

Literacy Conference of the

# New England Reading Association - 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

NASHUA, NH - OCTOBER 23, 24, 25, 2003

## Featured Speakers

Roger Farr, Marcia Freeman, Donna Ogle, Jerry Pallotta, Chris Tovani  
New England State Commissioners of Education

### OERI/RAND Comprehension Panel

Presenters: Catherine Snow, John Guthrie, Anne Sweet, and Joanna Williams

### New England Reading Association s Own

Karen Allan, Sue Biggam, Ann Courtney, Dot Earle, Joyce Green, Judith Hillman, Cathy Kurkjian, Helen Lanthier,  
Lee Ann Larsen, Judy LaVoie, Cindy Linehan, Donna Maxim, Louise McCannell, John Poeton, Darla Shaw

## PLUS

Helen Abadiano; Pam Alexander, Arlene Amendolara and Pam DuLong; Valerie Bang-Jensen; Larry Berger; Nick Boke; Karen Burke and Christine Mellor; Helen Byus, Julie Coiro; Joan Pedro, Mary Almeida, and MaryAnn Montano; Dayle Dickinson and Nancy Smith-Wilson; Joan Fingon; Barbara Fitzsimmons; Char Forsten and Jim Grant; Mira Gap; ; Pat Gould and Donna Niland; Joan Jacobs, Stuart Kahl and Paula Sable; Nancy Usich and Michele Lemis; Janine LeBlanc and Patricia Murphy; Mary Ann Liberati; Diane Leddy; Patricia Maestranzi and Amy Downing; Sarah Malinoski and Winter Caplanson; Kathy McKenna; Joanne McManus; Jean Mann; June Marshall; Shelly Moody and Jody Workman; Pam Mueller; Ina Nico and Pam Richard; Michael O Donnell and Tracy Warren; John Savage; Debbie Secrist; Peter Stewart; Helen McAllister and Deborah Grignon; Aaron McCannell; Ann Thompson; Amy Veilleux, Rick Matthews, Judy Keefe, Dan Jamrog, and Jackie Moulton; Deborah Wiswell; Nancy Woods; Charlene Zagrodnik

New England Reading Association  
55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
New England Reading Association  
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2003-2004

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**NERA website:** [www.nereading.org](http://www.nereading.org)

**NERA phone number** 207-838-8157

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**General Information**

**Assistance:** Anyone needing special assistance due to an identified handicapping condition please contact the business manager no later than September 23, 2003. You can do this by e-mailing [nera@maine.rr.com](mailto:nera@maine.rr.com)

**Attendance Verification:** A form will be provided in your conference packet. If you require an original signature, please see someone at conference registration table.

**Book Exhibits:** ESANE will exhibit on the ground floor of the Marriott Hotel.

**Book Sales and Autographing:** Authors' books will be available for purchase in the book room in the Crowne Plaza. Most authors will also be available for autographing after their session.

**Evaluation** forms will be included in your conference packet. Please place the completed form in one of the boxes labeled Evaluation Forms near the registration table. Thank you!

**Food:** To expedite food services, a continental breakfast and a boxed luncheon are built into the registration cost for each day. Please observe the food serving times listed in the program. A special ticket must be purchased to attend the Thursday Authors' Luncheon and to attend the banquet on Friday evening. The conference registration form contains a provision for the purchase of these tickets.

The hotels are also offering a special dinner menu and pricing for pre-paid dinners on Thursday and Friday evenings. These are \$20.00 fixed-price menus and include soup or salad, entrée, vegetable and starch du Jour. You may sign up for these on the registration form.

**Hotel Room Reservations** should be made directly with the Nashua Marriott **603-880-9100** or Crowne Plaza Hotels 603-. In order to receive the conference rate, you will need to mention that you are with the New England Reading Association Conference. The Conference room rate ranges from \$109.00 to 148.00 plus tax depending on number of people sharing a room. **Deadline for hotel room reservations is September 24.** Room rates and room availability cannot be guaranteed after this date.

**Parking** is available at both hotels. However, car-pooling is recommended. Once parked, we suggest that you do not try to drive between the hotels. They are approximately a 10-minute walk apart.

**Program Booklet:** This is the only conference program you will receive. It describes all the sessions as well as special activities. **All sessions must be pre-registered.**

**Registration:** Your conference badge admits you to sessions and exhibits. You will receive your badge at the conference registration table. We strongly recommend pre-registration as attendance is limited to 1000 daily. **All sessions must be pre-registered** and will be filled on a first registered-first served basis. A \$5.00 late fee will be assessed after October 15. You may pick up conference packets on Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.

**Registration Form:** The registration form can be found in the center of this booklet.

**Travel Directions:** Please note that traffic will be very heavy around the hotel on Thursday and Friday mornings from 7:30 — 9:00. Sharing rides is encouraged. Both hotels are located off route 3, the Everett Turnpike at Exit 8. Please check the web for driving specifications from your location.

## Thursday, October 23, 2003

**NERA Registration:** 7:00 — 3:00 in the lobby of each hotel. Pick up your materials at the hotel you indicated on your registration form.

**ESANE Educational Exhibits:** We invite you to enjoy the exciting and stimulating array of educational materials on display by The Educational Sales Association of New England in the Marriott Hotel.

**Book Sales and Autographing:** Authors' books will be available for purchase at the Crowne Plaza. Most authors will hold an autographing session after their presentation.

**Sessions:** All sessions require pre-registration. Please consult the program.

**6:30 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast — Marriott and Crowne Plaza Hotels**  
**Ticket necessary for admittance**

## Special Option for Early Risers

### **7:00 — 8:00 Early Riser Breakfast 1 with Joyce Green, Holliston, MA Schools**

#### **Crowne Plaza Hotel - Ballroom**

Every Child a Reader - Phonemic Awareness Can Help Break the Code. This session will focus on the role of structured phonemic awareness in early literacy including many suggestions that can be used in the classroom tomorrow.

