



Pioneer Valley Reading Council Presents *Complementary Processes: Reading & Writing to the Core*

Workshop Schedule
3:45-4:00 p.m. Registration & Refreshments
4:00-6:00 p.m. Workshops

NEW LOCATION
Agawam Public Library's Community Room
Agawam Public Library
750 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 789-1550



October 19: Literacy at the Center: What's New and Essential in the Common Core Standards

This session will provide a guided tour of the new Massachusetts ELA and Literacy Framework, including activities that will allow important elements of the new reading and writing standards to surface. Participants will learn ways in which the new framework (based on but not identical to the Common Core Standards) provides support and guidance to teachers. A study of the appendices to the Common Core will be included.

Karen Diaz, a Western Massachusetts Writing Project teacher-consultant, is the Elementary Literacy Coach for the West Springfield Public Schools. She has worked as a Reading Recovery teacher, a reading specialist, and a classroom teacher. She has also published several guided reading books with Hameray Publishing.

November 16: Connect with the Experts: Common Core Authors Share the Goals of the Standards for Reading Instruction

This session will provide an overview of the ELA Common Core State Standards and their implications for reading teachers, with insights from experts who wrote the standards. Participants will understand the goals and background of the Common Core, the importance of text complexity, and leave with resources to support their transition to the standards.

Cathie Callanan, a Curriculum Specialist with the Pearson School Group, has assisted a wide range of urban and rural districts across the Northeast to support their implementation of literacy curriculum with in-service training and professional development. She previously worked as a reading specialist and elementary classroom teacher for over 20 years in Massachusetts and California and is ELL certified.

January 18: Standards to Skills to Success: Aligning Literacy Lessons with the Common Core

Drawing on insights from the National Writing Project's Literacy Design Collaborative work, this session will explore ways to use the Common Core Standards to address skills development, create meaningful tasks, and design formative assessments. Teachers will learn practical strategies for identifying the skills required to meet reading and writing standards and creating lesson sequences that will enable students to acquire them.

Kathleen Gillis, a Western Massachusetts Writing Project Teacher Consultant, is a fifth-grade ELA teacher at Monument Valley Regional Middle School in Great Barrington. She has taken part in the Literacy Design Collaborative work with the National Writing Project and facilitated workshops on topics including writing across the curriculum and differentiated instruction in the language arts classroom.

February 15: Common Standards, Different Purposes: Reading and Writing in the Content Areas

This session will allow participants to experience reading and writing from content-specific perspectives. Teachers will be given the opportunity to approach literacy the way their students do—in various and constantly shifting modes. Drawing on recent studies of disciplinary literacy, the presenter will share a set of practical classroom strategies for promoting good reading and writing practices in accordance with the new Common Core standards, particularly in the areas of informational text and argument.

Holly Moren, a co-facilitator of the Western Massachusetts Writing Project Summer Institute, is an English teacher at Ware Junior/Senior High School. She recently created a District Literacy Action Plan with other members of her district and is currently involved in the launching of a new writing initiative in her building.

May 9: Rummaging through Attics: The Pleasures of Research and Writing (PLEASE NOTE: This author presentation is a dinner meeting at the Storowton Tavern)

Author Jeannine Atkins will talk about how she researches the historical fiction, nonfiction, and poetry she writes for children and teens. She will suggest ways students might do so more efficiently, but still experience the pleasures of detours or stumbling into small, hidden details that can bring a story to life. She will discuss ways to shape research, including using facts to inspire fiction or poetry, forms that remind us that the answers we don't easily find may keep us looking for more.

Jeannine Atkins writes about history for children and teens. Her picture books include *Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon* and *Aani and the Tree Huggers*. Her most recent book is *Borrowed Names: Poems about Laura Ingalls Wilder, Madam C. J. Walker, Marie Curie and Their Daughters*, which is a Booklist Editors' Choice, a BCCB Blue Ribbon book, and a Book Links Lasting Connection. She teaches Children's Literature at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a graduate course in writing for children at Simmons College. Her website is <http://www.jeannineatkins.com>.



Weather Alert

For cancellations: If Agawam Schools cancel daytime, afternoon, or evening activities, PVRC is cancelled. You may also call Janice or Meredith when they get home from work. The rescheduled workshop date will be sent to your email address. You can also check the calendar on the MRA website www.massreading.org