



THE WORD ON

Washington State Literacy Association Newsletter

September 2016

WaSLA President's Letter

Last April our dedicated executive board met to discuss where WaSLA (Washington State Literacy Association—formally known as WORD) was headed and one of our first tasks was to rewrite our mission statement and create a vision statement. We went around the room and discussed what changes WaSLA has made in our literacy communities and the one that rang true to me is WaSLA “fills our teacher buckets.”

I became a member of WaSLA/WORD well over a decade ago and I loved being surrounded by passionate educators who want to better themselves as teachers, share ideas, and instill that love of learning in students. How can we encourage our students to be active, engaged learners in our schools if we ourselves aren't?

One thing that has been a constant go-to is my access to WaSLA and ILA (International Literacy Association). I remember when I attended one of my first WORD Board Meetings and all of these names (i.e. Nancy Atwell, Stephanie Harvey, Kelly Gallagher) were being thrown out and I had no idea how these members kept up with the latest and greatest in literacy. Then, I myself became an connoisseur of professional books because of a little book you might have read entitled *The Book Whisperer* by Donalyn Miller. This book was a game changer for my classroom. I have met and seen countless literacy professionals over the years and each time I am inspired to change something in my teaching. My teacher bucket is refilled each time I participate in a book study, attend a council event, or go to a conference and I want to learn more.

My hope is that when you need ideas, inspiration, or affirmation, you will turn to WaSLA. There are a variety of events held all over our great state for our members or check out our Facebook page where we are always sharing the latest with our literacy fans. If you want to be a part of this organization, please get involved with your local council. It also doesn't look bad on your TPEP, Pro-Teach, or National Boards either! We are always looking for educators to join us.

I am thankful to the countless individuals who have volunteered time and energy to this organization over the past 62 years. Their dedication is what we hope to continue to show our members. We value literacy and educators in our state and most importantly we want you to encourage your students to become lifelong readers and learners.

Wishing you the happiest new school year,
Alysia White

Mark your calendars:

9/17 WASLA Board Meeting

10/22 WASLA Kick-Off Party

11/5 WASLA Fall Conference
with Lester Laminack and
Dan Gemeinhart

12/1 An Afternoon with B&B

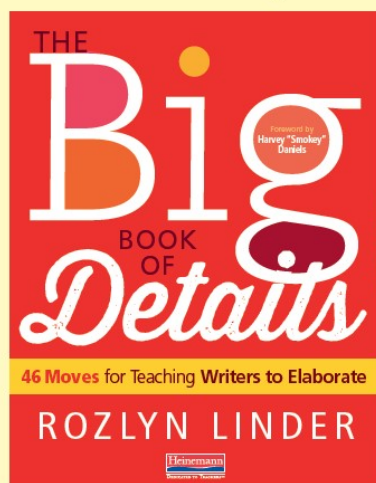
Join WASLA
[here!](#)

In This Issue

- Fall conference details
- **Join by October 1 and win the conference on us!!!**
- Denise's favorite websites
- Importance of reading inventories

Exciting and New for Writing Teachers!

3 Ways Real Teachers Use Roz's Detail Moves



"There are multiple ways to make the most of the teaching ideas and resources in this book. These are the three most common ways that I have noticed in schools."

—Roz

Confer with writers

"When you notice a student's need, pull one of my detail lessons for one-on-one instruction."

Create minilessons and small-group instruction

"When you plan whole-class minilessons, pick and choose from these lessons. Read my teaching ideas then plan the lesson to align with your goals."

Provide individualized support within commercial writing programs

"Most programs encourage students to elaborate but don't provide enough moves or enough specificity. Pull moves from this book to make instruction more concrete."

An Afternoon with B&B

Join Jerene Battisti and Angelina Bendetti as they tempt your appetite with a feast of new literature for teens and the readers who love them. Divided thematically, this book talk presents new fiction and non-fiction for middle school and high school readers.

Date: Thursday, December 1 from 4:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Mariner High School, Mukilteo

Cost: Free for WaSLA members



We are excited to offer this free event to our members in conjunction with the Washington Library Association and the Washington Library Media Association.

To register for this event [click here](#).