### **7:00 — 8:00 Early Riser Breakfast 2 With Matthew Gollub, Children's Author and Storyteller**

#### **Marriott Hotel - Junior Ball Rooms**

As a child, Matthew Gollub was dangerously close to losing all interest in school. He will recount how extraordinary teachers reached him through their passion for reading stories aloud. He is the author of noted picture books including *The Jazz Fly*, *Gobble, Quack, Moon*, and *Cool Melons Turn to Frogs!*

## Opening General Session

8:30 — 10:00

Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballrooms

Welcome and Greetings, Mary Cerullo, President, NERA

NERA Mission, Helen Lanthier, Past-President, NERA

### **Comprehension Strategies: How to Prepare Our Students for State Assessments**

Speaker: Roger Farr

Dr. Roger Farr, currently Chancellors Professor of Education at Indiana University is a former president of IRA. Since 1985 he has served as Director of the Center for Innovation in Assessment, the hub of his extensive research and development work. Dr. Farr has taught kindergarten through graduate school and will share with us his latest thoughts on comprehension strategies.

## Opening General Session

8:30 — 10:00

Marriott Hotel Ballrooms

Welcome and Greetings, Karen Costello, President-elect, NERA

NERA Mission, Paula Dickinson, First Vice-President, NERA

## OERI/RAND Comprehension Panel

Presenters: Catherine Snow, John Guthrie, Anne Sweet, and Joanna Williams  
Moderator: Julie Coiro                      Level: Middle-High School

One of the most vexing problems facing teachers today is that many students come into classrooms without the requisite knowledge, skills, or disposition to read and comprehend materials. In an effort to inform education on ways to improve the quality and relevance of education research and development, RAND convened 14 experts with a wide range of disciplinary and methodological perspectives in the field of reading. The Study Group was charged with proposing strategic guidelines for a long-term research and development program supporting the improvement of comprehension. This report should be of interest to researchers who study reading instruction and practitioners who teach reading.

***This study is available for purchase on your registration form.***

## SESSIONS

**10:15 — 11:15A**      Spotlight on Fluency  
Presenter: John Savage, Professor, Author, and NERA Special Recognition Award  
Recipient 2000, Boston College, MA  
Place: Crowne Plaza                      Level: Elementary - Middle

Fluency has become a major concern in teaching reading. It was one of the areas studied by the National Reading Panel, is assessed as part of the NAEP, and is addressed in the professional literature. This session will describe the qualities of fluent readers, examine the relationship between fluency and comprehension, and demonstrate practical ways of developing fluency in the classroom.

**10:15 — 11:15B**      Do Early Literacy Standards Match Assessment?  
Presenter: Paula Sable, Measured Progress, Dover, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza                      Level: K-3, Administrators, And College

*No Child Left Behind* and *Reading First* are mandates that educators must address. But will these mandates help us to improve students' reading proficiency? An analysis of early literacy assessments and their alignment with state standards will be shared. Gaps and overlaps will be highlighted, and suggestions for a better fit will be discussed.

**10:15 — 11:15C**      Integrating Literacy and Technology  
Presenters: Helen McAllister and Deborah Grignon, Burnham Village School, ME  
Place: Crowne Plaza                      Level: Elementary

The presenters will show students in Grades 1-3 engaged in the use of technology during the Literacy Block. Participants will view examples of students emailing their buddies, making books, creating a Power Point Presentation, designing scrapbooks using photos taken with the digital camera, and using various software to encourage reading of quality literature to work on phonological skills and to access the net for research. **Participants should bring 5 photos of their own for the closing scrapbook activity.**

**10:15 — 11:15D**      Assessing the Critical Literacy Behaviors of Emergent Readers  
Presenters: Michael O Donnell and Tracy Warren  
University of Southern Maine Graduate Literacy Program  
Place: Crowne Plaza                      Level: Pre-K - Elementary

The most useful assessment of early literacy is informal and observational in nature and focuses on children's experiences with print. What, exactly, constitutes progress towards beginning reading and writing? A review of

the instructional goals for emergent literacy would indicate that assessment should focus on two areas: familiarity with books and stories and concepts about print. Three case studies will be used to demonstrate how teachers can make focused observations of critical early reading behaviors. Participants will be encouraged to make their own interpretations of the data. The work of Clay, Cambourne, Morrow, Gentry and Sulzby will be acknowledged.

**10:15 — 12:15**      **3A**      A Passion for Nonfiction: Hooking Kids into Reading and Writing  
Presenters: Shelly Moody and Jody Workman,  
Atwood-Tapley School, Oakland, ME  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel      Level: Elementary

Do your students run to the nonfiction section of your school library? Are you wondering how you can use nonfiction in reading and writing workshops? We will show ways that students can examine nonfiction with a critical eye through our checklists. By using the work created by our students, we will model the research process that we use in our third grade classrooms. You will leave with a packet of materials to guide students through the processes of crafting a non-fiction picture book and activities to engage them in reading for information. We will also show you how to teach your students about commonly used nonfiction conventions, such as a table of contents and labeled diagrams.

**10:15 — 12:15**      **3B**      Let s Sing! Using Music Across the Curriculum  
Presenter: Peter Stewart, Author, Composer and Teacher, Hamilton, MA  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel      Level: Pre-K - Elementary

The purpose of this presentation is to help people gain confidence in their own creativity and musical skills so that they may perform more music with the children that they teach. Topics discussed include: an overview of musical development, uses of music in the classroom, writing songs to fit your curriculum, finger play, movement, puppets, music and classroom management, ten ways to teach a song, and music and reading.

