

PRAIRIE READER

A Newsletter of the North Dakota Reading Association

In This Issue...

- North Central Reading Conference Update
- Chautauqua News
- International Literacy Conference
- #weneeddiversebooks
- Statewide Book Study
- Book Reviews
- Letter from the Editor
- 2018 NDRA Conference

Letter From the President

Dear fellow literacy leaders,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to our North Dakota State Reading Association. Whether you are new to our organization or are a continuing member, it is a pleasure to share in the passion of literature! My name is Melessa Bosch and I'm your 2017-2018 NDRA President. I'm also a wife, a mom, a nana, an instructional coach, an advocate for literacy, and a huge fan of each of you as educators in our great state!



Please know that each day you turn the pages of the beloved stories you share with your students, you are touching their lives in the most amazing ways! The dedication you put into your modeled writing, the excitement you show when a student shares their own writing, and the efforts you make to help a child find

that just right book matter! It matters in who they will become as learners and thinkers, and how they will develop as kind and empathetic people in our often troubled world. Cheers to every moment you provide opportunities in writing and reading in the lives of your students!

Speaking of cheers... in just six months we will be toasting with Cheers to 50 Years as a reading association. Your NDRA board has been working for nearly two years on this celebration. Mark your calendars for April 26-28, 2018 for this exciting event to be held in Bismarck. Details for the conference and our statewide book study celebrating the featured authors at our conference can be found on our website. <http://ndra.wildapricot.org/> Please join us for amazing speakers, a downtown book crawl, a lace up for literacy walk/run, an evening of celebrating and spending time with colleagues, and so much more!

I'm honored to serve as your president. Please let me know how we can continue to support literacy in our great state by emailing me at melessabosch@gmail.com

Warm regards,

Melessa Bosch

NDRA President 2017-2018

North Central Reading Conference Update

By Kristin Hall

NCRC has been busy with our fall reading connections course. Our reading connections course started with a great kickoff evening downtown in Minot. Our first reading carousel featured 4 speakers who discussed how to increase literacy skills for students with disabilities, students who speak English as a second language, and students who have behaviors due to lacking or lagging skills. The second reading carousel featured 4 local authors who discussed their journey to becoming a writer as well as how their book could be used in the classroom. We had a family literacy night at the pumpkin patch as well as an evening of ED camp. During our Ed camp evening, NCRC completed a service project where we sorted and got food ready for the Backpack Buddies program. NCRC had a food drive prior to the evening where we sorted and packed the food. We concluded our reading connections course with a community literacy event where the members attended and learned about increasing literacy within their classrooms!

Throughout our reading connections course, NCRC has been conducting a t-shirt fundraiser. Our fun t-shirts say "Reading Is My Jam"! NCRC has successfully helped fund little free libraries at all of the elementary schools and one in a public park. All of these little free libraries are up and running. NCRC maintains our little free libraries and makes sure that they are stocked with books. This is even a project that we have students help with to encourage them to spread the love of reading! Two of our NCRC officers, Sara Medalen and Amber Sluke, are working on an international project with the organization HART. This project revolves around Girl Power and helping young girls in Haiti have access to books.

Chautauqua News

By President, Brenda Seehafer

The Chautauqua Reading Council was fortunate enough to earn Honor Council Award status for the past year from ILA. Brenda Seehafer attended the ILA Conference in July in Orlando and accepted the award on behalf of the council. It has been a while since our council has achieved this award.

The Chautauqua Reading Council had a small gathering at the home of Donna Marty for our kickoff. We discussed some ideas for the year on what to offer our members from our council and what to do to get members to join our council. We plan to keep working on our membership. We are hoping that the state Young Writers Project, the state conference in April, and the statewide book study are a draw for membership. We are hoping to have our meetings in various places to try to accommodate where our members work.

We have started working on the Silent Auction for the State Conference. If you have any ideas or suggestions for baskets, please let me know right away. You can contact me at Brenda.seehafer@k12.nd.us If you are a Bison or Fighting Hawks fan, you need to start saving your money to buy tickets at the conference as there will be baskets with those items.



Lori DiGisi of ILA Board presents Honor Council award.

International Literacy Conference

By Brenda Seebafer

I would like to thank the North Dakota Reading Association for the Travel Grant money as it helped with my expenses when I attended the International Literacy Association Conference in July in Orlando. I was able to attend various sessions on reading strategies, instructional coaching, literacy concepts, etc. I was given the opportunity to hear from authors at a Scholastic sponsored breakfast. I was able to expand on my collection of books by attending the exhibits at the conference and was able to pick up items, especially books, that were being given away. I was able to network with other professionals from the North Dakota Reading Association and meet some other wonderful educators from the state, as well. I would like to encourage others to apply for the Travel Grant. I would also like members to seriously consider attending the International Literacy Association Conference in the future, as it is a great conference.