Contact Us

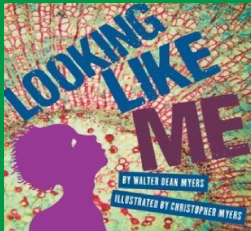
waslaliteracy@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at www.washingtonliteracy.org



Creating the Culture of your Classroom with books

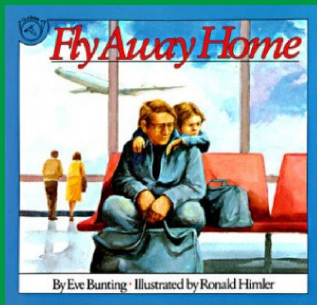
Thank you to the Nerdy Book Club and Cindy Christiansen for sharing a few books that will encourage trust and build those positive relationships in our classrooms for the new year.



Looking Like Me by
Walter Dean Myers



Let Me Finish! by Minh Lê



Fly Away Home by
Eve Bunting

The Many Uses and Styles of Reading Inventories

As the new school year begins, learning about our students is one key to being able to serve their needs more fully. Discovering their likes and dislikes, their interests and passions, and their reading life outside of school are all important factors that help us teach our students. Getting to know new students can take time, something there is never enough of, and so we need to find efficient ways to provide us with as much information as possible. In the best of all possible worlds, there would be time to sit with each student as they read, conversing and asking questions not only of the book they are reading but of their attitude toward reading in general. Of course, this is rarely an option – especially at the beginning of the year as routines are being established and relationships are being formed. One tool to help combat these constraints is to utilize Reading Interest Inventories or Surveys.

Across all grades, reading inventories can provide useful information that helps us guide students toward interesting and appropriate titles. Inventories can provide information such as students' motivation and attitude toward reading, which genre or author a student has preferred in the past, what type of environment they find most comfortable when reading, or even if they can even produce a favorite author or book.

Surveys can be used across grade levels and with varying numbers of students. Some inventories require reading and writing; however, an inventory is easily altered so it can be administered in a group, with the teacher reading aloud the questions. Additionally, allowing younger students the ability to circle smiley faces or other objects to choose how they feel about a specific question is one way around necessitating a written answer. For example, one well-known survey compiled by Dennis J. Kear at Wichita State University uses Garfield the cat to demonstrate what a specific attitude toward different reading activities might be and can be found [here](#).

The Garfield Elementary Reading Survey is lengthy and contains a scoring sheet; however, inventories can be modified for any specific purpose, and the questions you ask need to have meaning for you. What information are you trying to illicit from your students? Questions asked at the beginning of the year will most likely vary from an Interest Survey administered mid-way through the semester, when you know your students, or at the end of the year, when you are determining growth or having students plan their reading life away from your class.

Many different types of Interest Surveys are available online, not only for reading but also for writing, math, and other content-specific topics. Whichever one you decide upon, or whatever you create on your own, using one is a great way to learn about your students. And, after all, knowing our students enables us to reach them and teach them to the best of our abilities.

Join WaSLA Today!

It is time again to become a WaSLAWORD member. Last school we had our members use ZAP to register for membership and events. We will be continuing to use ZAP because it is quick and easy.

Visit waslamembership.zapevent.com to join. As you fill out the form, please be sure to tell us the council that is the closest to you and include an e-mail address that will be best to contact you about upcoming events.

Members who join by October 1 will be entered into a drawing to attend our Fall Conference with Lester Laminack for free!

What are the benefits to joining WaSLA?

- Evidence of professional development for your teacher evaluation (TPEP)
- Learning and leadership opportunities for National Board and Pro-Teach Candidates
- Have access to local council events offered around the state
- Connect with other dedicated educators from around the state to share ideas from the many realms of education
- Clock hours are always only \$2 each!

Questions on membership?