**10:15 — 11:15**      **4A**      Written Conversations: Using Dialogue Journals as a Vehicle for Differentiating Instruction  
Presenter: Dayle Dickinson, Wellesley Middle School, MA  
Place: Marriott Hotel      Level: Middle School

Dialogue journals can be a powerful tool for the diagnostic teaching of reading. Through analyzing student responses, teachers can determine individual needs in the areas of comprehension, reading rate, attitudes toward and preferences in reading. A teacher s response can nurture the strengths of each student and move all students to a deeper understanding and appreciation of their reading. Participants will explore the research, view student work, and learn practical techniques that make dialogue journals a manageable tool.

**10:15 — 11:15** ~~B~~      **4B**      The Organization and Management of an Independent Reading Component in a Middle School Language Arts Program  
Presenters: Janine LeBlanc, and Patricia Murphy, Gates School, Scituate, MA  
Place: Marriott Hotel      Level: Middle School

This session will begin by presenting some of the research supporting independent reading. A model of a successful independent reading program will be demonstrated. Specific connections will be drawn between the segments of the program and the Massachusetts Frameworks for English/Language Arts. Included will be vocabulary collection, reading responses based on entire texts and significant quotations, and personal responses focused on aspects of the text with student presentation of responses done in both oral and written format. Specific information regarding record keeping and rubrics will be shared.

**10:15 — 12:15** ~~A~~      **4C**      Butterfly Migration in the Literature and Beyond  
Presenter: Brian Cassie, Author and Teacher, MA  
Place: Marriott Hotel      Level: All

Butterfly migration is a fabulous phenomenon that is worldwide in scope. The most famous migratory butterfly, the Monarch, is widely chronicled in children's literature. We will look at some of the Monarch literature and then find out about some of the other migratory butterflies that inhabit our New England states. You may be surprised at how large migrations can be — sometimes dwarfing those of the Monarch!

**10:15 — 12:15B** Title: Content Area Reading Strategies  
Presenter: Judy Lavoie, Adjunct Professor, Plymouth State College, NH  
Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Middle and High

Frequently students at the middle and high school levels tune out their subjects not because they can't read but because they lack interest in the printed page and using a text is a laborious task. Teachers will find the strategies that they need. Graphic organizers, anticipation reaction guides, magnet summaries, and jigsaws are but a few of the strategies that will be modeled. Every concept can be implemented the very next day for ALL students not just for those having difficulty or are unmotivated.

**11:30 — 12:30A** Title: Literacy and Technology  
Presenter: Julie Coiro  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Grades 3- 8

This presentation will focus on literacy and technology. Participants will learn how to integrate traditional classroom assignments with the latest software programs and relevant technology.

**11:30 — 12:30B** Title: First Impressions  
Presenter: Charlene Zagrodnik, Jackson St. School, New Hampton, MA  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: K-2

We want young children to feel a personal relationship with art. We want them to interact with art so we engage them with questions and let them explore visual images. This presentation will allow educators to introduce and touch on a few impressionist painters such as Monet, Degas, and Van Gogh. Various books, prints, posters, post cards and videos will be displayed as well as children's work. A packet will be provided with ideas to demonstrate how art can be integrated into reading, social history, math, and poetry.

**11:30 — 12:30C** Cultural Quilting: A NERA Mini Grant:  
Presenters: Barbara Fitzsimmons, North Kingstown, RI and Darla Shaw, Southern Ct St Univ.  
Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Upper Elementary- Middle

This workshop will focus on the 50 children's quilting books that were purchased through the NERA Mini Grant Program and how they can be used for geography, research, and models of writing. It will also discuss several culminating projects.

**11:30 — 12:30D** What's It All About? Choosing Nonfiction to use with Elementary Students  
Presenter: Valerie Bang-Jensen, Saint Michael's College, VT  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Elementary

What is good nonfiction? As reading and writing standards and curricula promote the use of nonfiction in the classroom, it is crucial for teachers to develop and use criteria for selecting high quality nonfiction text. This session will provide discussion of criteria for exemplary work, the sharing of resources for finding good nonfiction, and the opportunity to examine books.

**AUTHOR LUNCHEON**  
**SPECIAL TICKET REQUIRED**  
**12:30 — 2:00**

Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Moderator, Darla Shaw, Western CT State University

**Come to the luncheon to get a preview of each author s work then follow up with one of their sessions.**

Nan Rossiter, Catherine Valente Youngquist, Nora Baskins, David Biedrzycki, Laurie Krebs, Coco De Young, and Matthew Gollub

**12:30 — 1:30 LUNCH**

**Hunt Club - Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**12:30 — 1:30 LUNCH**

**Ballrooms - Marriott Hotel**

**12:30 — 1:30 ESANE EXHIBITS**

**Marriott Hotel**

**Children s Book Sales**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel**

## Sessions

**1:30 - 2:30**

**7A** Let Them Talk!! About Books

Presenter: Patricia Maestranzi and Amy Downing, Woodbury, NH

Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Middle School

Find out about what works in middle school literature circles. A book list and techniques will be shared that teachers of grades 6-8 have used. Both presenters have employed this technique in reading and language arts classes. There will be a demonstration and time for questions and answers. This workshop is appropriate for those wanting to start literature circles and those beginning them in their classrooms.

**1:30 - 2:30**

**7B** Preparing Teachers as Educators of Character Utilizing Children s Literature

Presenter: June Marshall, St. Joseph s College, ME

Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Elementary

Character Education is an essential teaching component in many public school classrooms. Realizing that a good story can serve as a powerful teaching tool, methodology for implementing value-laden literature in public school curriculums will be examined. Bibliographies of trade books will be utilized for discussions on lesson modeling, literature circle formats, and cross-grade thematic units.

