education, Sibme, NM **Using Science and Engineering Practices to Support Literacy Learning**

Would you like to teach your students literacy skills while engaging your students in phenomena-based instruction? Then join us in this hands-on workshop where we will show you how we improve literacy skills while doing science. We will share how we use text and talk to enhance science and literacy learning. (K-6)

Nathalie G. Ais, Public Speaking Coach/Literacy Coach, ASERTIV.com, Cambridge Public Schools, NCTE, Connie Jacquays, Co-founder and Co-director of PocketConnie, Director of Boston Teacher Residency Induction Program

"I See": Teaching About Race and Racism with Kindergarteners + Applications for All Learners

"They're too young to talk about race." But are they really? Research shows children see race much younger than adults are ready to talk about. How can interactive read alouds and critical conversations help Kindergarteners understand racism? This workshop will review the research and delve into a sample lesson to provide practical analysis. We'll peak into what a Kindergarten teacher, Junior Kindergarten assistant teacher and literacy coach learned in their journey to engage in anti-bias and anti-racist teaching, supported by a school wide ABAR curriculum. (K-5)

Afternoon Keynote 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

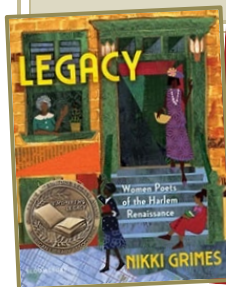
NIKKI GRIMES

Author, Poet

2023 Children's Literature Award Recipient

New York Times bestselling author Nikki Grimes is the recipient of the 2022 Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2020 ALAN Award for outstanding contributions to young adult literature, the 2017 Children's Literature Legacy Award, the 2016 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and the 2006 NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. Her distinguished works include the much-honored books *Garvey's Choice*, ALA Notable book *Southwest Sunrise*, Coretta Scott King Award winner *Bronx Masquerade*, and five Coretta Scott King Author Honor books, Printz and Siebert Honor winner *Ordinary Hazards*, Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor *One Last Word*, its companion *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance*, and New York Times Bestseller *Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice*. Creator of the popular *Meet Danitra Brown*, *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel*, *Bedtime for Sweet Creatures*, and *Off to See the Sea*, Ms. Grimes lives in Corona, California.

Sponsored by WordSong/ Astra House Publishing



Authors and Appetizers

Enjoy appetizers while listening to authors and illustrators speak informally or read excerpts from their favorite books.

Book sales and autographing, too!

BEER, WINE, AND SOFT DRINKS COURTESY OF SAVVAS LEARNING COMPANY.

Nikki Grimes

Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance, Almost Zero: A Dyanne Daniel Book, Garvey's Choice, Garvey in the Dark



Janet Costa Bates
Rica Baptista: Llamas, Iguanas, and My Very Best Friend

Jarrett Lerner
Nat the Cat Takes a Nap

Elly Swartz
Dear Student

Timothy Basil Ering
The Unexpected Love Story of Alfred Fiddleduckling

April Jones Prince
You Are a Reader!
You Are a Writer!

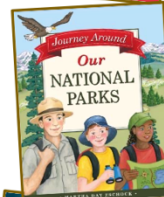
Lisa Yee
Maizy Chen's Last Chance



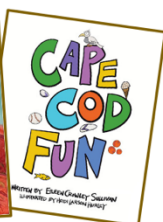
Heidi Larson Hurley
Cape Cod Fun

Melissa Stewart
Tree Hole Homes

Martha Day Zschock
Journey Around our National Parks



Lisa Stringfellow
A Comb of Wishes



BOXED LUNCH ~ \$25

Pre-ordered Boxed Lunches may be picked up between 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM in Seven Mast or Basalt where there will be tables for sitting and enjoying. All Boxed Lunches include a Piece of Fresh Fruit, Entrée Sandwich, Orzo Greek Salad, Individual Bag of Potato Chips, Dessert, and a Bottle of Water.

THURSDAY Sandwich Choices:

- 1.) **Turkey BLT** (House Roasted Turkey Breast, Applewood Smoked Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayonnaise, Swiss Cheese on a Multi Grain Roll)
- 2.) **The Beekeeper** (Shaved Deli Roasted Beef on a French Baguette, Cheddar Cheese, Horseradish Mayonnaise)
- 3.) **Balsamic Roasted Portobello** (Mozzarella, Frisee, Caramelized Onion, Red Pepper Aioli on Rustic Whole Grain Bread)

LUNCHEON WITH SPEAKER ~ \$35

THURSDAY Sylvia D. Brown Luncheon: WILEY BLEVINS

Caesar Salad (Romaine Lettuce, Parmesan Garlic Croutons, Caesar Dressing, Shaved Parmesan Cheese), choice of warm protein (Grilled Chicken or Fillet of Salmon), Chocolate Fudge Layer Cake. All Salad Entrées are Served with Warm Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea.

AUTHORS AND APPETIZERS ~ \$25

Colorful Raw Vegetable Crudite with Chef's Selection of Gluten Free Dips; Balsamic Grilled Vegetables with Gluten Free Aged Balsamic Drizzle; Imported and Domestic Sliced and Spreadable Cheeses; Gourmet Crackers, Crostini and French Baguettes, Sliced Fruits and Berries; Scallops in Applewood Smoked Bacon; Asian Breaded Chicken Strips with Chili Dipping Sauce; Beef Wellington Puffs; Vegetable Spring Rolls.