Teacher Moves for #weneeddiversebooks

By Melissa Cournia

- ◆ **The toughest move - lean into the discomfort that might arise.**
 - ◆ Diverse books require us to talk about complex social issues. We can't shy away from this. Students need the classroom to be a safe space to explore, learn, read, and talk about these issues.
- ◆ **Self-assess the books you use.**
 - ◆ Take an inventory of all the texts you use in your classroom: read alouds, shared texts, poems, nonfiction, etc.
- ◆ **Utilize resources.**
 - ◆ #weneeddiversebooks
 - ◆ weneeddiversebooks.com
 - ◆ Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk: The Danger of a Single Story
- ◆ **Be a reader of diverse books.**
 - ◆ Teachers who teach reading must be readers, so we must also look critically at our own reading lives and the diversity in the books we choose.
- ◆ **Bless diverse books through book talks.**
 - ◆ Do book talks around an issue: refugees, homelessness, LGBTQ, etc. What we bless gets read, so we need to make sure we're blessing diverse books. When a book talk highlights books with similar issues, young readers can see the the unique stories within diverse books and find something that speaks to them.
- ◆ **Get students writing.**
 - ◆ Empower our writers. Their stories matter. When they can't find the book that speaks to them, then teach them how to write it. We need to empower our students to put voice to their stories; their stories need to be represented and added to the social dialogue.

Call For Submissions

Submissions to *Prairie Reader* must be original, unpublished work not under consideration for publication elsewhere. *Prairie Reader* publishes manuscripts that highlight innovative and research-based practices for literacy instruction in the k-12 classroom. Manuscripts should not exceed 500 words. Written permission to use any copyrighted material must be obtained beforehand and included in your submission. Ensure that your references are correct and complete. We require electronic submissions, in Word format, only. To submit articles, please email melissacournia@gmail.com. If you have any questions, contact melissacournia@gmail.com.

Winter Issue: *Celebrating Our Past and Inspiring Our Future*, Submissions Due: January 8, 2018

Spring Issue: *Reflection Moves Us Forward*, Submissions Due: May 11, 2018

Statewide Book Study:

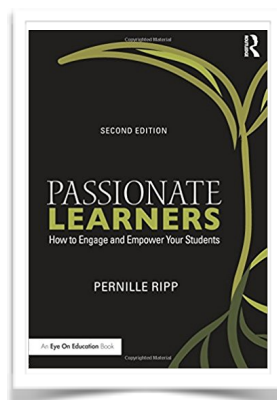
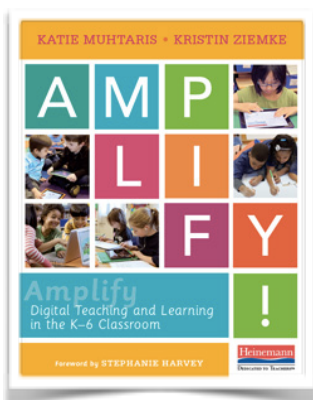
Discovering Mindset and Moves to Amplify Passionate Learners

The purpose of this statewide book study is create conversations within our communities and across the state about what 21st century literacy can look like for our North Dakota readers.

You choose who to book club with, the books you want to read, and your schedule!

Register through the NDRA website by November 15 and then purchase one of the author's books presenting at the North Dakota State Reading Conference: *Amplify*, *Passionate Learners*, or *Mindset and Moves*. You do not need to attend the conference to participate. Membership to NDRA is required for participation. Visit the NDRA website or contact Tina Pletan for more information:

tina_pletan@bismarckschools.org, 701-323-4052.

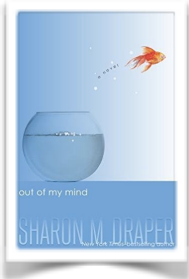


Review: *Out of My Mind*

By Kambria Hall, Age 10

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper is about a little girl named Melody who can't walk or talk. She has cerebral palsy and also has a photographic memory. Melody is

super smart, but no one realizes that since she can't talk. Melody finds a way to communicate and it changes her whole life.

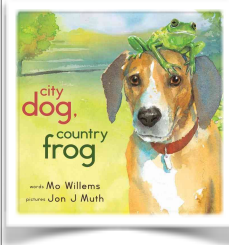


I really like how this book is very eye opening and goes to show you that even though a kid has a disability, they still have feelings and know if others are making fun of them or snickering at them. This book helped me realize that all people are capable of doing great things. I think that people of all ages should read this book because it teaches an amazing lesson. It teaches us that children with disabilities aren't different from the rest of the world. It also teaches us that everyone needs to be kind to everyone else.