**Featured Speaker**

**1:30 - 2:30**      **7C**      Writing Education Comes of Age  
Presenter: Marcia Freeman  
Place: Marriott Hotel                      Level: All

The gap between standards and assessment looms large. Learn how to close that gap with an effective, skills-based, school-wide, writing instruction program and how to get one going in your school.

**1:30 - 2:30**    **7D**      Poetry Is For Everyone  
Presenter: Donna Maxim, Boothbay, ME  
Place: Marriott Hotel                      Level: 3-8

Come enjoy a kaleidoscope of students favorite poems and poets. Through poetry we will identify the tools of poets and explore classroom ideas for both reading and writing poetry across the curriculum. A booklist of favorite poems will be provided.

### Author Presentations

**2:15 — 4:15**      **8A**      Dial Has Gone Digital  
Presenter: David Biedrzycki, Author  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel                      Level: Elementary

Take a digital journey through his new book *Ace Lacewing, Bug Detective*. He will discuss idea origination as well as character and story development, working with a publisher, editor, and an art director. It s a humorous and informative behind-the-scenes look at digital art and story development.

**2:15 — 4:15**      **8B**      Beyond the Book  
Presenter: C. Coco De Young, Author, CT  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel                      Level: Elementary - Middle

This children s author will demonstrate methods relevant to bringing a book alive within the classroom atmosphere. Using her book, *A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt* and by enlisting members of the audience, Ms. De Young will show how students can actively participate in the retelling of a story.

**2:15 — 4:15**      **8C**      Author Presentation  
Presenter: Nan Rossiter, Author  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel                      Level: Elementary

**2:15 — 4:15**      **8D**      Author Presentation  
Presenter: Catherine Youngquist, Author  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel                      Level: Pre-K — Elementary

Looking beyond text and illustration, how do we make a book come alive for a child? Interactive techniques and activities to use when reading to children will be explored. We will also take a look at creative arts as an enhancement for children s literature and the role of play as an important tool in promotion of literacy.

**2:15 — 4:15**      **8E**      Bibliotherapy: Using Literature to Feel Less Alone  
Presenter: Nora Baskin, Novelist  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel                      Level: Middle, High

The author will discuss the role of memoir writing in her personal development as a novelist. She will recount the importance of reading and writing when she was a middle school student dealing with an array of confusing emotions. She found a 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher who believed in her and writing a journal, short stories, and poetry became a refuge. She will explore the benefits of creative writing in the developmental process. Ms.





**Sessions:** All sessions require pre-registration. Please consult the program.

**6:30 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast — Marriott and Crowne Plaza Hotels**  
Ticket necessary for admittance

### Special Option for Early Risers

**7:00 — 8:00 Early Riser Breakfast 1 Roundtable with Journal Editor, Cathy Kurkjian in the Marriott Hotel**  
Get the scoop on writing for the NERA Journal at breakfast with our editor and members of the editorial board. Topics of interest, requirements, and review criteria will be discussed.

**7:00 — 8:00 Early Riser Breakfast 2 With Matthew Gollub, Children's Author and Storyteller**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel** As a child, Matthew Gollub was dangerously close to losing all interest in school. He will recount how extraordinary teachers reached him through their passion for reading stories aloud. He is the author of noted picture books including *The Jazz Fly*, *Gobble*, *Quack*, *Moon*, and *Cool Melons Turn to Frogs!*

**7:00 — 8:00 Breakfast 3 - Roundtable with Dorothy Earle, NERA Second Vice-President in the Marriott Hotel.**  
Learn how to write a NERA **Helen A. Murphy Memorial Mini-Grant** and how to apply for the **Durrell, Cooper, Crossley, Research Scholarship**.

### 8:30 — 10:00 General Session

**Greetings and Welcome, Paula Dickinson, First Vice-President, NERA**

**Keynote Speaker: Donna Ogle**

**Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel** Level: All

Donna Ogle asks everyone involved in literacy education — students, families, teachers, communities, and state agencies — to come together as readers to form partnerships in order to develop literacy skills. She draws on her experience as a teacher, professor, and President of the International Reading Association when providing practical tools and classroom practices for forging partnerships to build successful reading at all grade levels.

### 8:30 — 10:30 General Session

**Greetings and Welcome, Judy Lavoie, Treasurer, NERA**

**Keynote Panel: Issues in Education in New England**

**Place: Marriott Hotel** Level: All Presenters:

State Commissioners of Education: Susan Gendron, Maine; David Driscoll, Massachusetts

;Nicholas Donohue, New Hampshire; Peter McWalters, Rhode Island;

Moderator: Leo Corriveau, Supt. of Schools, Hillsboro/Deering, NH

A round table discussion will be held with Commissioners of Education to discuss legislation including *No Child Left Behind*. Each commissioner will relate how his or her state is reacting to the decision that requires testing students of each year in grades 3-8. What better way to find out what is happening in your state than to attend a town meeting on the controversial federal legislation that impacts all of us in education?

## Sessions

### **10:15 — 12:15 10B** Questioning the Author: An Interactive Approach for Strengthening Comprehension

Presenters: Sue Biggam and Nancy Woods, Vermont Reads Institute, Montpelier, VT  
Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Elementary — Middle (3-8)

Questioning the Author is an approach designed to foster interactive and thoughtful reading of challenging text, and it is worth checking out! Developed by Beck, McKeown, Kucan, Hamilton, this approach may be used either to focus guided reading (with emphasis on helping students make inferences, paraphrase and summarize), or to support active, engaged reading of content area text. In this session we'll learn how to implement the approach and we'll practice it in small groups. There will also be opportunity for questions and discussion of how the approach might be used or adapted in classrooms and supplemental programs.

