Reading, Writing and Agriculture: A Powerful Partnership
Kevin Daugherty—Director of the Illinois Center for Agricultural Engagement
Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom, Illinois Farm Families

Tammy Potts--Past President-Illinois Reading Council Founder and Chair of Illinois Reads
The Illinois Reading Council

- The Illinois Reading Council is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) professional educational literacy organization.
- IRC’s current membership consists of 4,000+ teachers, school librarians, college and university professors of pre-service teachers, as well as administrators.
- IRC has 36 Councils under its umbrella. Four Councils are state-wide, the others are “local.”
- IRC has an Executive Director and three part-time office staff members. Interns from Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan are often hired for their expertise, and a group of dedicated volunteers help out on a regular basis.
The Illinois Reading Council

Membership

Local Councils

Conference

Illinois Reads
ILLINOIS READS reflects the IRC mission:

The mission of the Illinois Reading Council is to provide support and leadership to all who promote and teach lifelong literacy.
What does ILLINOIS READS hope to accomplish?

MISSION
The mission of ILLINOIS READS is to promote life-long reading for the people of Illinois.

VISION
Our vision is that from December, to the ILLINOIS READS Book Festival in March, to Family Reading Night in November, individuals of all ages from across the state will be reading from a selected list of text, and engaging in activities in which they share their reading experiences with one another.
Jesse White
Honorary Chair, Illinois Reads
Illinois Secretary of State
State Librarian
The focus on Illinois authors (The thinking)

* If books by Illinois authors are chosen, there is a better chance of those authors visiting schools and public libraries around the state.

* It is no surprise that schools and libraries outside of the Chicagoland area, do not have the same access to authors.

* We have A LOT of great authors in Illinois!
Target audiences for 
ILLINOIS READS!

Birth-4 Years

Grades K-2

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8

High School

Adults Too!
Objectives of Illinois Reads

The main objectives of the campaign are:
• to promote read alouds (research)
• to promote the reading of good (fun) literature in Illinois classrooms
• to provide choices of good books for recreational reading by all age groups (adult book clubs)
• to provide resources and activities for classroom teachers and librarians that reflect the books chosen
• to highlight Illinois authors
• to promote the Illinois Reading Council
BOOK (choosing) GROUP WOW!

Independent Book Store Owner
Independent Book Store
Children’s Services Directors

School library-media specialists and public librarian

Director, The Center for the Book
Illinois State Library
Guidelines for choosing books

• Six books in each age/grade band
• Books by Illinois authors
• (became books by authors with TIES to Illinois)
• One S.T.E.A.M. book in each age/grade band
• One book with an Illinois agricultural connection
Our goal is to have books written in both English and in Spanish.

FRINDLE
Authors willing to support the idea and the project!
MARKETING AND MEDIA

One representative from each of the
36 IRC Councils
IRC Members
iCommunicate
Communicator
Local Press

900+ Ambassadors
IRC Technology Consultants
Time Line

November
FAMILY READING NIGHT
December
SNEAK PEAK
(new list)
March
BOOK FESTIVAL
October
CONFERENCE ACTIVITY
ACTIVITIES!

Book Festival (formerly known as the Launch)
Essay Contest: “I Love to Read” Grades 2-12
Public library events around the state
Family Reading Night events
Local IRC Council events: parades, book talks, etc.

Sneak Peak sponsored by
Illinois Agriculture In the Classroom
and
Prairie Area Reading Council
Our commitment is to move the spring event around the state.

We want ALL Illinois students to have the opportunity to meet the authors of some terrific books!
Illinois AITC and Illinois Reads

Watched the Evolution…..

‘Why Not’?

In Kind Donations
Our Network of IAITC County Coordinators, Social Media and
Web Presence

Reaching out with AITC Friendly Activities.
IAITC Selections

2017--The Inventor’s Secret
2018—The Popcorn Astronaut/
The Thing About Luck/Flip the Bird
2019--Auntie Yang’s Great Soybean Picnic
Ag Connections?

STEM - Soybean Car

Specialty Crops and Seasons

Wheat Harvest Farm Implements

Soybeans

Animal Agriculture
2020??

hmmmm
Thousands of literacy advocates, educators, and researchers will gather from October 3 - 4, 2019 for the 52nd Annual IRC Conference, Literacy in the Spotlight, at the Peoria Civic Center and Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria, Illinois.
IAITC and the Conference

Booth and Exhibits since 1998.

Now: 3-5 Workshop Sessions
Interactive Booth

Samples
• Reaching out to Reading Teachers is a PRIORITY for the Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Program.

• IRC is the primary statewide Professional Development Activity for Elementary Teachers

• IAITC uses IRC to focus on our Teacher Grants and Book Grants

• Don’t overlook the opportunity to partner with your Statewide and Local Reading Council/Reading Groups.
“Books are meat and medicine and flame and flight and flower steel, stitch, cloud and clout, and drumbeats on the air.”

Gwendolyn Brooks

Illinois Poet Laureate 1968-2000