



MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Texas Association for Literacy Education is to promote literacy that will enhance the lives of all Texas citizens personally, socially and economically.

CELEBRATING VOICES THROUGH LITERATURE

By Sara Ranzau
Advocacy Development Committee Chair



In this time of strife and growth, we at TALE encourage you to advocate for yourself and your students through literature and conversation. Growth is not just about adding texts by authors from all colors, creeds, careers, and lifestyles, it is about making sure all students are included in the books we share with them. Kwame Alexander reminds us that, "You've got to lift your voice for the things that matter" (Alexander, [Kit Lit Rally 2020](#)).

As you plan for your return to school this year, we recommend you think deeply about the texts you have in your classrooms and that you share with students.

Cornelius Minor said during the June 17, 2020 KitLit Rally with ILA that "Being kind isn't enough." We have to help students recognize each others' unique realities and celebrate those things. We need to make sure we are being inclusive as opposed to divisive in our classrooms. We must work to make sure we aren't keeping books about Black history, Native Americans, Asian Americans, the disabled, LGBTQ+ populations, or children of trauma separated onto their own diverse shelves. We need to show our students that stories are powerful and varied, not something that should be classified into specific groups to be studied on their own.

That includes the books we offer to children both in the classroom and in our own homes. We need to make sure we are sharing the beauty and importance of each life, reminding us all that every person is human and deserves to be treated with the same dignity and respect as those in power.

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R.E.A.D. @ TALE NEWSLETTER

As you look at your classroom libraries, read aloud choices, and novel studies, we encourage you to ask yourselves the following questions:

- Do they include people of color?
- Do they include characters living life in modern times?
- Do they include characters from troubled homes?
- Do they include LGBTQ+ characters?
- Do they include a variety of protagonists?
- Do they include a variety of careers?
- Do they show characters of all colors, creeds, and nationalities in as many genres as possible?

You can find some great examples from [We Need Diverse Books!](#)

The beauty of literature is sharing stories with one another and learning more about each other and ourselves. If students, and educators, are not learning from their literature it is time to expand what is on the shelves! As educators we can't truly teach an experience we have never lived, but we can open the window to it for students or help them see themselves in the mirrors surrounding them ([Bishop, 1990](#)). Renee Watson encouraged us all during the 2019 ILA Conference in New Orleans that sharing stories means we "are teaching them [children] how to listen....how to take in stories that may be different from them but that also might help them realize they have a lot in common with other people in this world" ([Watson, 2019](#)).

Be sure to read and talk about your new texts, help students to normalize the reality that the world is wide and full of people from all cultures, belief systems, and home lives. The more students are able to see those things in texts, the more well-rounded, globally aware, and anti-racist those students can become. Pam Allyn recently said, "This is the moment everything can change" (ILA, Kit Lit Rally 2020). We hope you are ready to work for the change with us.

TALE 2020 Conference Research Poster Awards



Michele Cantera
Category: Doctoral

Literacy and Math Achievement: Using Interactive Read-Alouds to Foster the Acquisition of Mathematics Vocabulary in an Elementary Classroom

Yamiloth Orozco & Febe Tovar
Category: Undergraduate

A Photovoice Study: Critical Bilingual Teacher Preparation Narratives AROUND Bi-Literacy

Ana Vera & Jocelyn Gonzalez
Category: Undergraduate

Unpacking Critical Dialogues in Bilingual Teacher Preparation Around Bi-Literacy



**Jayne Latty, Ben Williams,
James Earle, Shauner Murray**
Category: Other

First Words Fast: Simpler Methods Produce Better Results

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year! I am so honored and excited to lead this amazing organization this year. First and foremost, I want to say thank you to all of those who volunteer for TALE. Our board members, committee directors, and committee members work tirelessly to help make TALE a leading literacy organization in Texas. Secondly, thank you to all of our TALE members who work daily to promote literacy within the students whom they serve.

While our 2021 TALE Conference has been canceled due to COVID-19, TALE has a series of virtual professional learning opportunities available for you this year! All of the virtual PD events are free, however you must be a TALE member in order to receive continuing education credit. First, on September 29th, Dr. Benita Brooks, Assistant Professor of Literacy and Teaching as well as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the College of Education at Sam Houston State University, will lead an engaging discussion on Addressing Barriers to Equity in Literacy Education. Future events include discussions on reading fluency, literacy coaching, writing instruction, and dyslexia led by experts in the field. See <http://www.texasreaders.org/virtual-pd-resources.html> for more information and event dates!