### **10:15 — 12:15 10C** A 6-12 Reading Initiative with Results! Presenter: Debbie Secrist, Great Source Education, MA Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Intermediate — High School

This session will provide an overview of secondary literacy and a context for strategic literacy instruction across all disciplines. It will show how enhancing literacy through a school-wide effort in English, social studies, science, and math can and has been effectively addressed with students.

### **10:15 — 12:15 10D** Differentiating Reading and Writing Instruction: Different Strategies for Different Learners

Presenter: Char Forsten, Author, Peterborough, NH  
Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Pre-K - Middle

There has always been a wide range of learners, however, never before have schools been faced with so many struggling students. If students are not learning the way we teach, then we must teach them the way they learn. A short overview of the foundation of differentiated instruction will be shared. The majority of the session will be spent on specific literacy techniques and strategies to meet the needs of struggling readers and writers. Teaching tools, literacy centers, and flexible-grouping ideas will also be highlighted. Many of the strategies used

to differentiate curriculum and instruction can also be used to make accommodations on standardized tests for students who have identified learning disabilities.

**10:15 — 12:15** **10E** Paragraphs and Pictures, Side-bars and Study Guides: Using Text Structure to Teach Text

Presenter: John Poeton and Nick Boke, Vermont Strategic Reading Initiative  
Place: Marriott Hotel Level: Elementary - Adult

Students who can see how their reading works are better prepared to understand what they read. Teachers who embed text structure instruction in content instruction find their students benefit in two ways: first, they understand the context better; second, they are better able to deconstruct and understand unfamiliar text. This workshop will explore several vehicles for connecting text-structure instruction with content instruction to help create independent learners who are able to understand, analyze and interpret what they read, in any subject area.

**10:15 — 11:15** **11A** Building Students Literacy Skills through Environmental Print

Presenter: Joan Fingon, Green Mountain College, VT  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Pre-K - 1

This session is designed to inspire and promote the idea of creating meaningful literacy connections for students through the use of environmental print. Come see how traffic signs, billboard advertisements, brand names of food, clothing, and other products that exists in a child s environment can enhance and reinforce literacy skills. Current research related to literacy theories, sample projects and activities using environmental print will also be presented.

**10:15 — 11:15** **11B** Streamlining Assessment: Using Handheld Computers to Speed Your Assessments and Provide Meaningful Data about Students Reading Progress

Presenter: Larry Berger, Wireless Generation, NY  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: All

Participants in this session will learn how using technology for informational reading assessment can improve a teacher s ability to help students become successful readers. Participants will also discover how technology tools such as mCLASS Reading are able to handle administrators needs for student performance data.

**10:15 — 11:15** **11C** Strategies for Writing

Presenter: Jean Mann, K-8 Literacy Consultant, Sharon, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Grades 3-6

Using authentic samples of student writing on the overhead projector, we will examine where and why the content of the writing breaks down in order to teach significant strategies in each stage of the writing process that will strengthen weak areas. Focus will be on up-front instruction of quality writing that will become the criteria students use more independently and accountably as they write. Generic rubric assessment and test writing will factor in.



12:30 — 1:30  
12:30 — 1:30

**LUNCH**  
**ESANE Exhibits**  
**Children s Book Sales**

Crowne Plaza and Marriott Hotels  
Marriott Hotel  
Crowne Plaza Hotel

## SESSIONS

1:30 — 3:30

**13A** **Featured Speaker**  
From Icky Bugs to Chocolate Math, Part II  
Jerry Pallotta  
Donna Maxim, NERA Board, presiding  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel

1:30 — 3:30

**13B** Integrate-Participate-Celebrate: Finding Your School s Creative Pulse  
through Process, Purpose, and Presentation  
Presenters: Amy Veilleux, Rick Matthews, Judy Keefe, Dan Jamrog, and Jackie Moulton,  
New Boston Central School, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Pre-K - Elementary

All creative processes — including WRITING — require an individual to participate in seven essential process strands. This workshop will explore these strands and how they relate to the success of New Boston Central School in teaching students to construct knowledge and enhance learning in a student-centered environment. Presenters will share with participants the journey the school has taken to energize the environment through the integration of writing across all disciplines.

1:30 — 3:30

**13C** Developing Fluent Readers  
Presenter: Kathy McKenna, Kearsarge Regional School District, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Elementary - Middle

Reading fluency supports comprehension and must be nurtured and developed in the classroom. This workshop will provide an overview of the current research on reading fluency, suggestions for instructional practices that support fluency, and ways to monitor and document student progress.

1:30 — 3:30

**13D** Making a Difference in Comprehension Using Picture Books  
Presenters: Karen Burke and Christine Mellor, SAD # 6, Standish, ME  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Grades 3-5 **LIMITED to 40**

Educators attending this presentation will build their understanding of the importance of building comprehension in the middle elementary years. The presentation will provide a blend of information for both novice educators and those already using some of these techniques in literacy instruction.

1:30 — 3:30

**13E** Traditional Literature: A foundation for understanding basic plot structures  
found in fiction and fantasy.  
Presenter: Joanne McManus, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: K-6

Traditional literature is a rightful part of a child's literary heritage and lays the groundwork for understanding all literature. As you meet recurring plot structures, symbols, character types, and themes you begin to build a schema for reading more sophisticated works of fiction and fantasy. This session will present K-6 teachers with a variety of fairy tales, or Marcher, from many different countries. A classroom-tested unit of study that helps students to analyze fairy tales will be examined. Students have become modern literary writers of fairy tales and their work will also be shared.

