

Keynote Speakers

SUNDAY



Linda Dorn

*Reading Recovery trainer and professor
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Little Rock, AR*

Changing the Way the Brain Works Through Intervention

Struggling readers have developed inefficient reading behaviors, including guessing at words, ignoring errors, and disregarding meaning. These behaviors indicate a weak monitoring system, which may be the result of poor instruction or limited opportunities. Focus on the implications of intervention on how the brain works, including ways that teachers can create conditions for reversing reading failure.

MONDAY



Lucy Calkins

*professor, founding director
Teachers College Reading and Writing Project
Columbia University's Teachers College
New York, NY*

The Signature of Our Teaching

In order to become great teachers of higher-level comprehension skills, we need to take those skills for ourselves and our students, and draw on a clear sense of the learning pathways along which learners travel en route to becoming proficient at predicting, envisioning, interpreting, synthesizing, and reading critically. Lucy addresses Common Core standards, performance assessments, and writing about reading...but mostly focuses on the qualities of powerful teaching.

TUESDAY



Joy Cowley

*children's author
Wellington, New Zealand*

What Makes an Effective Early Reading Book?

Five common errors in published texts, and how we can learn from them to produce books that children will want to read. The presentation covers child-centered content, language levels, story basics, editing, illustration, and layout. It will help teachers evaluate books and to write effective materials for their students.

Sponsored in part by Hameray Publishing Group

ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

See full biographies on our website at www.rrcna.org/conferences

Linda Dorn is a professor of reading education and director of the Center for Literacy at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is the immediate past president of the Reading Recovery Council of North America. Dr. Dorn has over 30 years experience in education. She has been recognized for her contributions to literacy education at the state, district, and university levels, including the Arkansas Powerful Woman in Education Award (2010), the Distinguished Service to School District Award (2009), and the University Faculty Excellence in Research Award (2002). Linda has presented keynote speeches and featured sessions at international, national, and state conferences. She has published widely, including numerous journal articles, book chapters, video publications, and books. Her most recent book, co-authored with Carla Soffos, is *Interventions that Work: A Comprehensive Intervention Model for Preventing Reading Failure* (Allyn & Bacon).

Lucy Calkins is the author of *Units of Study for Primary Writing*, *Units of Study for Teaching Reading Grades 3-5*, *Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5* and the companion DVD, *Big Lessons from Small Writers*, as well as numerous foundational professional texts including *The Art of Teaching Writing* and *One to One*, and *The Art of Teaching Reading*. Her work with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, a think tank that develops state-of-the-art teaching methods and provides professional development, has supported hundreds of thousands of educators. She is also the Richard Robinson Professor of Children's Literature at Teachers College, where she leads the literacy specialist program. Dr. Calkins works closely with policymakers and education leaders to instigate and sustain schoolwide and systemwide educational reforms. But above all, she works closely with teachers and with their classrooms full of wise and wonderful children.

Joy Cowley's first published works were short stories and novels for adults. In the late 1960s, when one of her sons had difficulty learning to read, Joy began writing for him and children with similar difficulties. By the late 1970s, Joy and editor June Melser were working on Wendy Pye's Story Box reading program. Since Story Box, she has written more than 600 early reading titles and is known world-wide. Joy enjoys mentoring writers and is a patron of Storylines, an initiative to promote awareness of the importance of reading for all children, and supports writers and illustrators of children's literature in New Zealand. She also runs writing workshops for people whose culture is not adequately represented in their children's books, and has edited stories to make them accessible to new readers. She believes that children need to see themselves and their own culture in their literature.