In closing, I encourage you to stay connected to TALE by following @TXLiteracyEd on Twitter and like @texasreaders.org on Facebook. I would also like to encourage you to check out the current issue of TALE's peer-reviewed journal, the Texas Journal of Literacy Education (<http://www.talejournal.com/index.php/TJLE>). In the current issue, you will find articles on Biliteracy in Texas, High-Stakes Standardized Testing and Emergent Bilingual Students in Texas, Literacy Coaching, Helping African American Males Find Books They Want to Read, and more!

Thank you for being an important and valued member of TALE! Hope to see all of you one of the virtual PD sessions!

Sincerely,
Alida Hudson, M.Ed.
TALE Chair, 2020-2021

JOIN US!

talemembership@gmail.com

Be sure to visit us on our social media pages as well as our website!

[TALE Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter - @TXLiteracyEd](#)

[Instagram - @txliteracyed](#)

Publications:

[Texas Journal of Literacy Education](#)

[Yearbook](#)

TALE



LITERACY IN PRACTICE

Literacy in Practice is a chance for TALE Members to share the work they are doing in the field of literacy out in the real world. Each newsletter will feature articles by educators for educators, giving you the opportunity to learn from one another!

If you wish to contribute an article, please email it to talenewsletter@gmail.com.

Submission Requirements:

- One page, single spaced, size 12 font.
- Anecdotal and informal in nature. More formal papers may be submitted to the [TJLE Journal](#).
- Include pictures (optional).

**Due Date: December 19,
2020**



Rockport's Little Free Library

By Robin D. Johnson, Ed.D.
Rockport, TX

Learn about the Little Free Library Robin started with help from TALE and Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Maybe you can start one in your area!



Read Alouds in the Digital Age

By Priscilla K. Delgado and Ileana Jennings
??, TX

The authors discuss ways to use read alouds while teaching remotely. Try one out and let us know how it goes!

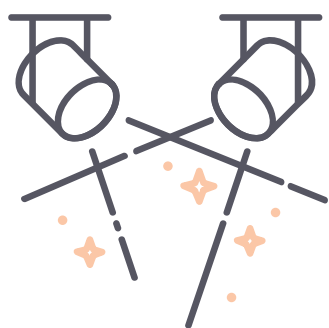


Click the image above to learn about TALE Virtual PD opportunities!

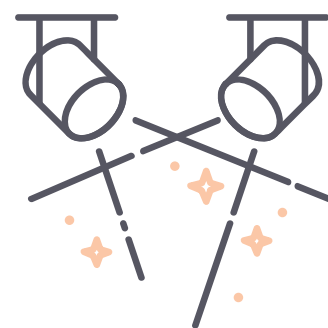
Professional Development Reflections

If you attend a TALE Professional Development opportunity, you could be included in the next newsletter! Share your thoughts on what you learned by completing this form:

<https://forms.gle/JixH2gog3wJgV7KR7>



TALE MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Cheryl Kelley Magnolia, TX

COORDINATOR
OF K-12 READING
LANGUAGE ARTS AND
SOCIAL STUDIES FOR
WILLIS ISD

What degrees do you hold?

I have a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY. I received my Master of Education in Reading from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX.

How are you involved with TALE?

I'm a member of TALE and recently joined one of the committees. As well, I have had the privilege of presenting several sessions at the TALE Conference. With the exception of last year, I faithfully attend the annual conference each year.

What is your literacy vision?

The value of literacy impacts everything else. It is my literacy vision to support students' development of lifelong literacy skills by building and empowering a collaborative community of educators in the process of providing a guaranteed, viable, research-based literacy curriculum for all students, individualized instruction, and measurable results.

What is something in your life you are most proud of?

It is a great honor for me to be the Coordinator of Reading Language Arts (RLA) for my district. I value the opportunity to collaborate with my RLA instructional coaches and teachers. Through the years I have been a classroom teacher, reading specialist, literacy instructional coach, and now coordinator over literacy instruction. It makes my literacy heart smile that I get to use my ongoing experiences and learning about what great literacy instruction and next steps look like to grow the next generation of literacy leaders.

What words of advice would you offer to other literacy leaders?