### Featured Speaker

**1:30 — 3:30**

**14 A Partnerships in Reading**

Presenter: Donna Ogle

Paula Dickinson, First-Vice President, NERA, presiding

Place: Marriott Hotel

Level: All

Donna Ogle asks everyone involved in literacy education — students, families, teachers, communities, and state agencies — to come together as readers to form partnerships in order to develop literacy skills. She draws on her experience as a teacher, professor, and President of the International Reading Association when providing practical tools and classroom practices for forging partnerships to build successful reading at all grade levels.

**1:30 —3:30**

**14 B**

Reading, Writing, and Art: Painting Words with Descriptive Language

Presenters: Pat Gould and Donna Niland, Clark School, Amherst, NH

Place: Marriott Hotel

Level: K-8 teachers and support staff

Participants in this workshop will be provided with an overview of Picture Writing and Image-Making Programs that have brought about dramatic changes within our classrooms and schools. We will share student work, quality read aloud literature to enhance the awareness of description language, and explain how we have used it throughout the curriculum. We welcome people who have taken the courses to come and share their experiences as well. Handouts will be given to explain the process, acquaint you with upcoming workshops and courses in the technique, and ideas to help get it started in your own schools.

**1:30 —2:30**

**15 A Facts, Fiction, and Poetry: How do you strategically comprehend?**

Presenter: Karen Allan, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA,

Place: Marriott Hotel

Level: All

We will explore a factual piece, a fiction piece and a poetic piece to discover what strategies we use and need to teach our intermediate, middle school, and secondary students. We will also discuss how we can teach our students to be strategic.

**1:30 —2:30**

**15 B Now I Get It! Bridging the Gap between How We Teach and What Students Need**

Presenter: Ina Nico and Pam Richard, Winneconne High School, NH

Place: Marriott Hotel

Level: Middle, High

What do high school personnel do with students who arrive their freshman year reading two or more years below grade level, dislike reading, and don't feel successful? There's the dilemma our high school faced. This session will provide an overview of how current research and best practices in reading instruction and behavioral interventions have been applied in a high school setting. Presenters will share their instructional and

behavioral interventions, as well as the data that demonstrate an increase in reading skills and confidence as a learner.

### FEATURED SPEAKER

**2:45 - 4:45 16 A** A School-wide Writing Instruction Program  
Presenter: Marcia Freeman, Writing Education Consultant and Author  
Sue Biggam, NERA Board, presiding  
Place: Crowne Plaza Level: All

The gap between standards and assessment looms large. Learn how to close that gap with an effective, skills-based, school-wide, writing instruction program and how to get one going in your school.

**2:45 - 4:45 16 B** Helping All Students Achieve Literacy: Moving Beyond Emergent Literacy  
Presenter: Susan Gately, Riviera College, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Level: All

A model for planning literacy instruction for all students with moderate special needs will be presented. A variety of tasks, methodologies and materials will be examined. Participants will explore how to modify existing materials to move students beyond emergent literacy.

**2:45 - 4:45 16 C** Strengthening Literacy Skills through the Arts  
Presenter: Mira Gap, Language Arts Consultant, Windsor Public Schools, CT  
Place: Crowne Plaza Level: Elementary

Using the Arts as a method for strengthening reading and writing skills supports Howard Gardner's multiple intelligence theory but also promotes student engagement. This workshop will demonstrate a number of drama, art, and music activities that can be used to strengthen a broad range of skills including oral language, reading fluency, text structure, vocabulary, retelling and writing. Both fiction and nonfiction texts will be used. Activities are adaptable to all students including ESL and Special Education students.

**2:45 - 4:45 16D** Techniques for a Dynamic Story Time  
Presenter: Matthew Gollub, Children's Author and Storyteller  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Pre-K — Middle

Join children's author Matthew Gollub (*The Jazz Fly*, *Cool Melons--Turn to Frogs*, etc.) for simple but powerful read-aloud techniques to make story time the most dynamic part of your class's day. Matthew will cover voice inflection, body language, and a wealth of techniques proven to engage student's body and soul. A musician and trilingual storyteller, Matthew will also share strategies to address today's multicultural class.

**2:45 - 4:45 16 E** Literature Enrichment Connections: Responding to Authentic Text  
Presenters: Helen Byus, Joan Jacobs, Nancy Usich and Michele Lemis, Avon, CT  
Place: Crowne Plaza Level: Grades 2-5

Institute participants will learn how to implement a low maintenance literature enrichment program that directly aligns itself to standardized and mastery tests. The goal of improved comprehension can be achieved by using existing curricula and novels. Students' written responses to narrative and expository texts will dramatically improve as they enjoy quality literature in small group settings. This institute will be appropriate for educators who are ready to learn more about responding to texts and the extension and enhancement of student responses.

**2:45 - 4:45**    **16 F**    It s Not Pretty! In the Trenches with Struggling Middle School Readers  
Presenter: Dayle Dickinson and Nancy Smith-Wilson Wellesley, MA  
Place: Marriott Hotel                      Level: Middle School

How can reading specialists design and implement instruction effective for our most fragile readers within the confines of the middle school schedule and curriculum demands? Come share the journey of a literacy coordinator and her intern as they chart a course of intensive instruction for fourteen seventh graders who struggle with the literacy demands of the middle school. The presenters will outline the research and rationale behind their experiment, share examples of student work, and describe successes and failures.