Review: *City Dog, Country Frog*

By Donna Marty

Each new school year brings some anxiety for students as they may be starting a new school, have a new teacher or will not be in the same classroom as their close pals from the year prior. I have found that using the book *City Dog, Country Frog* written by Mo Willems and illustrated by Jon J. Muth helps the students to settle into a new environment and making new friends.



The book focuses on two animals that one would think would not be friends. Frog starts the story by waiting for an old friend, who does not appear, but decides that dog will be a suitable fill in. The story continues as they find ways to share what they like and teach each other new games. The next year, dog waits for frog, so they can rekindle their

friendship and pick up where they left off, but it doesn't quite work out that way. It is a great opportunity to let students express how they are feeling about leaving old friends behind and making new friends.

Not only is this a great book to help students understand that they will be making new friends each new school year, but this book should be in any teacher's toolkit if they need to assist students in learning about the seasonal changes that occur in nature.

Even though the storyline and the science concept are spot on, the most outstanding part of the book is how the illustrator gave life to the words with the use of soft watercolor paintings. I have found it very useful to refer to the paintings when I use watercolor projects in my classroom. Each year, without prompting, my students always pick the page where dog has a froggy smile!

Review: *Home of the Brave*

By Melissa Cournia

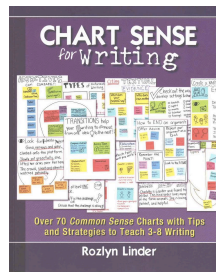
Katherine Applegate's verse novel, *Home of the Brave*, takes readers on a journey with Kek, a young Sudanese refugee, to the winter of Minnesota with only the hope of his mom's fate to hold on to. Here he is befriended by a girl in foster care, an old woman, and a cow. With the question of what this new land can give Kek, Applegate weaves together loss, laughter, and hope.



Review: *Chart Sense Series*

By Melanie Unser

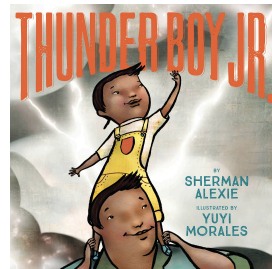
If you haven't already heard of Rozlyn Linder's *Chart Sense* books, they are a must have in today's classroom. Linder takes the guesswork out of creating anchor charts! She provides pictures of each chart, along with the age level she uses with each chart. Linder organizes her books by standards, which makes it very easy to find exactly what you're looking for. She offers teaching tips, differentiation and extension ideas, book suggestions, and grade level considerations. Another advantage to these helpful books is the fact that many of the charts are easily adjusted to fit your grade level and need. It's easy to use the K-2 book to find charts on foundational skills, while you might use the higher grade charts after simplifying. There are three different books: *Chart Sense* (the original book for 3-8 informational text and literature), *Chart Sense for Writing*, and *K-2 Chart Sense* for informational text and literature.



Review: *Thunderboy Jr.*

By Becky Taylor

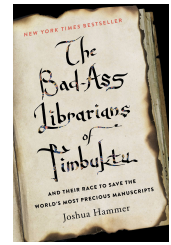
Thunderboy Jr by Sherman Alexie is the story of a Native American boy who is upset at the traditional name he was given. He wishes he could have chosen his name. Then when a storm comes, he understands why he was given the name and feels privileged to share the name with his father. This book is also one of the Flickertale nominees for the 2017-18 school year.



Review: *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*

By Becky Taylor

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu by Joshua Hammer follows the work of librarians who are trying desperately to save ancient manuscripts from the Taliban and Islamic extremist. The part that was interesting about this book was that many of the texts the extremists were trying to destroy were from the Koran.



The librarians worked with groups from around the world to digitize the texts before they were lost to the elements of the desert. They also worked to move boxes and boxes of texts down river away from invading extremist.

This book reminds us that all literature has a place in our world and that limiting what is read by others is truly censorship.

Review: *George*

By Melissa Cournia

George is a gentle story about a 5th grader trying to navigate how to get the world to see her for who she really is, a girl, not the boy everyone has always believed her to be. She wants to be able to enjoy her magazines without needing to hide them from her brother. She wants to be Charlotte in the class play despite her teacher's objections. She wants everyone else to see her as Melissa, not George. Alex Gino introduces readers to the struggle of growing up as a transgender youth. Gino's book will have you cheering Melissa on in her quest to be Charlotte and her true self.