Contact Kristi Sherman – kristisherman@frontier.com

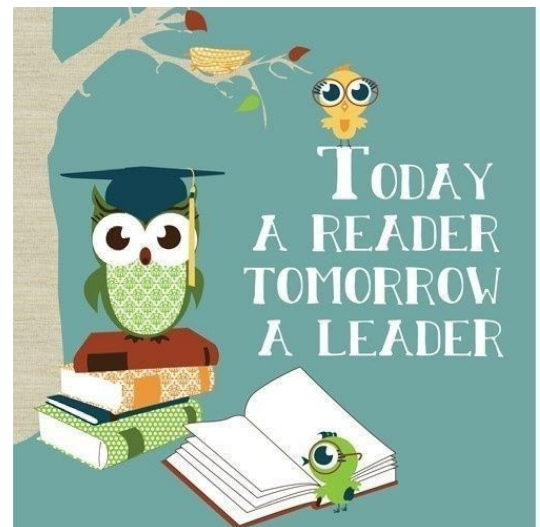
"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss



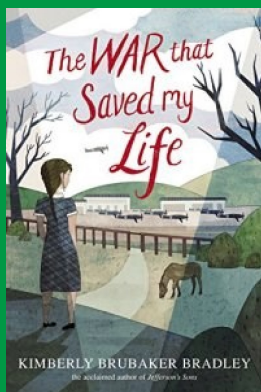
"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives"

--Robert John Meehan

You liked it! This is by far the most liked post ever on our Facebook page. It even aligns perfectly with WaSLA's new mission and vision statement!



Creating Culture Cont...



The War that Saved my Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

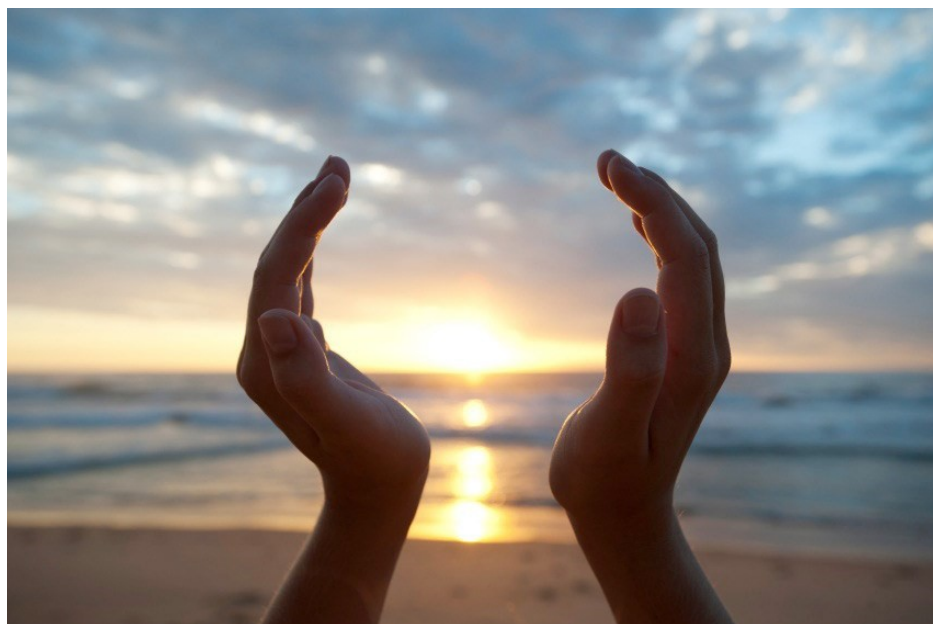


The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin

For these and more titles check out [The Nerdy Book Club's post](#).

WaSLA's Mission – “Igniting passion by connecting and building a community of literacy educators”

WaSLA's Vision – “Re-energize educators and inspire refinement of instructional practices to develop literate communities.”



WaSLA Member Highlight



Tiga Burrigh lives in Medical Lake, WA and teaches in Sandpoint ID (2 hours away!) by choice!