**2:45 - 4:45**                      **16 G**    2003 IRA Notable Books  
Presenter: Catherine Kurkjian and Helen Abadiano, Southern    Ct State University  
Place: Marriott Hotel                      Level: All

Participants will consider these outstanding books reflecting racial and ethnic and global cultures in light of the criteria by which they were selected. We will also explore teaching strategies for maximizing their global qualities in their own classrooms. Participants will receive an annotated bibliography of award books.

**2:45 - 4:45**                      **16 H**    Supervising the Reading Lesson  
Presenter: Judith Hillman, St. Michaels College, VT  
Place: Marriott Hotel                      Level: Grades 2-6 and college

This session is for experienced teachers and college supervisors who supervise/mentor student-teachers or instructional assistants in grades 2-6. If goals are clear and there is a framework for the reading lesson, a supervisor can help the novice become a better reading teacher. In this session, a framework for supervision is supplied. Through role playing and suggestions for feedback, the reading lesson is enhanced. Three types of instruction are included: literature circles, think-alouds, and DRAs.

## **Past Presidents Reception**

You are cordially invited to attend the Past Presidents Reception. Come meet and honor Past Presidents of the New England Reading Association. Cash Bar. Marriott Hotel 6:00 — 6:30 p.m.

**NERA 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Banquet and Special Recognition Awards  
Ceremony**  
(Ticket holders only)

Please join us for a delicious dinner banquet as we honor an individual from each New England state receiving this year's Special Recognition Award. Marriott Hotel 6:30 p.m.

**Speaker: John Poeton, Past President, NERA**  
**Powerful Literature: What Knocks the Socks off Readers**

**Honorees:** CT Jean Klein NH Toadstool Bookshops MA Cynthia Rizzo  
RI Kathy Hayes ME Jan Kristo VT Donald Collins

Saturday, October 25, 2003

NERA Registration: 8:00 —10:00 Crowne Plaza Hotel

**General Session**

8:30 — 10:00

Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballrooms

Welcome and Greetings, Ann Courtney, NERA Board Member  
Successful Comprehension Strategies for Struggling Older Readers  
Speaker: Chris Tovani, Author of I Read It but I Don't Get It

**10:15 — 11:30****17A** Differentiating Textbooks for Struggling Readers  
Presenters: Char Forsten and Jim Grant, Peterborough, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Middle

Many times due to the features and structure of expository textbooks, poor readers have difficulty with textbook learning. The speakers will contrast narrative writing and expository textbooks to illustrate the differences between the genres. Expository structures will be examined in the context of disenfranchising poor readers. Participants will learn more than three dozen strategies to modify textbooks and accommodate instruction for struggling readers.

**10:15 — 11:30****17C** Connecting Professional Books: Texts to Teachers to Students  
Presenter: Deborah Wiswell, Governor Wentworth School District, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: All

This session will give an overview of current professional resources supporting reading and writing. Keeping abreast of current trends in education is a professional responsibility. This session will offer recently released texts and materials. Whether your interest is in the integration of curriculum, ways to interest boys in reading, or the writing process, you will find titles to fit your needs. Attendees will receive a bibliography of the books presented.

**10:15 — 11:30****17D** Artist Alterations — The Altered Book  
Presenter: Ann Thompson, Teacher, Litchfield, ME  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: All **Limited to 40**

This hands-on session is tailored made for those of us who love the idea of rescuing books destined for the discard pile and using them to create different books, journals or scrapbooks. Recycle and transform old hard covered picture books into unique showcases for art and writing. Participants will use scissors, glue sticks, pens, and collage materials. (All supplies will be provided.)

**10:15 — 11:30****17E** Beyond Seeing the Words : Comprehending Comprehension  
Presenters: Aaron McCannell and Louise McCannell, ME SAD 53, Pittsfield, ME  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Grades 1-4

As children transition towards more complex reading, they need direct instruction and demonstrations that teach them how to tackle more complex text. Students need to learn how to sustain reading independently with a variety of genre. This session will share instructional approaches and classroom activities that address specific comprehension strategies designed to help young readers understand beyond decoding and comprehension at the literal level.

**10:15 — 11:30****17F** Beyond the Evolution of the Reading Specialist  
Presenter: Cindy Linehan, Nashua School System, NH  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Grades 1-5

Like it or not, *Reading First* (NCLB) is driving the train. What can you do to make sure your role stays on track? What should your responsibilities be and what should you learn to delegate? Discover the importance of establishing literacy teams and literacy experts in your buildings.

**10:15 — 11:30****17G** Strategy Instruction  
Presenter: Chris Tovani, Author of *I Read It but I Don't Get It*  
Place: Crowne Plaza Hotel Level: Grades Elementary-Middle

An interactive session to learn about specific strategies that promote metacognition in struggling readers.



# **New England Reading Association Journal 2003-2004 Issues**

## **Call for Papers**

### **Writing Process in the Classroom**

We invite manuscripts that address process writing in today's classrooms twenty years after its introduction. We invite reflections on its evolution and pieces exemplifying best practice. For this issue Dr. Douglas Kaufman, author/researcher on writing process, from the University of Connecticut will serve as our guest editor. Deadline: February 1, 2004.

### **Professional Development in Preservice and Inservice Education.**

In light of the synthesis of research by the Committee on Developments in the Science of Learning and the RAND Report's citation of teacher preparation as a high-priority domain, our Fall 2004 publication of the NERA Journal will focus on issues, concerns, research based practices pertaining to professional development to support the growth and development of in-service and pre-service literacy teachers. Deadline: June 1, 2004.

Please send four (4) copies of manuscripts to:  
NERA Journal  
P. O. Box 997  
Portland, ME 04104-0997

**The New England Reading Association**  
  
**Helen A. Murphy Memorial Teaching Mini-Grants  
&  
Durrell, Cooper, and Crossley Research Scholarship**

Students, teachers, specialists and administrators who are current members of NERA may submit mini-grant and/or research scholarship proposals per deadline date. Individuals or teams of educators may apply as long as one person is a current NERA member.