Letter from the Editor

As your new editor, I'm excited to use Prairie Reader as a space to raise the voices of North Dakota educators who work passionately across our state to instill a love for reading in our children. My hope is this becomes a place North Dakota teachers look to for ideas and insight. With this aim, you'll see some shifts in Prairie Reader:

- A call for submissions
- Articles written by North Dakota educators
- A theme for each issue

This issue's theme is a call to action to curate our classroom, school, and community libraries to include diverse books; to book talk and bless diverse book; to think deeply together around diverse books; and to model writing after diverse books.

How many books represent the North Dakotan? How many of our students see themselves in texts? Texts about rural living. Texts about being a refugee. Texts about being Native American in today's society. Texts about being LGBTQ. Texts about being Muslim. Texts about being homeless. These are the kids who sit in our classroom everyday. These are North Dakotans. Do you have books on your shelves reflecting their lives, mirrors? Do you have books on your shelves that reveal the beauty and complexity of the world beyond North Dakota, windows?

In this issue you'll find books and resources to help you on this journey because every North Dakota reader deserves access to books that comfort and access to books that incite wonder, empathy, and compassion.

Respectfully,

Melissa Cournia

#weneeddiversebooks

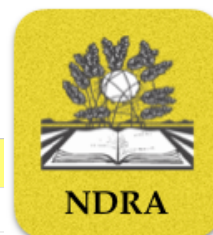




NDRA 2018 50th Anniversary Conference

• April 26-28, 2018 • Bismarck, North Dakota •

DRAFT Agenda



Downtown Bismarck	Thursday, April 26, 2018
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm	The Vault Event Center — Registration
6:30 pm to 9:30 pm	Book Crawl
Legacy High School	Friday, April 27, 2018
Beginning at 7:15 am	Registration
8:00 am to 8:15 am	Welcome/Announcements: NDRA
8:15 am to 8:30 am	Opening Welcome: NDDPI
8:30 am to 9:30 am	Keynote Address: Marvin Terban, “My Favorite Teacher”
9:30 am to 10:00 am	Break/Exhibitor Visits/Collaboration Time
10:00 am to 11:30 am	Concurrent Breakout Sessions — Featured speakers will present different topics during each session —
	Gravity Goldberg
	Pernille Ripp
	Marvin Terban
	Kristin Ziemke
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own (Food Trucks Available) & Exhibitor Visits
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions — Featured speakers will present different topics during each session —
	Gravity Goldberg
	Pernille Ripp
	Kristin Ziemke
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Break/Exhibitor Visits/Collaboration Time
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Concurrent Breakout Sessions — Featured speakers will present different topics during each session —
	Gravity Goldberg
	Pernille Ripp
	Kristin Ziemke
4:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Exhibitor Visits & Collaboration Time
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Sixteen03 Main Events — Cheers to 50 Years Social
Legacy High School	Saturday, April 28, 2018
7:00 am	Lace Up for Literacy 5K Walk/Run — Location TBD — Open to Public
8:30 am to 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast/Collaboration Time
9:30 am to 10:45 am	Keynote Speaker: Pam Munoz Ryan — Open to Public
11:00 am to 12:15 pm	Keynote Speaker: John Schumacher “Mr. Schu” — Open to Public



**North Dakota Reading Association
2018 50th Anniversary Conference
• April 26-28, 2018 • Bismarck •
Celebrating Our Past, Inspiring Our Future**

Featured Authors, Speakers, Presenters, Bloggers:

- Pernille Ripp
- Kristin Ziemke
- Marvin Terban
- John Schumacher “Mr. Schu”
- Gravity Goldberg
- Pam Muñoz Ryan



North Dakota Reading Association

Conference Registration Online Only:

<https://ndra.wildapricot.org/State-Conference>

- ◆ Bismarck Public Schools – \$75.00 [Registration code required]
For BPS employees who would like to attend the full conference.
- ◆ NDRA Regular Members – \$150.00
For current educators and administrators who are members of NDRA.
- ◆ Non-Member – \$200.00
For individuals who are not members of NDRA.
- ◆ Retired Educator – \$50.00
For retired teachers and administrators who are members of NDRA.
- ◆ Student Member – \$50.00
This is for students who are currently full-time undergraduates. You will be asked to identify your institution (university/college) and provide an estimated graduation day.
- ◆ VIPs – \$50.00
This is a special group for people who have been invited since this is NDRA's 50th anniversary.

Celebrating

NDRA

50 Years

1968

2018

Inspiring Our Future