



SCIRA

Suburban Council of the International Reading Association

SCIRA Board

2013-14

Winter Newsletter
2014

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Note from the Presidents

By Debbie Shefren & Sarah Weisberg
Co-Presidents of SCIRA

Dear SCIRA Friends,

What is close reading?

Close reading...results when the reader analyzes any given text at the word or phrase level and also the paragraph and section levels. As the reader analyzes the text, he or she determines which details are most important and how these fit together logically to convey the author's central idea(s) or theme(s). As a result of close reading, the reader begins to critically evaluate these ideas or themes. Cummings, S.,(2013) *Close Reading of Informational Texts*. New York: The Guilford Press.

SCIRA welcomed a full house to our Fall Conference with Sunday Cummins. Dr. Cummins explained close reading and gave us examples. She modeled it for us and engaged us in the process to help us learn. A couple of her thoughts include:

- Explicitly teach synthesis
- Try close reading with an excerpt from a trade book or a text you're reading aloud
- Project text for all students to view—let students watch you underline and annotate
- Post purpose for close reading for students to view

You can find more information on Sunday Cummins at her website and her blog:
www.sunday-cummins.com

We hope you will join us to continue our investigation on close reading at our Winter Conference with Dr. Tim Shanahan on January 29, 2014. Dr. Shanahan will be reaching out to all grade levels, including primary. Happy Close Reading!

Sincerely,

Debbie Shefren & Sarah Weisberg

Apply for a SCIRA Grant

SCIRA supports the work of classroom teachers through grants that directly impact the literacy learning of their students.

Visit our website and go to the Grants page for details and deadlines

Applications due by March 15, 2014

SCIRA WINTER CONFERENCE

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

4pm—8pm

Dr. Timothy Shanahan

Meeting the Challenges of the Common Core Standards

Chippewa School 123 N. 8th Ave. Des Plaines, IL 60016

Dr. Tim Shanahan is the esteemed author and editor of more than 150 publications that include his latest books, *Teaching with the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts PreK-2, (Morrow & Wixon)* and *Teaching with the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts Grades 3-5, (Morrow & Wixon)*. Dr. Shanahan's research emphasizes reading-writing relationships, reading assessment and improving reading achievement. He is frequently quoted in media outlets such as the New York Times, Washington Post, and Newsweek, and has appeared on Bloomberg News and the O'Reilly Factor. He has a blog, *Shanahan on Literacy*.

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One Form for **EACH INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION**. Please type or print. Form may be reproduced.

Name _____

Preferred E-Mail (for confirmation and information) _____

Preferred Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Preferred Phone _____ School Name _____ District _____

\$40.00 Fee ___ SCIRA Member
\$85.00 Fee ___ Non-SCIRA Member (includes one year SCIRA and IRC membership)
\$25.00 Fee ___ Student, Paraprofessional & Associate

Method of Payment: ___ Check payable to SCIRA enclosed.
 ___ Purchase Order # _____ **Please Attach.**
We cannot accept purchase orders from Chicago Public Schools
 ___ **Online** To use a credit card, go to **SCIRASCHOLARS.com**

AT THE DOOR REGISTRATION \$10 ADDITIONAL \$50 Member \$95 Non-member \$35 Student
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Return this form with payment to **Brittany Plath, 810 Highland Place, Highland Park, IL. 60035**

Questions? Contact Brittany at bplath109@gmail.com or 847-207-4914

We welcome At-The-Door participants. Ten dollars will be added to your entrance fee.

No Electronic payments will be accepted on site.

Teachers working toward **CPDUs** and **CEUs** should be assured that the materials presented in this conference will address the needs of students with disabilities, including adapting and modifying the general curriculum related to the Illinois Learning Standards and serving such students in the least restrictive environment. This conference will count for **4 CPDUS**.

Announcements

National-Louis University Course *Special Topics in Reading: Informational Text & Literacy in the Content Areas*

Sign up for the accompanying NLU course and discuss topics such as the challenges of the Common Core State Standards, the essentials of close reading, and the importance of literacy in the content areas and disciplinary text.

Course participants must attend the Winter Conference as well as 2 additional class sessions (February 1 & 8, 2014) in order to earn 1 semester hour of credit.

For details and registration, visit our website at **scira.weebly.com** and follow the link to register with National-Louis University.

Let's talk!

Would you like an opportunity to discuss what you tried in your classroom after attending the Winter Conference?

Join Laura Beltchenko and Sophie Degener on February 11, 2014 at 4:00 to share ideas, discuss an article, and learn from each other.

CPDU's will be provided.

(Location TBD – check our website at scira.weebly.com for details)

Visit our new website at

scira.weebly.com

to find out

- how to register online for the Winter Conference and the NLU course
- which SCIRA members have new publications
- how you can continue learning and connecting with other SCIRA members on our blog

Mark your 2014 calendar for the SCIRA Summer Conference!

Start your summer with 2 days of learning about incorporating Common Core State Standards around fiction and writing with

**Ellin Keene &
Dan Feigelson**

June 19 & 20, 2014

SCIRA
P.O. Box 396
Northbrook, IL 60065

SCIRA
Suburban
Council of the
International
Reading
Association

**Meeting the Challenges
of the Common Core Standards**

SCIRA Winter Conference

(Suburban Council of the International Reading Association)

January 29, 2014

Chippewa School

123 N. 8th Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016

Featuring

Dr. Timothy Shanahan

Please visit the *Illinois Reading Council* website for valuable information on upcoming SCIRA conferences. Additional registration forms may be downloaded there as well. Please visit <http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/>