To be a literacy leader is not for the fainthearted, and often the rewards are not outwardly connected. But the impact of the work we do is priceless. Stay faithful to the process of pure and reliable literacy instruction and let the development of literacy growth in your students be the reward.



Karol Moore College Station, TX

INSTRUCTIONAL
COACH IN AUSTIN ISD,
DYSLEXIA THERAPIST,
PH.D. STUDENT AT A&M

What degrees do you hold?

Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction:
Literacy; Licensed Dyslexia Therapist (LDT)

How are you involved with TALE?

I am a member and was a part of the conference planning committee for the 2020 conference. I had the privilege of presenting at the 2019 conference just before the pandemic.

What is your literacy vision?

To prepare knowledgeable teachers to provide effective reading instruction so that all students have the best opportunity for ultimate success.

What is something in your life you are most proud of?

My kids. Both have left home and are making their mark on the world in exciting ways.

What words of advice would you offer to other literacy leaders?

As an instructional coach, one thing I see regularly is teachers' resistance to learn new ways of teaching reading. I believe some of that comes from a constant change in professional development offered to them each year. Nothing stays long enough for them to become skilled, therefore they resort to old, ineffective methods. As a literacy leader, be consistent in your approach, set clear expectations, and provide research and resources that support the literacy goals you have for your campus or district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee

TALE membership is currently 550 active members. If you have your account set up to auto renew with your credit card, please be sure to update your account when your card expires. Your account can be accessed at texasreaders.org under the "Members" tab. If you are renewing your membership, please use the "Members" tab, not the "Join" tab as that is for new members. Membership is \$10 annually. Please encourage your colleagues to join TALE!

Community Involvement Committee

We are working on updating our webpage and looking into developing a TALE laptop sticker as a fundraiser for the group and to spread love for our organization! If you'd like to join our efforts, please feel free to email us at talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com.

Educator Empowerment Committee

The TALE Educator Empowerment committee had an amazing summer book study of "This Is Balanced Literacy". Thank you to Roberta Raymond, Jackie Ingram, and Gayle Butaud for hosting. We are looking forward to our Winter book study.

Are you interested in joining the Educator Empowerment committee? Or, do you have suggestions for topics to focus on during the webinars or recommended books to use during our book clubs? Let us know by emailing tale.empowerment@gmail.com.

Local Councils Committee

Looking for a way to demonstrate your leadership skills in your community? Why not start a local or special interest council in your area? The purpose of local and special interest councils is to collaborate with colleagues, gain connections, and contribute voices and expertise to the global literacy movement. For more information email talelocalcouncils@gmail.com.

Want to know more?



If you are interested in finding out more about what our committees are working on or if you want to join one of them, follow the links below and/or email the committee chair!

[Membership Development](#)

Director: Jackie Ingram
talemembership@gmail.com

[Advocacy Development](#)

Director: Sara Ranzau
taleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com

[Communication Committee](#)

Director: Charity Embley
cembley@odessa.edu

[Community Involvement](#)

Director: Brandy Alexander
talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com

[Educator Empowerment](#)

Director: Kristi Morale
tale.empowerment@gmail.com

[Local Councils](#)

Director: Liza LaRue
talelocalcouncils@gmail.com

[TAIR Grants & Awards](#)


Director: Carol Revelle
Carol.Revelle@tamuc.edu

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee would like to welcome a new director, Charity Embley.! If you would also like to join the Communications Committee, please join TALE and email Charity Embley.

Our featured TJLE discussion (<http://www.texasreaders.org/communication-committee>) is an article written by University of West Georgia Professor Bethany Scullin. In her article entitled, I Can't Find No Black Books: Helping African American Males Find Books They Want to Read, she explores the many factors contributing to the historical lack of reading gains of Black male students due to the absence of texts accurately representing African American characters in today's schools. A Twitter Chat is scheduled for October so please stay tuned for further details. Be sure to follow @TXLiteracyEd for updates.

Our current Chair Alida Hudson created a handout (see below) geared toward helping parents maintain literacy development in order to support their students at home. We hope that this is a helpful resource for you. and reach out if there are other ways in which we can support you.




