



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Children's Authors and K-6 Literacy Workshops at Conference
February 9-12, 2008**

COLUMBUS – With increased national concern that reading achievement is an essential part of every child's future as well as that of our nation, 3,000 educators, school administrators, librarians, and literacy advocates from across the country will attend the National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference, Feb. 9-12, 2008, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The conference is dedicated to the memory of Marie Clay, teacher, researcher, author and champion of young readers.

“This conference draws early literacy teachers from across the nation because it combines scientific findings about how children learn with literacy experts who know what motivates young children to keep learning,” said Jady Johnson, executive director of the Reading Recovery Council of North America.

Presentations focus on key issues in education today including how to work with children who speak English as a second language, how to engage hard-to-reach parents, and how educators can judge scientific evidence during a time when reading instruction has become a political as well as an academic debate.

This K-6 literacy conference, the nation's largest, will include:

- Sessions for K-6 classroom teachers, school administrators, special education teachers, Reading Recovery professionals, and literacy coaches.
- Over 150 conference sessions, 9 featured speaker sessions, 3 keynote addresses, and 7 preconference institutes.
- Three award-winning authors of children's books.

Nationally recognized educators and writers to focus on current issues

Three keynote speakers will address important topics for teachers and administrators:

- Sunday, February 10 at 10:30 a.m., **Regie Routman**, internationally respected author and teacher of over 35 years, will speak on “Transforming Teaching and Changing Students’ Lives.” She is the author of *Writing Essentials*, and the companion book, *Reading Essentials*. In addition to other books she has also authored *Kids’ Poems: Teaching Children to Love Writing Poetry*.
- Monday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m., nationally known speaker and literacy educator **Mary Fried** will speak about “pulling together” – young children pulling together sources of information; teachers pulling together to accelerate children’s learning; and administrators pulling together to support the lowest- achieving students. Fried’s practical experience as a former teacher, a Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative trainer at The Ohio State University, and author of many children’s Keep Books, makes her an engaging and valuable resource for teachers.
- Tuesday, February 12 at 9:00 a.m., award-winning author of *Bridge to Terabithia*, **Katherine Paterson** will explore the impact of literacy and the written word on our young people. Disney Productions adapted Paterson’s book into the critically acclaimed 2007 film of the same name. Paterson currently serves as vice president of the National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance. Her latest novel is entitled *Bread and Roses, Too*.

One-to-one instruction is essential for some children

With continuing concern about literacy failure, a key area of focus for the conference is how to prevent reading failure through Reading Recovery, a scientifically based intervention for first graders having extreme difficulty learning to read and write. The U.S. Department of Education’s What Works Clearinghouse found Reading Recovery to be the only program to have positive effects across four domains—alphabetics, fluency, comprehension, and general reading achievement. In Reading Recovery, students work one-to-one with a highly trained Reading Recovery teacher in 30-minute daily lessons. After a full series of lessons lasting 12 to 20 weeks, 75 percent of the students reach grade-level expectations. Since Reading Recovery came to the United States in 1984, the early intervention has served more than 1.6 million children.

The North American headquarters for Reading Recovery is located in Worthington, OH. The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) is an association of nearly 8,000 Reading Recovery professionals and partners including classroom teachers, Title I teachers, school administrators, university professors, parents, and community members. The Council’s mission is to ensure access to Reading Recovery for every child who needs its support.

For more information on the National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference, call 614-310-7323 (READ) or go to www.readingrecovery.org.