She is a tremendous third grade educator. She involves her students in community service projects like book donations for the local homeless center. She also 'coaches' the robotics club too. One of the fun things she used to do was collect ABC bubblegum from each of her students, put it in a jar and then on her trip to Seattle would place it on the bubble gum wall. She has two grown sons & grandkids. Her husband is military. She has lived in Germany and grew up in Oregon. We love Tiga's dedication to INWRC for the past 20 years. Thank you Tiga! Love ya! Inland NW Reading Council

Some of Denise's Favorite Websites and Blogs

There are so many wonderful resources out there, but here are 13 of my top faves! What are your favorites? Share with us!

www.tweentribune.com and www.tweentribune.com/junior. Current news articles with pictures and text. Choice of topic and lexile level. High interest with some critical thinking questions. When you click on K-4, it becomes [tweentribune.com/junior](http://www.tweentribune.com/junior). FREE

www.newsela.com. Current events. Lexile level can be adjusted for your students. Grades 4-6 FREE (although there is a "Pro" subscription that provides more services)

www.poemfarm.amylv.com A great collection of poems written by Amy Ludwig Van Derwater. Easy to access. (You'll want to click on "sharing our notebooks" when you teach writing. Great for writing and of course, reading and analyzing short texts such as poetry!)

<http://musingsfromthemiddleschool.blogspot.com/p/reading.html>. Excellent blog posts full of quality resources. One of my favorites for teachers.

<http://kcls.org/browse/kids/> A wonderful public library resource with King County, but the information can be used by anyone outside of the area as well.

<http://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com> Book Whisperer Donalyn Miller is a regular contributor. Another of my faves.

www.reading.org International Literacy Association. Our professional organization.

www.readwritethink.org Read Write Think – International Literacy Association (ILA) and National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Offers excellent classroom resources and professional development information.

<http://www.edutopia.org/digital-storytelling-classroom> Easy to follow how-to ideas on using technology as a storytelling tool

<https://twowritingteachers.org> A group of educators with their focus on writing.

http://readingandwritingproject.com/public/resources/booklists/archived/reading/interactive_read_aloud.pdf A 13-page Draft K-8 reading list from the Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project, with level, title/author/ISBN/type of book, and a summary. Compiled from teachers.

<http://www.fromthemixedupfiles.com/> Another favorite blog written by educators and authors of middle grade books, focusing on 8-12 year olds. Katherine Schlick-Noe is one of the contributors. Excellent!

<http://visual.merriam-webster.com> From Fisher and Frey. A visual dictionary with diagrams and illustrations to further explain vocabulary.

Quote Corner

"Education is not merely about knowing; it is about becoming. It is not best measured by a test score. It is best measured by how high children come to believe they can soar." -Kylene



This issue's contributing authors are:

Tiffany Rose

Kristi Sherman

Kate Vafaezadeh

Alysia White

Suzanne Coleman

Denise Gudwin

Washington State Literacy Association invites you to

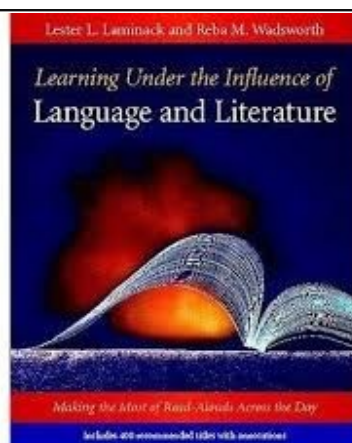
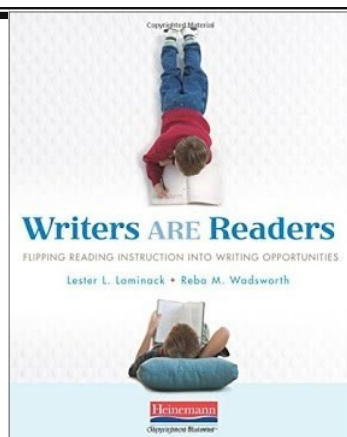
Literacy with Lester Laminack!

The author will share tips from his new book, *Writers ARE Readers: Flipping Reading Instruction into Writing Opportunities*, as well as from his previous work *Learning under the Influence of Language and Literature*.



November 5, 2016 8:00am—3:30pm

Evergreen Middle School in Everett, WA



Workshop Registration:

WaSLA Members: \$50

Associate WaSLA Members: \$20

Everett SD WaSLA Members: \$40

Local teacher-librarian and author of *The Honest Truth* and *Some Kind of Courage*, Dan Gemeinhart, will be sharing what is on his library's bookshelves this school year.

Five clock hours will be available for \$10. Hotel info can be found at the link below.



For more details and to register go to: LiteracywithLester.zapevent.com