HELPING PARENTS MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE READING INSTRUCTION AT HOME


Provided by the Texas Association
for Literacy Education (TALE)
www.texasreaders.org

TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

- 1.Ensure child is taking part in all school lessons and meetings.
- 2.Schedule daily reading time:
 - a.Read aloud to your child
 - i.This is still important even when the child is capable of reading independently – it helps the child value reading more when they see/hear their parent doing it and it also provides a model of fluent reading
 - b.Listen to your child read to you
 - i.Younger readers should read aloud and older readers can read silently
 - c.Allow your child choice in the content of what they read. Don't forget that reading can be much more than standard books!
- 3.Students do not need a typical school day of instruction when learning at home (i.e. 7 hours). Reading/Language Arts are typically covered in 90 minutes per day. This can be broken into 30 minute blocks and include reading with you or to you.
- 4.Do not encourage your child to guess at words based on the picture or first letter of a word. Instead, help them to take the time to use letter-sound correspondences to sound out all of the letters or break the word into syllables to read and blend back together.



INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES



- **Reading Rockets-Parents:**
<https://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>
- **Put Reading First :**
<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publication/s/pubs/Documents/PRFbooklet.pdf>
- **A Child Becomes a Reader:**
<https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/readingk-3.pdf>




FREE INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- **The Florida Center for Reading Research**
 - **#AtHomewithFCRR** (video examples of activities)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLP56SP4xkLxHjG9tDNFekA73_CumDXQhC
 - **Ready to Print Activities:** <https://fcrr.org/student-center-activities>
- **Texas Primary Reading**
 - **Ready to Print Activities:**
<https://www.tpri.org/resources/blackline-masters.html>
- **Explicit Phonics Lessons:**
<https://hickman.sharpschool.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3052816&pageId=21377024>
- **Reader's Theater Scripts to build fluency :**
<http://www.thebestclass.org/rtscripts.html>
- www.teachyourmonstertoread.com
- www.starfall.com
- www.storylineonline.com
- [ReadWorks.org](http://www.readworks.org)
- [Newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com)

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AT A COST

- **Nessy:** <https://www.nessy.com/us/product/nessy-reading/>
- **Early Literacy Apps:**
 - Graphogame
 - Phonics Hero
 - Hairy Letters from Nessy
 - Bob Books Reading Magic 1 & 2
 - Reading Raven
- **Vocabulary Apps:**
 - Chicktionary
 - The Opposites
 - World's Worst Pet – Vocabulary
- **Comprehension Apps:**
 - StoryPals
 - Aesop's Quest
- **Books:**
 - Road to the Code (Phonological Awareness)
 - Road to Reading (Phonics)



<https://twitter.com/TXLiteracyEd/status/1286683726173351936?s=20>



A SPECIAL INTEREST COMMITTEE OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR LITERACY EDUCATION (TALE),
THE STATE AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION.

What is READ@TALE?

For those who don't know, READ@TALE is engaged in understanding and supporting the needs of all students and teachers in Texas, no matter their backgrounds. Texas's diversity is an asset we wish to celebrate and embrace as we support each other in the pursuit of equity and inclusion in our classrooms, schools, and communities.

Since our approval as TALE's first special interest group at the 2020 conference, we have doubled in size! Our SIG consists of nine collaborators from Houston, Dallas, San Marcos, San Antonio, the Panhandle, and the Rio Grande Valley. This summer, we have compiled a variety of resources--book lists, book reviews, featured authors, and more--for teachers of all ages to promote equity and inclusion in their classrooms. We will be updating these resources periodically, so be sure to bookmark our website (<https://readattale.weebly.com/>) or follow us on Twitter (@READatTALE) to stay informed.

Book Reviews and Pocket PDs

If you haven't already done so, you can read our first book reviews featuring *Holes in the Sky* by Patricia Polacco and *I Wish You All the Best* by Mason Deaver at <https://readattale.weebly.com/>.

This fall, we will be offering a variety of ways to collaborate. Currently, we are working on multiple collaborative book studies centered on early, middle, and young adult texts. Our hope is to help teachers build diverse classroom and school libraries while also learning how to talk about diversity with students. Our second offering will be Pocket PDs--short, pre-recorded videos on topics related to equity and inclusion. This way, teachers can engage and learn at their own pace.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Whether you have a book you want to feature, a topic you want to learn about, or a perspective you want to bring to the discussion. We have multiple ways to get involved.

Sign-up on our website: <https://readattale.weebly.com/>

Email Matthew Panozzo-Schagene, current chair, at READatTALE@gmail.com

Follow us on Twitter at @READatTALE