### How?

Please include:

- 2 copies of the complete proposal
- A resume from each member of the team
- A letter of support from your immediate supervisor or administrator

### Interested?

Download or print each proposal form from the NERA web site  
<http://www.nereading.org>

### Send to:

NERA  
P.O. Box 997  
Portland, ME 04104-0997

### Deadlines:

Helen A. Murphy Memorial Teaching Mini-Grants: postmarked by April 1. Awarded in June of each year.

Durrell, Cooper, and Crossley Research Scholarship: postmarked by Feb. 28. Awarded in March of each year.

## **New England Reading Association**

### **Call for Annual Conference Proposals 2004**

#### **Equity in Excellence**

The New England Reading Association invites you to share your expertise, best practices, and research with a group of dedicated educators. Please submit a proposal for the 2004 Conference to be held in Nashua, NH in October 2004. Deadline for receipt of your proposal is November 21, 2003. The program committee will consider all proposals. The individual submitting the proposal will be notified of the committee's decision.

Title of session: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of proposal submitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Position and/or affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email (required): \_\_\_\_\_

- **List additional presenters** (name, position, address, phone, and email) on the program description sheets.

**Program length** (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ 1 hour \_\_\_\_\_ 2 hours

**Intended audience** (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-K — 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary \_\_\_\_\_ Middle School  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School \_\_\_\_\_ College Adult \_\_\_\_\_ All

- An overhead and screen will be needed (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no  
(All other equipment is by the presenters.)

**Program description:** On a separate sheet of paper, clearly describe your program session objectives, the content to be presented, the session significance for literacy education, how it is grounded in research or practice, and the method of the presentation. Include presenter(s) qualifications.

- Include a 3-5-line description of your program EXACTLY as you wish it to appear in the NERA Conference Program.
- Attach this completed form to your program description.

**Send a hard copy to: Program Chair, NERA, and P. O. Box 997, Portland, ME 04104-0997**  
**AND send an electronic copy to: nera@maine.rr.com**

### NERA REGISTRATION Form 2003

Name (please print) : _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State, 9 digit zip : _____
<b>Confirmations will be sent by e mail only.</b> E-mail address: _____
I will pick up my registration materials at the _____ Hotel. (Put <b>either</b> Crowne Plaza <b>or</b> Marriott above.)

**Indicate your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices using the numbers and letters of the sessions.**  
**Thursday, October 23, 2003**

7:00-8:00 Optional breakfast speaker at the Crowne Plaza **OR** Marriott (check one or none only)

8:30-10:00 General Session Roger Farr **OR** Comprehension Panel (check one only).

10:15-11:15	First Choice	Second Choice
		<b>OR</b>
10:15-12:15	First Choice	Second Choice

11:30-12:30 First Choice Second Choice

12:30-2:00 AUTHORS LUNCHEON — Special Ticket Required — 20.00 please see below.
<b>OR</b>

12:30-1:30 Boxed Luncheon at (choose location) Crowne Plaza or Marriott \_\_\_\_\_.

1:30-2:30 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

2:15-4:15 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

**Friday, October 24, 2003**

**7:00 — 8:00 Optional breakfast speaker (check one or none only)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Journal Editor, Cathy Kurkjian
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Author Matthew Gollub
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Dorothy Earle, Mini-Grant and Scholarship.

8:30-10:00 General Session Donna Ogle **OR** Commissioners Panel (check one only).

10:15-11:15 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

10:15-12:15 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

11:30-12:30 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

12:30-1:30 Boxed Luncheon at (choose location) Crowne Plaza or Marriott \_\_\_\_\_.

1:30-2:30 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

**OR**

1:30-3:30 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

2:45-4:45 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

6:30 NERA Awards Banquet and Program. Special Ticket Required — \$30.00 (please see below).

**Saturday, October 25, 2003 - All sessions at Crowne Plaza**

8:30-10:00 General Session — Chris Tovani

10:15-11:30 First Choice Second Choice \_\_\_\_\_.

Groups registering from a single school or school district should register each person on a separate form using a **school address** and mail all forms in a single envelope with one purchase order or check. For groups larger than 20, please contact the business manager by e mail at [nera@maine.rr.com](mailto:nera@maine.rr.com) *Group rates cannot be refunded but participants may be substituted.*

Fees:	Single	Groups 5-10	Groups 11-20
Full Conference	\$175.00	\$170.00	\$165.00
Two days	\$135.00	\$130.00	\$125.00
One day	\$100.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 90.00
Student Full	\$50.00		
Student One day	\$20.00		

Registration Fees Include Continental Breakfast and Boxed Lunches.

Registration Fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NERA Awards Banquet and program ----- \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose** Baked Scrod \_\_\_ **or** Chicken Forestiere \_\_\_

Authors Luncheon -----	\$20.00_____
OERI/ Rand Study on Comprehension Book -----	\$20.00_____
Fixed price dinner Thursday: <b>Choose either</b> Marriott ___ <b>or</b> Crowne Plaza___ <b>Choose either</b> Prime Rib ___ <b>or</b> Pasta Primavera _____	\$20.00 _____
Fixed price dinner Friday: <b>Choose either</b> Marriott _____ <b>or</b> Crowne Plaza <b>Choose either</b> London Broil ___ <b>or</b> Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo _____	\$20.00 _____
<b>Total Amount Enclosed:</b>	\$_____

Please make checks payable to NERA and mail to NERA, P O Box 997, Portland, ME 04104-0997.